

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



MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

**COFNODION
CYFARFOD YR AWDURDOD**

Ganolfan Gynadledda,
Pencadlys Y Gwasanaeth Tân Ac Achub, Caerfyrddin
5 Chwefror 2007

**MINUTES
OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING**

The Conference Centre,
Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Carmarthen
5 February 2007

11.00am – 11.35am

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: Mrs K Becton, J J J Davies, Mrs T Devichand, Mrs J Dudley, T E Evans, K Harris, D R James, P James, Mrs F M Jones, C Morgan, Mrs C Philpott, D Prothero, G Seabourne, Mrs P Spender, Mrs M Smith, T Theophilus, J D A Thompson, M Williams
YMDDIHEURIADAU/APOLOGIES:	Cyng/Cllrs: J S Allen-Mirehouse, G Phillips, C Waller

1 DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL INTERESTS

None were declared

2 PERSONAL MATTERS

The Chair welcomed Councillor K Becton to her first meeting of the Authority

Members were aware that Mr Huw Morse, the Authority's Treasurer had given notice of retirement from his post and that the meeting represented the last full meeting of the Fire Authority that he would attend in his capacity as Treasurer.

Mr Huw Morse had been Treasurer to the Fire Authority throughout the eleven years of its existence, and also served as Treasurer to the Shadow Authority prior to April 1996. In addition to his "day job" as Authority Treasurer, he also represented the interests of Fire Authorities on many Regional and National Committees, including most recently the Welsh Assembly Government's Consultative Forum on Finance

Members paid tribute to the sound and professional advice he had consistently provided to the Authority, and the respect in which he was held both by Members and officers including his counterparts in the constituent and other fire and rescue authorities. Mr Morse responded that it had been a privilege to work for the Fire Authority and he thanked Members and colleagues for the support and friendship he had received over his term of office.

3 MEETING WITH THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND REGENERATION

On 1st February 2007, the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Fire Officer had met with the Minister, Mrs Hart. The meeting had been at the request of the Minister following correspondence received by the Chair in January 2007. In this correspondence, the Minister had expressed her "*continued concern*" regarding "some of the proposals" contained within the Authority's 2007/10 Risk Reduction Plan although the letter did not specify the exact nature of these concerns.

At the meeting, the Minister made clear that her concerns related to the Authority's proposal to change the crewing arrangements at Haverfordwest Fire station. The Minister outlined that her concerns related mainly to the public perception of the proposal.

The Chairman stated that this proposal had already been debated for almost 4 years, and had been previously deferred once at the request of the Minister. He stated that the changes had been backed up by robust evidence and had received unanimous support from the full Authority when the plan had been approved in October 2006. Furthermore, the plan had undergone a detailed period of consultation last summer and that the 2007/08 budget had been set, based upon it.

The Chair and Vice Chair had further confirmed that the Authority had fully

considered and debated the issue and that implementation would go ahead as planned from April 2007.

Although Members were concerned that it appeared that their decisions were being scrutinised and undermined, they did not wish to cause more conflict. They indicated their full support and confidence in the response made by the Chair, Vice Chair and Officers to Mrs Hart. Members agreed that any further deferment of implementation should not take place given that implementation plans were well advanced and relocation arrangements for displaced staff had been agreed in principle.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

Any further deferment of implementation should not take place given that implementation plans were well advanced and relocation arrangements for displaced staff had been agreed in principle.

5 TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 18TH DECEMBER 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2006 were received and confirmed as a true record

6 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH DECEMBER 2006

The minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 11 December 2006 were received and approved subject to the following amendment:

Item 5, final paragraph, second sentence to read: 'when random drug and alcohol testing would commence'

7 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 15TH JANUARY 2007

The minutes of the Resources Committee held on 15th January 2007 were considered.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that the following be approved:

- i) The Budget Requirement for 2007/08*
- ii) The Capital Programme for 2007/08*
- iii) The Prudential Indicators for 2007/08*

8 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE MARITIME INCIDENT RESPONSE GROUP UPDATE AND AUDIT

Members were aware from previous update papers that the service had been developing its offshore firefighting capability in line with the National “Sea of Change” project with the aim of providing 15 Marine Incident response teams strategically placed to cover all UK waters.

The initial phases of the project were now essentially complete and the Service was now a “declared resource” equipped and trained to deal with all types of offshore emergency.

The final part of the team's development involved an audit against National standards by the MCA which was carried out in January 2007.

The audit had proved to be extremely positive and a paper which summarised the outcomes and background was attached for members' information.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

The update report on the Maritime Incident Response Group be received and noted

9 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE LNG, SOUTH HOOK MILFORD HAVEN

The management of South Hook LNG (SHLNG) had invited a representative from the Service to visit the Samsung Heavy Industries shipyard in South Korea in early March 2007. The representative would join a group of 4 SHLNG employees and 2 officers from Milford Haven Port Authority for a visit of 2 days duration.

The intention of the visit was for the UK representatives to be appraised of the technical details of the Q Flex LNG carrier ships that are due to arrive in Milford Haven in the autumn of 2007. The visit would include a tour of the ship, its fire fighting and rescue capabilities. The information gained would be important in forming the technical guidance and training programmes of Fire Service personnel who may be called to deal with incidents at the SHLNG jetty in Milford Haven.

Station Manager Ian Jenkins from B01 Haverfordwest had been nominated to be the MAWWFRS representative having considerable experience of shipping and currently leading the Pembrokeshire Operations Working Group on marine matters. SM Jenkins would be responsible for preparing the technical guidance on the Q Flex LNG carriers for MAWWFRS.

The full costs of the visit would be borne by SHLNG in the same way as the previous visit to Ras Laffen Industrial City in Qatar during 2006.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED

To accept the County Commanders request for Station Manager Jenkins to attend South Korea.

10 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE VICE CHAIR'S ATTENDANCE AT THE CFOA/LGA SEMINAR ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

Members were aware that the Vice-Chair, Councillor Crowley had represented the Fire Authority at the CFOA /LGA Seminar on *Contingency Planning For Safer Communities* in London on the 23rd November 2006. Assistant Chief Fire Officer Bailey and Area Manager Edwards accompanied Councillor Crowley.

The seminar was held to reinforce the need for contingency planning to ensure communities were kept safe. This seminar had been designed to support elected members and principal officers in developing plans for fire and rescue authorities, looking at key issues including:

- lessons learned by fire and rescue authorities who have recently experienced industrial action;
- the support that can be offered centrally; and
- options for developing robust contingency arrangements in the future.

Officers were now considering the most appropriate actions to prepare for a major staff absence brought about by industrial action. A report with suggested actions will be made to Members in the near future.

RESOLUTION

It was RESOLVED that

The report be received and noted

11 TO RECEIVE AN AMENDED SCHEDULE OF FIRE AUTHORITY MEETINGS FOR 2007 – 2008

An amended schedule of Fire Authority meetings for 2007 – 2008 was received and approved

12 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Service Delivery Report from the County Commands was received for information

