



# British Fire Services Association

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Minutes of Governing Council Meeting held on  
**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 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); Geoff McSweeney (GMc); Dave Lown (DL), Peter Mills (PM), George Halstead (GH), Dick Lovelace (DL), John Watson (JW)

Apologies from: Vernon Fisher, Tony Barker, Frank Turner, Thomas Woodhouse

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 were agreed.

Matters Arising:

- Certificate for the Finish fire group was issued to PB
- The Cabinet Office declined the request for wearing of BFSA medal on the left. Therefore, all extant instruction to stand.

The Chairman presented his report. To date he and the Gen Sec were able to join our members, Surrey Fire & Rescue Service at their virtual awards ceremony. As circumstances change, he is happy to attend other events where possible.

The Chairman presented his discussion document and it was agreed to take forward many of the items. Seamus Higgins was approved as the Vice-Chairman.

**Action: Chairman & Gen Sec**

The General Secretary's report had been previously circulated and contents noted. Actions as detailed were agreed.

**Action: Gen. Sec.**

MWF Update.

GH gave an update on behalf of the MWF. The regular beneficiaries have been getting their regular grants plus an extra £200 for the Coronavirus year.

Due to the ongoing restrictions, there have been no meetings of the management Committee or Trustees. Gen Sec offered the use of the BFSA Zoom account for meetings.

The income from investments for the previous year were £22k with expenses of £16.5.

Chairman thanked GH for his contribution.

The Gen Sec put forward proposals for Hon Life Membership for:-

Trevor Harrison, London & SE Dist. 55 years membership &

M. Blackman, East of England Dist. 64 years membership.

These were proposed by PM and seconded by the Chairman and approved. Gen Sec to inform both candidates.

**Action: Gen Sec.**

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.

AOB:

JW requested a copy of the Articles of Assn (to be sent with minutes)

PB requested the Zoom meeting background as used by the Chairman.

Future GC meetings for 2021 to be held in June & Sept.

The meeting closed at 16:400 hrs.

The Chairman thanked all for being present at the meeting.

