

## **NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting** of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 17 July 2023 via Zoom. Meeting commenced at 9.30am.

### **PRESENT**

#### **Councillor**

Dylan Rees (Chair)  
Paul Cunningham (Deputy Chair)  
Bryan Apsley  
Marion Bateman  
Carol Beard  
Tina Claydon  
Adele Davies-Cooke  
Jeff Evans  
Alan Hughes  
Chris Hughes  
John Brynmor Hughes  
John Ifan Jones  
Marc Jones  
Gwynfor Owen  
Arwyn Herald Roberts  
Austin Roberts  
Gareth A Roberts  
Rondo Roberts  
Gareth Sandilands  
Nigel Smith  
Rob Triggs  
Michelle Walker  
Mark Young

#### **Representing**

Anglesey County Council  
Flintshire County Council (arrived 9:35)  
Wrexham County Borough Council  
Flintshire County Council  
Conwy County Borough Council  
Flintshire County Council  
Flintshire County Council  
Anglesey County Council  
Denbighshire County Council  
Conwy County Borough Council  
Gwynedd Council  
Anglesey County Council  
Wrexham County Borough Council  
Gwynedd Council  
Gwynedd Council  
Conwy County Borough Council  
Gwynedd Council  
Wrexham County Borough Council (left 11:10)  
Denbighshire County Council  
Conwy County Borough Council  
Gwynedd Council  
Denbighshire County Council  
Denbighshire County Council

### **Also present:**

Dawn Docx	Chief Fire Officer (CFO)
Stewart Forshaw	Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO)
Helen MacArthur	Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO)
Stuart Millington	Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO)
Anthony Jones	Area Manager (AM)
Dafydd Edwards	Treasurer
Gareth Owens	Clerk and Monitoring Officer
Lisa Allington	Executive Assistant
Helen Howard	Head of Finance and Procurement
Tracey Williams	Head of Corporate Communications
Dafydd Evans	BBC
Osian Jones	BBC

## 1 APOLOGIES

Councillor	Representing
Beverley Parry-Jones	Wrexham County Borough Council

### ABSENT

Councillor	Representing
Chrissy Gee	Flintshire County Council
Paul Rogers	Wrexham County Borough Council
Dale Selvester	Flintshire County Council

The above apologies were offered and accepted. It was noted that Cllr Chrissy Gee, Cllr Paul Rogers and Cllr Dale Selvester were all absent without apology.

## 2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2023/24

- 2.1 The Clerk requested nominations for the office of Authority Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year.
- 2.2 Cllr Nigel Smith proposed Cllr Dylan Rees and this was seconded by Cllr John Brynmor Hughes.
- 2.3 There being no counter nominations it was therefore **RESOLVED that Cllr Dylan Rees be elected as Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for the 2023/24 municipal year.**

## 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest to record.

## 4 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR 2023/24

- 4.1 The Chair proceeded to seek nominations for the office of Authority Deputy Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year.
- 4.2 Cllr Tina Claydon proposed Cllr Paul Cunningham and this was seconded by Cllr Gareth Sandilands.
- 4.3 There being no counter nominations it was therefore **RESOLVED that Cllr Paul Cunningham be elected to serve as Deputy Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for the 2023/24 municipal year.**

## **5 APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF AUDIT COMMITTEE 2023/24**

5.1 The Chair requested nominations for the office of Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

5.2 Cllr Gwynfor Owen proposed the re-election of Cllr Nigel Smith as the Chair of the Audit Committee and this was seconded by Cllr Austin Roberts.

5.3 The Chair requested nominations for the office of Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

5.4 Cllr Nigel Smith proposed the re-election of Cllr Mark Young as the Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee and this was seconded by Cllr Chris Hughes.

5.5 There were no counter nominations.

5.6 **RESOLVED that:**

- i) Cllr Nigel Smith be elected to serve as Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year; and**
- ii) Cllr Mark Young be elected to serve as Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.**

## **6 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS**

6.1 It was confirmed that no items had been submitted to the Clerk for consideration.

## **7 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2022**

7.1 The minutes of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) Annual Meeting held on 20 June 2022 were submitted for approval.

7.2 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) approve the minutes as a true and correct record of proceedings.**

## **8 MATTERS ARISING**

8.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes submitted.

## **9 MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

9.1 Gareth Owens, Clerk to the Authority, gave a verbal update on the membership of the Authority.

9.2 It was noted that there had been a number of changes to Authority membership over the last 12 months. Michelle Blakeley Walker representing Denbighshire County Council had been appointed to replace Cllr Brian Blakeley following his sad passing. Cllr Dyfed Jones representing Anglesey County Council had replaced Cllr Ken Taylor following his resignation, and had since resigned himself being replaced by Cllr John Ifan Jones. It was noted that Cllr Neil Coverley from Conwy County Borough Council had also resigned, but a replacement had not yet been appointed.

9.3 **RESOLVED to:**

**i) Note the content of the update**

## **10 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL BODIES**

10.1 Gareth Owens, Clerk to the Authority, presented the Appointments to Committees and External Bodies paper which asked that Members note the membership of the Authority and its committees, which has changed since last year. Members were also asked to note the outside appointments such as the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the Local Government Association (LGA).

10.2 It was noted that not all Local Authorities had nominated two representatives to sit on the Executive Panel as yet.

10.3 **RESOLVED to:**

**i) Approve the membership and appointment to committees and external appointments.**

## **11 MEETING DATES 2023/25**

11.1 Gareth Owens, Clerk to the Authority, presented the Meeting Dates 2023/25 paper which aimed to inform Members of the dates for meetings of the full Fire and Rescue Authority, Executive Panel and Audit Committee for 2023-25.

11.2 It was noted that there had been a slight change to the timing of the meeting dates in order to align with other deadlines relating to the budget, and the strategic management of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (the Service).

### 11.3 **RESOLVED to**

- i) agree the dates for meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority, Executive Panel and Audit Committee; and**
- ii) agree for the constitution to be amended to reflect the fact that the Annual Meeting needs to take place in July, not June as currently specified.**

## 12 **MEMBERS' REMUNERATION SCHEME**

12.1 Gareth Owens, Clerk to the Authority, presented the Members' Remuneration Scheme paper which aimed to inform Members about the current rates of Member remuneration, and contained a request to formally approve the schedule of payments made during the financial year 2022/23.

12.2 It was noted that the annual report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) set out changes to Members' remuneration, and the report contained information on those changes that would affect Members of fire and rescue authorities.

### 12.3 **RESOLVED to**

- i) note the IRPW's determinations in relation to Members' allowances and remuneration with effect from 1 April 2023;**
- 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 2023/24 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; and**
- iii) to approve the schedule of payments made during 2022/23 as required by the IRPW**

## 13 **URGENT MATTERS**

There were no urgent matters to consider.

There being no other business, the meeting was brought to a close.

Meeting closed: 09:45