

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



MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

**COFNODION
CYFARFOD YR AWDURDOD**

a gynhaliwyd yn Canolfan Halliwell, Coleg y Drindod,
Caerfyrddin
Dydd Llun 16 Mai 2005

**MINUTES
OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING**

held in the Halliwell Centre, Trinity College,
Carmarthen
Monday 16 May 2005

PRESENOLDEB/ATTENDANCE

Presennol yn y Cyfarfod/Present at Meeting:

CADEIRYDD/CHAIRMAN:	D G Sullivan
IS-GADEIRYDD/VICE CHAIRMAN:	B J Hall
AELODAU/MEMBERS:	Cyng/Cllrs: C J Crowley, Mrs J Dudley, T E Evans, D R James, P James, Mrs P Llewellyn, C Morgan, D R Price, G Seabourne, Mrs P E Spender, T Theophilus, J D A Thompson, M Williams
YMDDIHEURIADAU/APOLOGIES:	Cyng/Cllrs: J S Allen-Mirehouse, G G Clement, Mrs T Devichand, Mrs F M Jones, Mrs C Philpott, D C Prothero

1 DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL INTERESTS

With reference to Agenda Item 9, Councillor C Morgan and Mr H Morse, Treasurer, declared that they were Members of the Rotary Club (although not specifically that of Swansea Bay) and Councillor Mrs Spender declared that her husband was also a Rotary Club member.

2 PERSONAL MATTERS

The Chairman made reference to the untimely death of Service Chaplain, the Reverend Robert Morgan, and spoke of the genuine contribution he had brought to the Service, acknowledging the valuable support he had provided to many throughout his tenure of office. Committee stood as a mark of remembrance and respect.

3 TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 7th FEBRUARY 2005

The minutes of the Fire Authority Meeting held on 7th February 2005 were received and approved as a true record.

4 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following Committee Meetings were received and noted:

- i) The Personnel Committee held on 7th March 2005
- ii) The Performance and Policy Review Committee held on 28th February 2005
- iii) The Resources Committee held on 18th April 2005
- iv) The Standards Committee held on 12th May 2005.

5 TO CONSIDER THE FINAL DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Following the publication of the Authority's draft Integrated Risk Management Plan and the lengthy consultation process, the Plan was presented in its final form for consideration by Members.

A delegation of Members and Officers had met with the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, Mrs Edwina Hart, at the Welsh Assembly on 11th May 2005 in order to review specific proposals within the Authority's IRMP which the Minister wished to discuss further.

Members who had attended the meeting spoke of the frank, constructive and helpful nature of these discussions and looked forward to further meetings planned with Assembly officials which would lead towards a growing understanding of shared aims and ideals.

Councillor T E Evans expressed surprise that the Authority had received a number of critical remarks regarding the perceived lack of consultation during the IRMP process and Members were unanimous in agreeing that the whole

consultation process had been both far reaching and transparent. The Chief Fire Officer shared Members' concerns and reported that he would be forwarding all the Consultation documentation to Mrs Hart in order to demonstrate that the process had been carried out according to the National Guidelines.

Mrs Hart had made specific requests during the course of the meeting to defer the implementation of the specific proposals to change Haverfordwest and Pontardawe to day crewed stations. This request was made pending the publication of Welsh Assembly IRMP Guidance and the use of the FSEC toolkit on the proposed changes. The Minister had acknowledged the financial implications to the Authority in the light of the deferments and had agreed that further discussions with Assembly officials regarding financial assistance in order to allow the Authority to move forward with its Community Fire Safety work would take place.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

The Authority's IRMP 2005/2006 be approved in full apart from the deferment of the proposals to designate Haverfordwest and Pontardawe Fire Stations as Day Crewed Stations.

6 TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON THE RACE EQUALITY SCHEME 2005 – 2008

Under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, along with all other public authorities, the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service had been required to revise and update its Race Equality Scheme by the 31 May 2005. Members noted that the Service took the opportunity in the original scheme to produce an overall Fairness and Equality Scheme incorporating all categories of discrimination and not just Race Equality. Whilst this approach satisfied the provisions of the Act and did not receive adverse comment from the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), current advice had suggested that a separate Race Equality Scheme would be expected on this occasion. In view of this, the National CFOA Equality and Diversity Professionals Forum (on which this Service's Equalities Officer is the representative for Wales), was tasked with drawing up a Race Equality Scheme framework for use by all the Fire and Rescue Services in the United Kingdom.

This framework had been discussed at the Diversity Happens Board meeting on the 1 March 2005 where it had been agreed that it would be issued as a CFOA circular.

The draft framework had been tabled at the Service's Equality and Fairness Working Group on the 25 February 2005 and was discussed at the first draft of the revised Race Equalities Scheme at the Working Group's meeting in April. The final version had been submitted for approval by the Fire Authority for adoption.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

The Race Equality Scheme 2005 – 2008 be approved and adopted.

7 TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON THE WORLD FIREFIGHTER GAMES 2006

It was RESOLVED that this item be deferred for discussion at the next meeting of the Personnel Committee

8 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF SWANSEA BAY TO PURCHASE REDUNDANT FIRE APPLIANCES

A request has been received from Mr Phil Cozens, on behalf of the Swansea Bay Rotary Club, requesting the sale of two redundant fire engines to the Club, for onward donation to the Rotary Club of Nakuru in Kenya.

Members recalled that this request had been made previously by Mr Cozens acting on behalf of another Rotary Club, and that at that time, it was decided that such requests be considered only when received from registered charities.

This latest request was not entirely consistent with the Authority's policy, as Mr Cozens stated in his letter that the Swansea Rotary Club was not a registered charity at the present time although it was currently pursuing such registration. He made the point however, that each Rotary Club, including Swansea Bay, was a member of Rotary International Britain and Ireland (RIBI) which operated a foundation which has charitable status. In view of this, Mr Cozens had asked the Authority to give favourable consideration to the purchase of the two vehicles and had submitted, in support of his request, comprehensive information including a dossier of photographs which presented a clear need for this type of equipment in the communities for which they were intended. A copy of the information dossier was available for Members' information. Should the Authority approve the request, it was considered reasonable that reliance could be placed on the charitable status of the RIBI's foundation, with the normal proviso that the expected purchase price for the appliances at auction would be reimbursed to the Authority.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

The request from Mr P Cozens, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Swansea Bay, for the purchase of two redundant fire engines to be donated to the Rotary Club of Nakuru in Kenya, at a price consistent with the expected sale price at auction, be approved.

9 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE HELD IN PORTSMOUTH ON 15-16 MARCH 2005

A report by Councillors Gerald Clement, Mrs Cheryl Philpott and Colin Morgan on their attendance at the LGA Annual Fire Conference held in Portsmouth on 15 – 16 March 2005 was received and noted.

Councillor Morgan commended both the Chief Fire Officer and Councillor Thompson on their professionalism in presenting and chairing sessions at the Conference respectively.

Councillor Morgan continued that he considered that the inclusion of speeches by the three major political parties on the second day took up too much Conference time and felt this could have been better utilised on discussion relevant to Fire and Rescue Service matters.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

A letter be sent to the LGA concerning the amount of time taken by the addresses made at the end of the Conference by representatives of the three main Political Parties.

10 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following items were sent for information:

Report on Community Risk Reduction
Service Delivery Reports from the County Commands

11 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 12(A)(1) TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, NAMELY INFORMATION RELATING TO CURRENT EMPLOYEES OF THE AUTHORITY.

12 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PERSONNEL COMMITTEES

The minutes of the Special Personnel Committees held on 7th April 2005 and 4th May 2005 were received and noted.