

**AWDURDOD TÂN AC ACHUB CANOLBARTH A GORLLEWIN
CYMRU**



MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

**NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE FIRE AUTHORITY AT ITS
NEXT MEETING**

COFNODION

CYFARFOD CYFFREDINNOL ARBENNIG YR AWDURDOD TAN

Ystafell Caer,

Pencadlys Y Gwasanaeth Tân Ac Achub, Caerfyddin

23 MAWRTH 2015

MINUTES

**OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE FIRE
AUTHORITY**

The Caer Suite,

Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Carmarthen

23 MARCH 2015

11.00 – 12:30

92% PRESENOLDEB/ATTENDANCE

Presennol yn y Cyfarfod/Present at Meeting:

GADEIRYDD/ CHAIR:
IS-GADEIRYDD/ DEPUTY CHAIR:

Councillor G Thomas
Councillor W E Evans

AELODAU/MEMBERS:

Cyng/Cllrs: J Bayliss, K Curry, J Curtice,
J Dudley, J Hale, T Hennegan, C Higgins,
P James, G Jones, R Lewis,
R Llewellyn, S Paddison,
P Pritchard, R Rees-Evans, G Tanner,
E G Thomas, G Walker, J Warman,
A Wilcox, DE Williams, J Williams

YMDDIHEURIADAU/APOLOGIES:

Cyng/Cllrs: L Frayling, K Pearson

YN BRESENNOL /IN ATTENDANCE:

C Davies, D Daycock, R Quin, K Jones,
A Francis, C Margetts, S Flather, S Rees,
R Davies

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Frayling and K Pearson.

2 DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

All Members present declared that they had a personal interest in matters relating to, or likely to affect their own Constituent Authority.

All Members present declared that they had a personal interest in relation to item 4 of the agenda.

All Officers present declared that they had a personal interest in relation to item 5 of the agenda.

The Chief Fire Officer declared a personal interest in relation to item 8 of the agenda, and would be available to answer any questions arising, but would be departing the meeting during discussion of this matter.

The Temporary Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Temporary Assistant Chief Officer declared a personal interest in relation to item 9 of the agenda and would be departing the meeting during discussion of this matter.

3 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS / PERSONAL MATTERS

The Chair welcomed two new Members to the Fire Authority, namely Councillor (Cllr) Edward Thomas, who had replaced Councillor WD Thomas as a Carmarthenshire Independent representative and Cllr Joe Hale, who had replaced Cllr David Cole as a Swansea Labour representative on the Fire Authority. The Chair informed Members that a letter of thanks would be sent to Cllr David Cole in recognition of his contribution to the Fire Authority.

The Chair, on behalf of all Members, extended her sincere condolences to Cllr Rowland Rees-Evans on the recent passing of his grandmother, and to Cllr Paul James whose uncle had passed away. Members were informed that letters of condolence had been sent on behalf of the Fire Authority.

Members were informed that Cllr Karen Pearson would be absent from the Fire Authority for the foreseeable future due to a period of ill health. The Chair stated that Members' good wishes for a speedy recovery had been conveyed to Cllr Pearson. Councillor J Bayliss reported that he would be undertaking the role of Acting (Temporary) Leader of the Labour Group during Cllr Pearson's absence.

The Chair was pleased to announce that Mr Mick Crennell had been appointed as the Deputy Chief Fire Officer for the Service. Members were informed that Mr Crennell was currently serving as a Temporary Assistant Chief Fire Officer at Hampshire Fire Service and would be commencing his new role within Mid and West Wales Fire and

Rescue Service in the next few months.

The Chair informed Members that a briefing would be provided on conclusion of the meeting in relation to a recent fire incident which occurred in the Swansea area.

4. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL 2015/16

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer presented the annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) which set out its determinations on the payment of remuneration and allowances to Members and Co-opted Members of Fire and Rescue Authorities for the 2015/16 municipal year. An annual Schedule of Member Remuneration setting out the specific payments that the Authority intended to make to Members and Co-opted Members in accordance with the levels of remuneration and allowances determined by the IRPW was also required to be published.

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer reported that the IRPW had resolved not to increase remuneration for 2015/16 given the continuing constraints on local government spending. However, it was specified within their annual report that that this decision would further compromise the alignment to median gross earnings in Wales that underpinned the basic salary set in 2009, and therefore the IRPW had noted their intentions to re-examine this matter at an appropriate time in the future.

