

FIRE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the meeting of the FIRE AUTHORITY held at County Hall, East Sussex County Council, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes at 10.30 am on Thursday, 13 June 2019.

Present: Councillors Galley (Chairman), Lambert (Vice-Chair), Barnes, Earl-Williams, Ebel, Evans, Hamilton, Osborne, Powell, Pragnell, Scott, Smith, Taylor, Theobald, Tutt, Belsey (In place of Dowling), Bowdler (In place of Boorman) and Nemeth (In place of Peltzer Dunn)

Also present: D Whittaker (Chief Fire Officer), M O'Brien (Deputy Chief Fire Officer), A Ghebre-Ghiorghis (Monitoring Officer), D Savage (Assistant Director Resources/Treasurer), L Ridley (Assistant Director Planning & Improvement), L Woodley (Deputy Monitoring Officer), E Curtis (Communications & Marketing Manager), A Blanshard (Senior Democratic Services Officer, Z Downton (Democratic Services Officer) and E Simpkin (Democratic Services Officer)

1 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Powell requested that a Personal, Non-Prejudicial interest be recorded noting her employment with Sussex Police.

2 Election of Chairman

The Fire Authority considered the report of the Monitoring Officer inviting the Fire Authority to elect a Chairman and to request, once elected that they advise on their preferred title. (*Copy in Minute Book*)

The Combination Order for the creation of the East Sussex Fire Authority set down the procedures for the election of the Chairman of the Authority.

The Standing Orders of the Fire Authority required a Chairman to be elected from its Members as the first item of business at the annual meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Fire Authority:

- i. appointed Councillor Roy Galley as Chairman of the Authority; and
- ii. the Chairman advised that his preferred title was that of 'Chairman'.

3 Election of Vice-Chairman

The Fire Authority considered the report of the Monitoring Officer inviting them to elect a Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year and, once elected to ask the Vice-Chairman to advise of their preferred title.

RESOLVED – That the Fire Authority:

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- i. Appointed Councillor Carolyn Lambert as Vice-Chairman of the Authority; and
- ii. The Vice-Chairman advised that her preferred title was that of 'Vice-Chair'.

4 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Boorman, Peltzer Dunn and Dowling.

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs Bowdler, Nemeth and Belsey who were attending as substitutes for those Members who were unable to attend.

5 Notification of items which the Chairman considers urgent and proposes to take at the end of the agenda/Chairman's business items

The Chairman of the Fire Authority introduced all Members and officers in attendance.

Following the Brighton & Hove City Council Elections, the Chairman welcomed the newly appointed Members of the Fire Authority, namely Cllr Marianna Ebel, Cllr Amanda Evans, Cllr Les Hamilton and Cllr Steph Powell.

The Chairman also welcomed back Cllr Garry Peltzer Dunn and Cllr Carol Theobald who had been re-appointed by Brighton & Hove City Council.

The Authority welcomed back Cllr Peter Pragnell who had been recently appointed by East Sussex County Council following a change in their Outside Body appointments.

The Chairman asked that the Fire Authority formally record its thanks to Cllr Lizzie Deane, Cllr Adrian Morris, Cllr Jackie O'Quinn, Cllr Nancy Platts and Cllr Simon Elford. The Fire Authority thanked them all for their dedicated service during their time as Members. The Authority was grateful for their contributions to the Fire Authority's work and wished them well in the future. Each of these departing Members would be written to individually to thank them.

The Chairman thanked Cllr John Barnes for his service to the Fire Authority during his time as Chairman. The Authority had benefitted greatly from his knowledge, kindness and service during his tenure as Chairman. As a token of thanks the Authority presented him with a set of East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service cufflinks.

Thanks were given to Cllr Carol Theobald for her support to the Authority during her time as Vice-Chairman.

6 To consider any public questions

There were none.

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7 To receive any petitions

There were none.

8 Non-confidential Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 February 2019

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman. (*Copy in Minute Book*)

9 Callover

Members reserved the following items for debate:

10 Political Representation on the Panels of the Fire Authority

12 Member Attendance 2018/19

RESOLVED – That all other reports be approved according to the recommendations set out.

10 Political Representation on the Panels of the Fire Authority

The Fire Authority received the report of the Monitoring Officer (MO) seeking to secure political balance on Panels in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and agree the resultant membership to the Panels of the Fire Authority. (*Copy in Minute Book*)

The Fire Authority was required to keep under review the allocations of seats on Committees and other bodies to ensure, so far as practicable, that they reflected the political groups on the Authority. The rules governing this representation were outlined in the report.

Following the elections at Brighton & Hove City Council in May 2019 there were now four political groups on the Fire Authority, namely Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat, previously there had been three. There was also one Independent Member of the Fire Authority but single members cannot constitute a political group. As a result of this increase in political groups, the allocations to panel memberships had altered with the proposed political proportionality for 2019/20 shown in Appendix 2 to the report.

