



# British Fire Services Association

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Minutes of Governing Council Meeting held on  
**Thursday 17th March 2022**  
Meeting held via Zoom Video Conferencing.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 15.00 hrs.

Present: Matt Stokes (MS) Chair; Graham Hill-Howgate (GenSec); Steve Shirley (SS); Seamus Higgins (SH); Paul Basson (PB); John Watson (JW); Frank Turner (FT); Geoff McSweeney (GMcS); Dave Lown (DL); Dick Lovelace (RL); Peter Mills (PM)

Apologies from: Steve Owen-Hughes/Vernon Fisher/George Halsted/Thomas Woodhouse.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021 were agreed and can be posted on the website.

Matters Arising:

- New BFSA & Veteran's shields are now available on the shop
- Platinum Jubilee Commendation Medals will be available from early April via the shop.

The Chairman gave his report including an update from two Executive Committee meetings.

He outlined some of the work that had been progressed and talked about items still to be approved.

One such item was the District structure and a proposed map showing District had been circulated. As some members had not been able to consider this item a decision was deferred. GC members to advise the Gen Sec of their decision by the end of the month. **Action: GC Members & Gen Sec**

It was agreed that the Association Chaplain should be co-opted on to the GC as a full member.

The General Secretary gave a verbal report and update on the financial situation.

There was some discussion about the membership lists and it was agreed that a list of Group Members would be put on the website. **Action: Gen Sec & SH**

FT gave an update on behalf of the MWF including a financial report as well as an update on MWF activities for beneficiaries and flowers sent out.

The next MWF Trustee's meeting should be on 24th March 2022.

The following nominations for Fellow were considered by the Governing Council:-

Paul Basson- Proposed by Matt Stokes.

Geoff McSweeney – Proposed by Frank Turner.

The nominations were approved.

**Action: Gen Sec**

District Reports:

- London & SE District, the 2021 AGM was held by Zoom. Activities have yet to fully resume following the Covid-19 restrictions.
- Sth Mids & Home Counties. RL reported that he has been in contact with District members to advise that partly due to the Covid-19 restrictions but also due to a fire at the PaperTrail site (Arson) they have been unable to hold their usual meetings.
- SS gave an update on possible plans for the future of the Museum of RAF Firefighting.

AOB:

- SH reminded some of the GC that their bio's for the website are still outstanding. He is also going to provide a website visits report. **Action: SH**
- RL informed the meeting that this week marked his 60<sup>th</sup> year of BFSA membership. He had attended 2,500 competition drills as a participant prior to retiring from drill participation. Congratulation to Dick from all present.
- Peter Mills advised the meeting that he would be retiring as a GC member at the 2022 AGM. He was thanked by the Chairman for all his service to the Association.

Dates for 2022 meetings: Oct (AGM) *To be arranged with the President, Chairman & Vice-Chairman. To be held in Surrey with a Zoom access.*

The meeting closed at 16:30 hrs.

The Chairman thanked all for being present at the meeting.

