



# British Fire Services Association

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Minutes of Governing Council Meeting held on  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**  
Meeting held via Zoom Video Conferencing.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 14.00 hrs.

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

Apologies from: Steve Owen-Hughes/Thomas Woodhouse/Dick Lovelace

The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were agreed and can be posted on the website.

Matters Arising:

- Add Group Members to website.

**Action: GenSec**

The Chairman reported that there was very little to give an update on following the AGM.

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

There are currently 167 Personal Members of which 83% have renewed. There are 73 Group Members of which 61% have renewed.

GH gave an update from the MWF. The last meeting was held by Zoom as will the next due to rail strikes. The fund's investments have held quite well and are sufficient to meet the projected financial needs of the MWF. There are 5 regular beneficiaries on the fund list.

GH & the GenSec reported that there have been no member requests for Stress & Trauma support through FAST.

Following a discussion regarding the paper sent out by the Gen Sec on the District structure & GC, the following points were agreed: -

- Paul Basson was appointed as the Vice Chairman.
- A co-opted GC member to be invited from Gibraltar F&RS, this being rotational with the F&RS/Airport F&RS and the Falkland Islands F&RS and Airport F&RS.
- Steve Shirley to be co-opted as the BFSA Collection lead with Dave Lown as Assistant.
- West Mids & Central, further discussion required.
- The Gen Sec advised that GC members as Directors of the Assn are recommended to attend a minimum of 25% of meetings. Some GC members are falling short of this over a 3 year period.
- It was agreed that a Membership Development Group should be established.

CPD, the Chairman outlined some thoughts on the introduction of a CPD programme within the Assn. It was accepted to be a good idea and further work is required which will be included on the Exec Cttee. There was also discussion about “Twilight Briefings” with CPD for members.

#### District Reports:

- London & SE District, the next District meeting will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The exchange visit with Grunheide will be at the end of September and the District Annual Dinner will be at the Union Jack Club on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. The GC Chairman to be invited as Guest of Honour, other GC members also welcome to attend.
- South of England & Wes Mids/Central requested copies of the membership emails for each District. **Action: GenSec**
- DL gave an update on possible plans for the future of the Museum of RAF Firefighting at the former RAF Scampton site.

#### AOB:

- PB commented about methods of recognition for members.
- PB is visiting Switzerland and will be presenting Pennants to the Geneva fire service museum and to another event he is attending. GenSec requested photos for the social media sites. **Action: PB**
- GH gave an update on Ray Leather (Past Chairman) & David Stevens (Past Gen Sec)
- Gen Sec reported that the stand has been booked for the ESS 2023

Dates for 2023 meetings: July (evening meeting) and October (Annual meeting)

*To be held via Zoom access.*

The meeting closed at 15:50 hrs.

The Chairman thanked all for being present at the meetings