The Clerk / Monitoring Officer reminded Members that the Authority had previously resolved not to adopt a senior salary for the Deputy Chair of the Fire Authority or Chairs of Committees. Councillor J Dudley expressed disappointment in the Authority's previous determination not to adopt senior salaries to the Deputy Chair of the Fire Authority and Chairs of Committees, given the significant remit and time commitment of these roles.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED:

- 1. That the IRPW's determinations in relation to members' allowances and remuneration, in the 2015/16 municipal year be noted.***
- 2. That delegated authority be given to the Clerk / Monitoring Officer to update the Schedule of Member Remuneration within the Authority's Constitution and to make any necessary amendments to the 2015/16 Schedule from time to time during the municipal year in order to reflect any changes in membership of the Authority or Committees, or as a result of any Supplementary Reports issued by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.***

5. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE A REPORT ON FIRE-FIGHTERS PENSION SCHEMES - FIRE (WALES) 2012 VALUATION

The Head of Finance presented a report on the final Government Actuary Department's

(GAD) 2012 valuation for the fire-fighters pension schemes. Members were reminded that the Authority's budget for 2015/16 had calculated employers' contributions for the fire-fighters pension schemes as 21.3% for the 1992 scheme, and 11% for the 2007 scheme. However, the outcome of the 2012 valuation had resulted in a requirement of 25.5% employers' contribution for the 1992 scheme and 16.8% for the 2007 scheme, with a requirement of 14.3% for the 2015 scheme.

The Head of Finance explained that whilst the GAD had assumed an approximate two third reduction in members of the 1992 scheme as part of the new 2015 pension arrangements, the Service's age profile suggested that only a third of 1992 scheme members would transfer to the new scheme. This, together with National Insurance changes, would consequently incur significant financial implications for the Authority's budget for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

In response to a query, the Head of Finance clarified that the Authority would have been unable to undertake any indicative calculations of potential costings prior to the publication of the GAD valuation report.

The Chair reported that once the scale of costs had been accurately calculated, the Authority may consider it appropriate make representations to the Welsh Government outlining the adverse budgetary implications in order that a case be made for additional resources.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the report be noted.

- 6 TO RESOLVE, THAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 100A (4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING FOR THE REASON, THAT IF THEY WERE PRESENT, IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE DISCLOSURE TO THEM OF EXEMPT INFORMATION WITHIN THE DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULE 12A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, NAMELY:**

PARAGRAPH 12: INFORMATION RELATING TO A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL

PARAGRAPH 14: INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE AUTHORITY HOLDING THAT INFORMATION).

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED (1) that the press and public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, and (2) that it was in the public interest to do so.

- 7. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE A REPORT ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF ABERYSTWYTH FIRE STATION AND COMMAND OFFICES**

The Head of Estates presented Members with a report regarding the redevelopment of a new community fire station at Aberystwyth in line with the Authority's Asset Management Plan.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

- 1. Option 1, and an increase in capital expenditure in the region of £1.603m - £1.633m, as outlined in Option 1 of the report, be approved.**
- 2. That the possibility of income generation opportunities, in line with Option 1 of the report, be explored further.**

8. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE A REPORT ON THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER'S REMUNERATION

At this point the Chief Fire Officer, Temporary Director of Risk, Temporary Director of Development, Corporate Head of People and Organisational Development, Corporate Head of Risk and Head of Estates departed the meeting.

Consideration was given to a report on the Chief Fire Officer's remuneration.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the Fire Authority approve the following payments to the Chief Fire Officer in view of his performance during 2014/15:

- i. the 3% earn-back element of basic salary***
- ii. the full 3% Performance Related Pay (PRP) element of remuneration***

At this point the Chief Fire Officer re-joined the meeting.

9. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE A REPORT ON CHIEF OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

The Chief Fire Officer explained that whilst he was responsible for reviewing the performance of Chief Officers reporting directly to him, the Authority was required to approve any ensuing changes to the pay of Chief Officers in line with the revised guidance issued from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and subsequent revision of the Authority's Pay Policy.

Detailed consideration was given to a report on Chief Officers' Remuneration

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the Fire Authority approve

- i. the 3% earn-back element of basic salary to the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Temporary Deputy Chief Officer, Temporary Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Temporary Assistant Chief Officer*
- ii. the full 3% Performance Related Pay (PRP) element of remuneration Temporary Deputy Chief Officer, Temporary Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Temporary Assistant Chief Officer*

Exclusion of the press and public lifted – Members of the press and public were now free to re-join the meeting.

10 ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100(B)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There were no items of urgent business.

Meeting closed 12:30.