



British Fire Services Association

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Confirmed Minutes of Governing Council Meeting held on

Saturday 25th March 2017

At The Officers Mess, RAF Scampton.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 09.30hrs.

Present: Frank Turner (Chair)*FT*, Graham Howgate (Gen Sec)*GH*, Tony Barker *TB*, Dove Lown *DL*, Steve Shirley *SS*, Geoff McSweeney *GS*, Mick Lee *ML*, Dick Lovelace *DL*.

Apologies: Peter Mills, Vernon Fisher, Thomas Woodhouse, Carl Bell.

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th Nov 2016 were agreed and will be published on the website.

Matters arising:

- Following feedback from member group and the loss of one public fire brigade the subscription rate for extra-large groups (£220) was discussed and reviewed. Given the actual number of groups in this category it was decided to reduce the rate to £150. **Action: GenSec.**

Chairman's Report; The Chairman reported that he attended a medal presentation in Salisbury along with the Gen Sec and also the Firefighters National Memorial Trust Christmas lighting event in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal. He cannot attend the national Arboretum event by Vernon Fisher is due to attend on behalf of the Association. London District will cover the London event in September. He stated that he is happy to attend events if requested.

District Updates; The Chairman presented a map of existing District boundaries and led a discussion on proposals for updating the Districts. A provisional map of the new Districts was agreed and will be placed on the website for the information of members and feedback. **Action: GenSec & Chairman.** London District will be holding the Annual Dinner of Friday 9th June. All welcome to attend, details on the website.

Website; *SS* circulated a written report from our webmaster, Carl Bell. It showed the number of hits on the website for the first 3 months in 2017 and other analytical information. It was agreed the website is improving and further use will be made of the website. There was some discussion about using a Facebook page, GenSec said that he has asked the London District Chairman to look into this. **Action: GenSec & Webmaster.**

Aviation Group; The Chairman said that as our aviation membership was increasing he felt it was time to create an Aviation Special Interest Group. The GenSec reported that we currently have 19 members in this sector ranging from large international airports to small airfields. It was agreed that the various groups be contacted and invited to set up the group and representative from Cat 6/7/8 airports/Cat 5 and under/Military be co-opted onto the Governing Council. **Action: GenSec.**

General Secretary Report; The Gen Sec has previously circulated a report along with finance updates. This was considered by the GC members and a brief discussion followed.

BFSA Artefacts; *SS* gave a brief update regarding the Museum of RAF Firefighting, currently custodians of BFSA artefacts. He said that negotiations were ongoing for a new venue and that the BFSA items were in safe storage. It was agreed to pay the fee to the museum for 2017. **Action: GenSec & SS.**

Vice Chairman Position: SS raised the issue of the Vice Chairman and pointed out that everyone on the Council has previously served as Chairman. After some discussion it was agreed to put a notice on the website seeking a volunteer member from any category to stand as Vice Chairman and be co-opted onto the Governing Council. It is hoped to resolve this by 24th June 2017. **Action: Gen Sec.**

AOB; Peter Mills and other members have suggested that the BFSA makes a presentation of the Commendation Medal to Ypres Fire Brigade. This was discussed and SS pointed out that there are many former NFBA & PFBA members who died in WW1. It would be a fitting memorial to them by thanking Ypres Fire Brigade for playing the Last Post at the Menin Gate for so many years. It was agreed that the medal etc be funded by the BFSA, any members attending the event will be entirely self-funding. **Action: Chairman & Gen Sec.**

TB gave an update on the calls being received at the Leeds office and the liaison between the office and the Gen Sec. Given the nature of some calls it was agreed to look into a FAQ section on the website. **Action: TBA.**

It was considered following the number of medal information enquiries to introduce a charge for this service. Further discussion is required with the archivist. **Action: SS**

FT gave an update following the recent meeting of the Members Welfare Fund. It was agreed to circulate GC papers to the MWF Secretary and invite him to future meetings as well as having MWF Updates as a standard agenda item. **Action: Chairman & GenSec.**

There being no other business the meeting closed following lunch.

Graham Howgate.
General Secretary.