



British Fire Services Association

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Governing Council Meeting.

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 25th March 2026

Attending: President; Steve Owen-Hughes (Pres), General Secretary; Graham Hill-Howgate (GenSec), Matt Stokes; Exec V.P (MS), Tony Barker (TB), Dave Lown (DL), Lisa Dunleavy (LD), Geoff McSweeney (GM), Frank Turner (FT) *Updated by phone*.
Apologies: Paul Basson, Canon Woodhouse, Steve Shirley, Dick Lovelace, Chris Veitch, Seamus Higgins

1. The President opened the meeting at 15:00 hrs and welcome all to the meeting, especially Lisa her first meeting as Governing Council representative for the North of England.
All apologies were noted
2. The minutes of 16th Oct 2025 were noted.
3. Matters arising - None
4. Chairman's Report as previously circulated was noted.
5. Gen. Sec. Report & Finance Update was noted
6. Officers for 2026/2027
 - Chairman – Chris Veitch.
 - Chaplain – Rev. Simon Ramacci.
 - Rev Canon T. Woodhouse to be appointed Vice-President. (retiring Chaplain).
7. M.W.F Update, Gen Sec gave an update based on recent minutes and report from the MWF Hon Sec. There was some discussion on how to improve the knowledge of the MWF to BFSA members. Gen Sec also to consider a 'Wellbeing Team Room' Zoom session in conjunction with the MWF.
Action: Gen Sec
8. Nominations for medals/awards.
 - Gallantry & Commendation medals to be presented to The State Emergency Service of Ukraine.
Action: Pres & Gen Sec
 - Hon Life Membership awarded to Mr David Hunter.
Action: Gen Sec
9. To consider the use of a paid fundraiser. This was discussed and approved to support major events for the BFSA with a view to them being self-financing. **Action: Pres & Gen Sec**

10. District Reports .

- London & South East District. On behalf of the District the Gen Sec in his capacity as District President gave an update on the recent District meeting. He also mentioned that 2026 is the year for the District to host the German FF's from Gruheide. As previously, it was agreed to provide financial support to a maximum of £500. The President stated that he had the pleasure of going to Grunheide in 2025 on the exchange and if other GC members are afforded the opportunity, it is highly recommended.

11. Any other business for next meeting – TB suggested that we further recognise the 30 years' service to the Association of the retiring Chaplain.

12. Dates of 2026 meetings & AGM. Next GC meeting to be in July/Aug and the AGM in Sept/Oct. Gen Sec to get dates from members. **Action: Gen Sec.**

The meeting was closed at 15:55.