

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting** of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority held on Monday 15 July 2024 via Zoom. Meeting commenced at 9.30am.

PRESENT

Councillor

Dylan Rees-Chair
Paul Cunningham-Deputy (from 09:40)
Marion Bateman
Tina Claydon
Adele Davies-Cooke (from 09:47)
Sharon Doleman
Jeff Evans
Chrissy Gee
Alan Hughes
John Brynmor Hughes
Gareth R Jones
Marc Jones
Gwynfor Owen
Beverley Parry-Jones
Arwyn Herald Roberts
Austin Roberts
Rondo Roberts
Paul Rogers
Gareth Sandilands
Dale Selvester
Michelle Walker
Mark Young

Representing

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

Also present:

Dawn Docx	Chief Fire Officer (CFO)
Helen MacArthur	Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO)
Justin Evans	Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO)
Anthony Jones	Area Manager (AM)
Dafydd Edwards	Treasurer
Gareth Owens	Clerk and Monitoring Officer
Matthew Powell	Deputy Clerk and Monitoring Officer
Lisa Allington	Executive Assistant
Tracey Williams	Head of Corporate Communications
George Jones	Atebol Translation Services

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor

Rob Triggs
Gareth A Roberts
Carol Beard

Representing

Gwynedd Council
Gwynedd Council
Conwy County Borough Council

ABSENT

Councillor

Bryan Apsley
Chris Hughes
John Ifan Jones

Representing

Wrexham County Borough Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Anglesey County Council

The above apologies were offered and accepted.

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2024/25

- 2.1 The Clerk requested nominations for the office of Authority Chair for the 2024/25 municipal year.
- 2.2 Cllr Austin Roberts proposed Cllr Dylan Rees and this was seconded by Cllr Jeff Evans.
- 2.3 There were no counter nominations received and an electronic vote was carried out for all in favour of Cllr Dylan Rees being re-elected as Chair.
- 2.4 It was unanimously **RESOLVED that Cllr Dylan Rees be elected as Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for the 2024/25 municipal year.**
- 2.5 Cllr Rees took this opportunity to thank Members for their support, both with regards to the Chairship and the with the challenges experienced over the last twelve months. The challenge of the Emergency Cover Review remained and other issues such as setting the budget, the Culture Review and the New Training Centre decision would also present their own challenges.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A personal interest was declared by the Clerk on behalf of all Members for the remuneration item.

4 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR 2024/25

- 4.1 The Chair proceeded to seek nominations for the office of Authority Deputy Chair for the 2024/25 municipal year.
- 4.2 Cllr Gareth Sandilands proposed Cllr Paul Cunningham and this was seconded by Cllr Tina Claydon.
- 4.3 There were no counter nominations received and an electronic vote was carried out for all in favour of Cllr Paul Cunningham being re-elected as Deputy Chair.

4.4 **RESOLVED that Cllr Paul Cunningham be elected to serve as Deputy Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for the 2024/25 municipal year.**

5 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF AUDIT COMMITTEE 2024/25

5.1 The Clerk advised those present that there had been a difference of practice over the years in respect of the appointment of the Chair of the Audit Committee due to an irregularity within the Constitution. It was therefore proposed that the Constitution be amended to state that the Chair of the Audit Committee be elected at the Annual meeting. This would mean that all Members had the opportunity to vote.

5.2 **RESOLVED that:**

i) The Chair/Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee should be appointed by the full Authority and that the constitution be changed to reflect this; and

ii) That the Authority appoints the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee for 2024/25.

5.3 The Chair requested nominations for the office of Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year.

5.4 Cllr Jeff Evans proposed the re-election of Cllr Mark Young as the Chair of the Audit Committee and this was seconded by Cllr Austin Roberts.

5.5 There were no counter nominations received and an electronic vote was carried out for all in favour of Cllr Mark Young being re-elected as Chair of the Audit Committee.

5.6 **RESOLVED that:**

iii) Cllr Mark Young be elected to serve as Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year.

5.7 The Chair requested nominations for the office of Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year.

5.8 Cllr Austin Roberts proposed the re-election of Cllr Gwynfor Owen as the Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee and this was seconded by Cllr Jeff Evans.

5.9 There were no counter nominations received and an electronic vote was carried out for all in favour of Cllr Gwynfor Owen being re-elected as Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee.

5.10 **RESOLVED that:**

- iv) **Cllr Gwynfor Owen be elected to serve as Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year.**

6 NOTICE OF URGENT MATTERS

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

7 COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

- 7.1 The Clerk presented the paper on the Appointments to Committees and External Bodies, purpose of which was to invite Members to note membership of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) and its committees which had changed since last year. It was also to note the outside appointments such as the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the Local Government Association (LGA).

- 7.2 The appointments listed in the paper were proposed by Cllr Mark Young and seconded by Cllr Jeff Evans.

7.3 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) **confirm membership of the Authority, appointments to committees and external appointments as laid out in the paper provided.**

8 MEETING DATES 24/25

- 8.1 The Clerk advised that this paper was intended to inform Members of the dates for meetings of the Authority, Executive Panel and Audit Committee for 2024 - 25.

- 8.2 It was noted that the date of 21 April 2025 would fall on Easter Monday and it was therefore proposed that it be changed to 28 April 2025.

8.3 **RESOLVED to:**

- i) **agree the dates for meetings of the full Authority, Executive Panel and Audit Committee, with the meeting calendared for 21 April 2025 changed to 28 April 2025.**

9 MEMBERS' REMUNERATION SCHEME

- 9.1 The Clerk delivered the paper on the Members' Remuneration Scheme which looked to inform Members of the current rates of member remuneration, and to formally approve the schedule of payments made during the financial year 2024/25.

- 9.2 It was noted that there had been an increase of 6% to the basic salary of all Members and the Chair, and 2.4% for the Deputy Chair of the Authority and the Chair of the Audit Committee. Rates for Independent Members remained the same. Subsistence and expense rates also remained static.
- 9.3 It was noted that the reference to paragraph 6 should refer to the financial year 2024-25 rather than 2023-24.
- 9.4 The Treasurer noted that Members were unable to make any changes to these figures, and it was within their gift only to either accept or reject them.
- 9.5 **RESOLVED to:**
- i) note the IRPW's determinations in relation to members' allowances and remuneration with effect from 1 April 2024;**
 - 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 2024/25 schedule from time to time during the municipal year, in order to reflect any changes in membership of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority), or as a result of any supplementary reports issued by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales; and**
 - iii) approve the schedule of payments made during 2023/24 as required by the IRPW**

10 URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters to consider.

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

Meeting closed: 09:55