



# British Fire Services Association

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Minutes of Governing Council Meeting held on  
**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July & Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024**  
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) Vice Chair; Frank Turner (FT); Geoff McSweeney (GMcS); Dick Lovelace (RL); Chris Veitch (CV). George Halstead, MWF (GH).

Apologies from: Thomas Woodhouse; Vernon Fisher; John Watson; Steve Shirley; Dave Lown.

The meeting held in part on 25<sup>th</sup> was abandoned due to connectivity issues with Zoom and resumed on the 30<sup>th</sup> July

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March were agreed.

Matters Arising:

- None

The Chairman reported that as previously mentioned the Commendation Medal had been presented in a private ceremony to Mr Glen Edwards.

The General Secretary's report was received and the membership numbers noted. PB requested that further information be provided on the actual numbers of members in each Group Membership category. The Gen Sec reported that this information is not held. Gen Sec will begin, what will be a lengthy process, to try and capture this information. **Action: Gen Sec**

Following a discussion for the ESS costs, it was agreed that Gen Sec & FT should not have to cover their attendance costs personally. This matter was referred to the Exec Cttee to review allowances & expenses.

Gen Sec stated that currently all recurring expenses are on his personal bank card. To better deal with such matters, it was agreed to obtain a Debit Card on the BFSa bank account. **Action: Gen Sec**

Honours & Awards Nominations.

PB requested a Certificate of Commendation for Biggleswade Fire Stn (Beds F&RS) to mark their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This was agreed. **Action: PB & Gen Sec**

Item 6 was deferred to the end of the meeting in the hope that the National President could join the meeting.

A comprehensive update on the Members Welfare Fund was given by its Secretary, George Halstead. There was some discussion around the sustainability of the fund. The MWF has had the annual review of funds in consultation with the fund managers. FT congratulated GH on his work for the MWF.

District Reports:

- London & SE District, the exchange visit with Grunheide has taken place again this year with the District hosting the visit. The District gratefully acknowledged the grant of £300 agreed by the Governing Council which was very helpful in off-setting the increasing costs of hosting the visit.  
The District Annual Dinner will be at the Union Jack Club on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct., all GC members are welcome to attend.

In the absence of the National President to present his bid document there was some detailed discussion concerning the bid and a number of points of concern and questions were raised.

Dates of 2024 AG, to be agreed at the next Exec Cttee meeting.

The meeting closed at 19:40 hrs (*30<sup>th</sup> July*)

The Chairman thanked all for being present at the meeting.