The Authority agreed to the proportionality and all political groups were in the position to agree panel memberships at the meeting:

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Green
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SCRUTINY & AUDIT (7)	Barnes Smith Taylor	Evans Hamilton	Lambert Osborne	
POLICY & RESOURCES (7)	Peltzer Dunn Boorman Galley Pragnell	Scott	Tutt	Powell
HUMAN RESOURCES (7)	Dowling Theobald Smith Taylor	<i>(Any Member of Labour Group. To be advised as/when meetings are convened)</i>	Osborne	Ebel
URGENCY (7)	Barnes Dowling Galley Theobald	Scott	Lambert	Powell
APPOINTMENTS PANEL (5)	Galley Barnes	Scott	Lambert	Powell
PENSIONS BOARD (4)	Theobald, Hamilton, Tutt, Ebel			

It was proposed that there might be merit in the Authority appointing the Chair of both the Policy & Resources and Scrutiny & Audit Panels at this meeting and letting the remaining Panels appoint at their first meetings. A discussion followed and whilst there was not full support for this approach it was agreed that these two appointments be made.

Cllr Peltzer Dunn was nominated as Chairman of the Policy & Resources Panel by Cllr Galley, seconded by Cllr Earl-Williams. The nomination was uncontested and passed by a vote of 8 in favour and 1 against.

The position of Chairman of the Scrutiny & Audit Panel was contested:

Cllr Barnes was nominated by Cllr Galley, seconded by Cllr Taylor.
Cllr Lambert was nominated by Cllr Tutt, seconded by Cllr Scott.

A vote was held with the following results:

Cllr Barnes – 10 in favour and 6 against
Cllr Lambert – 8 in favour and 10 against

Cllr Barnes was duly elected as Chairman of the Scrutiny & Audit Panel for the forthcoming year.

The Authority also agreed to the appointment of the following Member Lead roles:

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Health & Safety – Cllr Lambert
Assurance & Peer Review – Cllr Barnes
Inclusion & Diversity – Cllr Osborne
IT – Cllr Tutt
Estates – Cllr Peltzer Dunn

RESOLVED – That the Fire Authority:

- i. confirmed the Panel arrangements and political representation as set out in the Report;
- ii. agreed (with no Member voting against) that the political balance provisions shall not apply to the membership of the Principal Officer Appointments Panel; and
- iii. appointed Cllr Peltzer Dunn as Chairman of the Policy & Resources Panel and Cllr Barnes as Chairman of the Scrutiny & Audit Panel in accordance with Standing Order 41.13 and agreed that the appointment of the Chairman of the remaining Panels be made by the Panels at their first meeting in accordance with Standing Order 41.14.

11 Fire Authority & Panel Meetings 2019/20

The Authority received the Report of the Senior Democratic Services Officer which informed Members of the dates of meetings of the Fire Authority and Panels for the remainder of 2019 and 2020. (*Copy in Minute Book*)

RESOLVED – That the Fire Authority noted the dates of meetings of the Fire Authority and Panels for the next 12 months.

12 Member Attendance 2018/19

The Authority considered the report of the Senior Democratic Services Officer which presented for monitoring purposes the Member attendance at formal East Sussex Fire Authority meetings for 2018-19. (*Copy in Minute Book*)

Overall the report was welcomed by Members, and whilst it was appreciated that at times it is difficult to attend meetings, it was felt that the report was a way of reinforcing the importance of attendance. Members were assured that all apologies were noted and that it was understood and appreciated that there were times when non-attendance was unavoidable, these were recorded but not included in this report as it would have involved sharing personal information which would not have been appropriate.

A discussion followed during which comment was made on the presentation of the data with suggestions for future reports including the inclusion of a column referencing the appointment of substitutes.

The Authority were reminded that this was the first report of its type and the intention was that it would grow to include not only formal meetings of the Authority and its Panels but also attendance at open days, seminars,

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additional meetings and one off events. This would provide in future a fuller picture as attendance at formal meetings is only partially representative of a Fire Authority Members commitment.

RESOLVED – That the Fire Authority:

- i. noted the summary of Members attendance at formal Authority meetings for 2018-2019 as set out at Appendix A to this report;
- ii. agreed that from June 2019 Member attendance at formal meetings will be published on the Fire Authority's website; and
- iii. agreed that Member attendance will be reported annually to the Scrutiny & Audit Panel for monitoring purposes.

13 Treasury Management - Stewardship Report 2018/19

The Fire Authority received the Report of the Assistant Director Resources/Treasurer. The Annual Treasury Management Stewardship Report is a requirement of the Fire Authority's reporting procedures and informed Members of Treasury Management Performance for 2018/19 and compliance with Prudential Indicators. (*Copy in Minute Book*)

RESOLVED – That the Fire Authority noted the Treasury Management Performance for 2018/19.

The meeting concluded at 11.28 am

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of

2019