



British Fire Services Association

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Minutes of Governing Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 6th October 2021** 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); George Halstead (GH), MWF.

Apologies from: Steve Owen-Hughes/Peter Mills/Dick Lovelace/Vernon Fisher

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2021 were agreed and can be posted on the website.

Matters Arising:

- The Articles of Association regarding the addition of Fellows have been up-dated.
- The President's Collar has been engraved and is ready for presentation.

The Chairman gave his report; He attended the ESS and it was good to be able to meet some other members in person. He will be attending the London & South East District Dinner and the Surrey F&RS Medal Presentations later in October. If there are any events at which Districts would like him to attend, please inform the GenSec.

The Chairman thanked all those that assisted with the stand at the Emergency Services Show. Hewould like to give consideration to some type of National Dinner or event.

The General Secretary's report had been previously circulated and contents noted. There was some discussion regarding the future use of the Gallantry Medal.

Action: Gen. Sec.

GH gave an update for the Members Welfare Fund. The fund assets currently stand at just over £800,000. They recently held a meeting with Barclays who managed the fund and are happy to continue with them.

The MWF wrote to congratulate Mrs Easy on her 100th birthday.

The next MWF Trustee's meeting should be in March 2022.

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

Vernon Fisher- Proposed by Peter Mills.

Frank Turner – Proposed by Vernon Fisher.

Graham Hill-Howgate – Proposed by Frank Turner.

Peter Mills – Proposed by Frank Turner.

The nominations were approved.

Action: Gen Sec

District Reports:

- London & SE District Annual Dinner will be held on Friday 8th October. It is also hoped to re-start the visits with Grunheide Fire Brigade in 2022. Frank Turner also assisted at the ESS on behalf of the District.
- West Midlands District reported that they were pleased to assist at the ESS. The wife of a late member of the District recently had her 100th birthday the District sent her a card and flowers. Also, thanks to the General Secretary for writing to her on behalf of the BFSA.

AOB:

- SH gave an update regarding the website and a breakdown of the number of visits to the site. He is still working on further developments for the site and some of the GC members have yet to provide a short biography.
- Plaques. SH has been able to locate a supplier to replenish the stock of BFSA & Veterans wall plaques. They are £16 each with a minimum order of 25 units for each. This will require £800 to re-stock. The Gen Sec is also trying to find an alternative supplier. **Action: SH & Gen Sec**
- GenSec mentioned that the BFSA badge and Veterans badge designs have now been registered with the UK Intellectual Property Office as registered designs. PB said that he thought someone else was using the Veterans badge design. **Action: PB & Gen Sec**
- PB asked if the BFSA had any plans to mark the Queen's Jubilee next year. GenSec said that he has made an enquiry with our medal suppliers to check if they are going to produce a Commemorative medal, as yet no definitive answer. PB said that it would be good if the BFSA good participate in some form of celebration event. **Action: All**

Dates for 2022 meetings: March/June/Oct (AGM)

The meeting closed at 16:00 hrs.

The Chairman thanked all for being present at the meeting.

