



British Fire Services Association

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Minutes of Governing Council Meeting held on
Thursday 17th June 2021
Meeting held via Zoom Video Conferencing.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 15.00 hrs.

Present: Matt Stokes (MS) Chair; Graham Howgate (GenSec); Steve Shirley (SS); Seamus Higgins (SH); Paul Basson (PB); Vernon Fisher (VF) Peter Mills (PM), Dick Lovelace (DL), John Watson (JW), Frank Turner (FT)

Apologies from: Tony Barker, Geoff McSweeney Thomas Woodhouse, Dave Lown

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2021 were agreed and can be posted on the website.

Matters Arising:

- Elements of the Chairman's action plan are being implemented
- Both of the Hon Life Membership recipients have written to the Gen Sec to acknowledge the honour and thank the Governing Council.
- The Gen Sec has been in contact with Kerry London who are now looking for alternative Underwriters.

The Chairman proposed, seconded by Seamus Higgins that CFO Steve Owen-Hughes MBE of Surrey Fire & Rescue Service, who are Group Members, be appointed as National President. This was approved unanimously. CFO Owen-Hughes then joined the meeting and was congratulated by the Chairman and thanked for taking up the office of BFSA President. Steve said that it was indeed an honour and it was good to see some familiar faces at the meeting. He was looking forward to working with the Association and being the champion at the National Fire Chiefs Council. Owing to other existing commitments he had to leave the meeting but wished everyone well.

The Chairman reported that the ongoing Covid situation had not made it possible for him to undertake any visits. He thanked Seamus for the work on the website and asked for anything to promote the BFSA to be sent in for adding to the website.

The General Secretary's report had been previously circulated and contents noted.

Action: Gen. Sec.

The Association accounts have been previously distributed to the GC members, were put to the Council for approval. Proposed by Frank Turner and Seconded by Paul Basson. The accounts were approved and will be signed by the Chairman. There was also a brief discussion regarding the accounts and the Gen Sec advised that a sum of £558.71 had been received for Gift Aid from HMRC.

Action: Gen Sec & Chairman.

As part of the Chairman's action plan, it was agreed to introduce the grade of Fellow. To facilitate this the following changes to the Articles of Association were agreed.

Art.4: The Assn shall consist of members, fellows and honorary life members.

Art6(i); To add; Members elected as Fellows may use FBFSA as a post-nominal.

This was agreed unanimously.

Action: Gen Sec.

MWF Update. PM gave an update on behalf of the MWF advising that an additional £200 had been paid to Fund beneficiaries to help with the Covid pandemic. The fund's accounts have been approved for 2020.

The Gen Sec mentioned some ongoing work with the MWF to provide access to a Counselling service for BFSA members. PM also mentioned the services available from the Firefighters Charity.

It is hoped to hold the next meeting in September.

District Reports:

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions there have been no District events.

- London & SE District are hoping to hold a dinner this year at the Union Jack Club possibly in September.
- West Midlands District reported that their frozen funds held in the bank have now been released and are managed by the Gen Sec in the main account.

AOB:

- PM/FT & PB thanked the Gen Sec for the work in managing the association. PB commented on the positive response from the social media pages.
- It was requested that the BFSA Medals guide be published on the website. **Action: Gen sec & SH**
- SS gave a brief update regarding the Museum of RAF Firefighting.

Future GC meetings for 2021 to be held on 6 Oct.

The meeting closed at 16:00 hrs.

The Chairman thanked all for being present at the meeting.