



# British Fire Services Association

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## Minutes of Governing Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023** Meeting held via Zoom Video Conferencing.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 18.30 hrs.

Present: Seamus Higgins (SH) Chair; Graham Hill-Howgate (GenSec); Matt Stokes (MS); Paul Basson (PB)*Part*; Frank Turner (FT); Geoff McSweeney (GMcS); Dave Lown (DL); Dick Lovelace (RL) George Halstead (GH), MWF.

Apologies from: Steve Owen-Hughes/Thomas Woodhouse

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were agreed and can be posted on the website.

### Matters Arising:

- None

The Chairman reported that there was very little to give an update on, however he is doing some work on the possibilities of Training Endorsement. The Gen Sec also added that he was working on running a couple of Zoom based CPD webinars.

The General Secretary's report had previously been circulated.

The proposals to increase Personal Membership subscriptions in 2024 were approved. It was also agreed to write off the stock of Golden Jubilee enamel ribbon bars as they were no longer being sold.

GH gave an update from the MWF. The next meeting will be held in person in Birmingham. GH stated that at least one additional Trustee is required on the MWF. The Sec & GH will put some words together for the next Quarterly Information Bulletin.

**Action GH & Gen Sec.**

The Gen Sec reported that following the decision by Peter Mills to step down as Chairman of the MWF Trustees, the BFSA & MWF have obtained an engraved Vase for presentation to Peter.

FT asked that something also be sent to Peter's wife Francis for her support of Peter over the past.

Following a discussion regarding the paper sent out by the Gen Sec on the Directories for FRA provider/Event Cover & Vehicle Lease it was agreed to proceed. Gen Sec/SH/MS to prepare the forms for members to register their interest in inclusion on the Directory which will be available on the website.

**Action: Gen Sec/SH/MS.**

District Reports:

- London & SE District, the exchange visit with Grunheide at the end of September and the District Annual Dinner will be at the Union Jack Club on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- South of England are looking for a suitable venue to hold an event that may include a lunch.
- Nth England. GMcS and Gen Sec to arrange a Zoom meeting for the District.
- West Mids & Central. RL said that due to personal health issues he has not been able to engage very much over the past months. He did inform the meeting that the Paper Trail (Heritage) Fire Brigade site is now about 50% re-built following the fire.
- DL gave a brief update on the position of the Museum of RAF Firefighting (and BFSA collection) at Scampton as the Gov't are now looking at the site as an Asylum Centre.

AOB:

- PB had raised a question regarding potential BFSA support for the Fire Cadets. PB to prepare a paper on any ideas of support that can be given. **Action: PB.**
- There was some discussion about the Fire Statistics and what the BFSA can do to promote fire safety. *The Gen Sec has looked at the available data and it seems that the most we can do is to highlight various underlying causes of fires and possible growing trends using our Social Media & Website.*
- Gen Sec reported that the stand has been booked for the ESS 2023, J40.

Dates for 2023 meetings: October (Annual meeting)

*To be held via Zoom access and in the evening.*

The meeting closed at 19:45 hrs.

The Chairman thanked all for being present at the meeting.