

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



**MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**COFNODION  
CYFARFOD YR AWDURDOD**

***YSTAFELL TEIFI, CANOLFAN HALLIWELL,  
COLEG Y DRINDOD, CAERFYRDDIN  
Dydd Llun 6 Chwefror 2006***

**MINUTES  
OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING**

***THE TEIFI SUITE, HALLIWELL CENTRE,  
TRINITY COLLEGE, CARMARTHEN  
Monday 6 February 2006***

**PRESENOLDEB/ATTENDANCE**

Presennol yn y Cyfarfod/Present at Meeting:

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

**1 DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

None were declared.

**2 PERSONAL MATTERS**

The Chair warmly welcomed Councillor D R James to the meeting following his recent period of ill health and also extended a welcome to Liz Aitken, the newly appointed Director of Finance, on her first attendance at a Fire Authority meeting.

Members were saddened to hear of the passing of Councillor Spender's mother-in-law and it was agreed that a letter of condolence be sent on behalf of the Authority.

**3 TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETINGS HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2005**

The minutes of the Fire Authority meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005 were received and approved as a true record

**4 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2005**

The minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005 were received and noted

**5 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2006 AND TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT FOR 2006/07**

The Minutes of the Resources Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006 were received and it was **RESOLVED**

*That the budget requirement for 2006/07 as recommended by the Resources Committee be approved.*

**6 TO MAKE A PRESENTATION TO MR KEN DAVIES IN RECOGNITION OF HIS WORK FOR THE AUTHORITY**

A presentation was made to Ken Davies to mark his retirement as the Service photographer. Members were aware of Mr Davies' contribution in raising the profile of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service during times of great change and of promoting the fire safety agenda nationally at numerous parliamentary seminars. Mr Davies, as a valued and committed member of the service, was wished a long and happy retirement.

**7 TO MAKE A PRESENTATION TO COUNCILLOR GARETH SULLIVAN IN RECOGNITION OF HIS WORK FOR THE AUTHORITY**

Councillor Gareth Sullivan attended the meeting in order to allow Members the opportunity to thank him formally for his contribution to the work of the Authority, both as a Member and as Chair. Councillor Sullivan had joined the Authority in 1996 and was elected Chair in 2003. During his tenure of office he oversaw many key developments including the publication of the first two Integrated Risk Management Plans. Members were pleased to be able to convey their thanks personally to Councillor Sullivan and he was presented with the Authority shield.

**8 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE RESPONSE TO THE RISK REDUCTION PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES**

At the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006 Members had considered the outline response to the draft guidance on Risk Reduction Planning for Fire and Rescue Authorities and Service Standards for Attendance to Fires in the Home.

The two documents were undergoing a period of consultation until 31 January 2006 and given that the two consultations were inextricably linked and had the same deadline date, it was considered appropriate to respond to both together.

At the Resources Committee meeting Members had resolved that an appropriate response be prepared by the Authority's officers to be forwarded to the Welsh Assembly Government by the end of January 2006. It was noted that this response had been based upon the paper which had been considered at the Resources Committee and was attached for the information of Members.

**RESOLUTION**

*It was RESOLVED that*

*The report be received and endorsed*

**9 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE BUNCEFIELD OIL TERMINAL FIRE IN HERTFORDSHIRE**

Members were aware of the incident at the Buncefield Oil Terminal in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire on 11 December 2005 and noted that the Chief Fire Officer had attended an on-site briefing along with other Chief Fire Officer's following the incident.

A paper had been prepared which contained a synopsis of the incident and gave details of the review of operational practices underway in Pembrokeshire and the rest of the Service area in relation to this type of risk which members noted with interest.

**RESOLUTION**

*It was RESOLVED that*

*the report be received and noted*

**10 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION AT WALESFIRE 2006 IN LLANDUDNO**

Members were aware that in recent years the Walesfire Conference had been held in Tenby, West Wales and up until 2002 had been organised by the Authority. Last year the principal responsibility for organising the event had been taken up by the Community Fire Safety Trust, Atal Tân Cymru/Fire Brake Wales with the support of all three fire and rescue services in Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government. This year a further change would be introduced with the Conference being held at the North Wales Conference Centre, Llandudno, with the Conference sessions extending over two days. This would also be the first Walesfire Conference to be held since responsibility for fire matters had formally been transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government. Details of the programme were currently being finalised but it was anticipated that a wide range of industry experts both from the UK and the international fire safety scene would feature.

Historically the Authority had supported Walesfire with an attendance of eight Members and accordingly Members were asked to determine the attendance for Walesfire 2006.

It was noted that the three Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales would be celebrating their tenth anniversary this year and North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority had tentatively raised the possibility of holding a lunchtime reception to mark the occasion during the Walesfire conference. Members were asked therefore whether or not they would wish to support such an event in principle. It was noted that no indication of costings had as yet been received.

**RESOLUTION**

*It was RESOLVED that*

- 1) Eight Members be nominated to attend Walesfire including the Chair and Vice Chair*
- 2) The reception be supported in principle*

**11 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM STATION OFFICER ERIC HARRIES ON HIS WORK WITH OPERATION FLORIAN, MOSTAR**

A report was received with interest from Station Officer Eric Harries on his work with Operation Florian, Mostar between August and October 2005. Mr Harries had been travelling to Mostar since 1994 to assist with Operation Florian, a charity which had been set up to help provide countries recovering from war or disaster with an effective firefighting structure.

Firefighters from Britain supported Operation Florian, which began in 1993, using their own time to travel the world to deliver vehicles, equipment and training where it was needed most.

Mr Harries wished to express his thanks to the Authority and Officers in supporting his work with Operation Florian.

**RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that***

***The report be received and noted and that a letter of congratulations be sent to Mr Harries on his sterling and worthwhile work***

**12 TO RECEIVE CIRCULAR EMP/1/06 - CO-RESPONDER SCHEMES**

The Chief Fire Officer informed Members that the national position of the Fire Brigades Union had been to oppose the introduction of First Responder Schemes whilst the National Employers had been of the view that this work was fully consistent with the role of a firefighter. Two Fire Authorities were now seeking to resolve this matter through the High Court. As this was a matter of national interest, the National Employers were seeking the support of all Fire and Rescue Authorities to commit to a cost-sharing approach. It was noted that the Authority had previously supported a similar approach on the matter of retained firefighters and the application of the Part-Time Workers Regulations. Members confirmed that they wished to continue to support the Co-responder scheme undertaken by those firefighters who were happy to take on the role.

**RESOLUTION**

***It was RESOLVED that***

***a proportion of the legal costs of resolving the issue of the Co-Responder Schemes through the High Court be met by the Authority***

**13 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

The Service Delivery Reports from the County Commands were received for information together with a report on the Fire service Sports & Athlete Association (FSSAA) National Swimming and Masters Swimming Championships which had taken place at Penlan Community Pool Swansea on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006. Members had given approval for the Service to host the championships and the event was deemed to be both a successful and enjoyable day with in excess of 120 competitors from 17 Services throughout the UK taking part. The support of the Authority had been acknowledged by the national officers and the attendance of the Chair and other Members had been greatly appreciated by everyone.