

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the annual meeting of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 21 June 2021 virtually via Zoom. Meeting commenced at 09.30am.

Councillor

D Rees
P R Lewis (Chair)
S Lloyd-Williams
R E Parry
N Smith
A Tansley
B Blakeley
A Davies
M Ll Davies
M Bateman
A I Dunbar
P Shotton
D Wisinger
S Glyn
J B Hughes
J W Parry
G A Roberts
B Apsley
M Dixon
G Lowe
B Parry-Jones
A Roberts

Representing

Anglesey County Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council
Denbighshire County Council
Denbighshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Gwynedd Council
Gwynedd Council
Gwynedd Council
Gwynedd Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council

Also present:

S A Smith (Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive); C P Everett (Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority); K W Finch (Treasurer to the Authority); R Fairhead, H MacArthur and S Millington (Assistant Chief Fire Officers); S Morris (Assistant Chief Officer); H Howard (Head of Finance); T Williams (Corporate Communications Manager); G Williams (Accountant, Treasurer's Department, Conwy County Borough Council); A Davies (Member Liaison Officer).

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor

P Evans
V Gay
W O Thomas
G Williams

Representing

Denbighshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Gwynedd Council

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2021/22

2.1 The Clerk requested nominations for the office of Authority Chair for the 2021/22 municipal year.

2.2 Cllr M LI Davies proposed Cllr P R Lewis and this was unanimously seconded by all Members. No other nominations were proposed.

2.3 **RESOLVED that Councillor Peter R Lewis be elected as Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for the 2021/22 municipal year.**

3 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR 2021/22

3.1 The Chair proceeded to seek nominations for the office of Authority Deputy Chair for the 2021/22 municipal year.

3.2 Cllr M LI Davies proposed Cllr D Rees and this was unanimously seconded by all Members. No other nominations were proposed.

3.3 **RESOLVED that Cllr Dylan Rees be elected to serve as Deputy Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for the 2021/22 municipal year.**

4 APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

4.1 The Chair sought nominations for the offices of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2021/22 municipal year.

4.2 For the post of Chair, Cllr G Lowe proposed Cllr B Apsley and this was seconded by all Members. No other nominations were proposed.

4.3 For the post of Deputy Chair, Cllr G Lowe proposed Cllr W O Thomas and this was seconded by all Members. No other nominations were proposed.

4.4 **RESOLVED that**

(i) **Councillor Cllr Bryan Apsley be elected to serve as Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2021/22 municipal year;**

(ii) **Councillor W Owen Thomas be elected to serve as Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2021/22 municipal year.**

5 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

5.1 The Chair advised that no items had been submitted to the Clerk for consideration.

6 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

6.1 The minutes of the Fire and Rescue Authority Annual Meeting held on 9 November 2020 were submitted for approval.

6.2 **RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true and correct record of proceedings.**

7 MATTERS ARISING

7.1 There were no matters arising.

8 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

8.1 The Clerk presented the report which recommended establishing a working group to review the Authority's Constitution.

8.2 Following the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and as a result of changes made to the way in which the Authority operates due to the pandemic, it is considered appropriate to review the Constitution. The document sets out the rules for how the Authority is governed and some of those rules need to be changed to reflect the requirements of the Act. Further, its terminology is rooted in physical presence at meetings, which needs to be updated.

8.3 Members acknowledged that the recommendation was for the working group to include the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority, the Chairs of the Audit and Standards Committees plus one other Authority member; Cllr M LI Davies volunteered to be the fifth member on the working group.

8.4 **RESOLVED to agree that**

(i) a working group be established to review the Constitution and report back to the Authority with proposed changes;

(ii) that Cllr Meirick LI Davies be appointed to join the working group as noted in paragraph 8.3 above.

9 MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

9.1 The report was presented to confirm the appointment of members of the Authority and the composition of the full Authority membership for 2021/22.

9.2 **RESOLVED to note the Authority membership for 2021/22.**

10 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL BODIES

10.1 The purpose of the report was to invite the Authority to appoint membership of internal and various external committees including the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).

10.2 **RESOLVED:**

- (i) not to apply the principle of political balance to Committees;**
- (ii) to confirm membership of committees as set out in the report;**
- (iii) to appoint representatives to external bodies as set out below:**

Chairs and Chiefs Ministerial Fire and Rescue Liaison Group	The Chair
Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Council	The Chair
WLGA Co-ordinating Committee	one representative on behalf of the three FRAs
WLGA Fire Services Panel	Chair and Deputy Chair
Local Government Association (LGA)	The Chair
LGA Fire Services Forum	one representative on behalf of the three FRAs
National Issues Committee	Chair and Deputy Chair

11 MEETING DATES 2021/22

11.1 The report was presented to inform Members of the dates for meetings for 2021/22.

11.2 Due to the Covid pandemic, Members noted that meetings will be held virtually via Zoom until at least the Autumn.

11.3 **RESOLVED to note the dates of all meetings as set out in the report.**

12 MEMBERS' REMUNERATION SCHEME

12.1 The report was presented to inform Members about the [Independent Remuneration Panel's Report 2021/22](#) which set out changes to members remuneration with effect from 1 April 2021.

12.2 RESOLVED to

- (i) note the IRPW's determinations in relation to members' allowances and remuneration as of 1 April 2021;**

- (ii) give delegated authority to the Clerk to update the schedule of member remuneration within the Authority's constitution and to make any necessary amendments to the 2021/22 schedule from time to time during the municipal year, in order to reflect any changes in membership of the Authority, or as a result of any supplementary reports issued by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.**