



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS SHEFFIELD AND ROTHERHAM BRANCH

Website: <http://www.narfsheffield.org.uk>

Chairman: Mick Hurst; **Treasurer:** Dave Lockwood; **Secretary:** Ted Mullins

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING

Monday 15th January 2018 - 'Showroom and Workstation', Paternoster Row, Sheffield

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and informed those present that Sam Cawthorne had passed away on Wednesday 3rd January 2018

1. **Members Present:**

Douglas Binnington, Bev Bridge, Pete Cawthorne, Mick Hurst (Chair), Arthur Levick, Alan Liversidge, Dave Lockwood (Treasurer), Brian Marsden, Bill May, Ted Mullins (Secretary), Keith Parker

2. **Apologies for Absence:**

Tony Mulcrone

4. **Minutes of the last branch meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Arthur Levick **Seconded:** Pete Cawthorne

There were no matters arising.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

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|-----------------|----------|
| Income 2017 | £4313.68 |
| Expenditure | £2967.60 |
| Current Balance | £1346.08 |

6. **Secretary/Membership Recorder's Report**

6.1 **South Yorkshire Membership April 2017**

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| The Sheffield and Rotherham Branch membership | 303 (-1 from October 2017) |
| The Barnsley and Doncaster Branch membership | <u>192</u> (-2 from October 2017) |
| South Yorkshire Total | 495 (-3 from October 2017) |

6.1 **Pensions:**

The Office of National Statistics is showing an increase in the Consumer Price of 3%. Therefore, it is possible to predict a Fire Service Pensions increase in 2018 of 3%.

6.2 Ill-health/Injury Retirement

Keith Parker explained to the meeting that following his enforced retirement from the service in 1983 due to an in-service injury he had recently been subject to extended telephone interviews by doctors representing the brigade as to the severity of his injury disability. This caused him a great deal of concern, as it has to other members who have been similarly investigated to such an extent that one member has 'temporarily' lost his injury award.

In March 2014, the Fire Brigades Union warned that Firefighters who have retired or left the service due to ill-health or injury were not automatically protected from certain amendments to the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (NFPS).

In particular, firefighters in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS) who could no longer do their jobs because of permanent disability and drew their pension early are now governed by the NFPS rules. In this scheme, the barrier is higher: the firefighter must be permanently unable to undertake any job, because of their disability.

The new rules changed the barrier for the FPS so that they are the same as the NFPS, so any former firefighters in the FPS currently receiving their pensions because a disability that prevented them from working in their former roles may now have their pensions reviewed and possibly terminated.

The Sheffield and Rotherham Branch find it deplorable, that local authorities are applying this ruling retrospectively in a salacious attempt to recover money by any means whatsoever.

7. Welfare

- The meeting was informed that Bernard Newbound was presently undergoing palliative care.
- The meeting was informed that Bernard Spellman was presently undergoing palliative care
- The meeting was informed that Tony Mulcrone is still soldiering on with his debilitating illness and would welcome any visitors.

8. Any Other business

There was no other business

9. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the AGM and the next Ordinary Meeting will be held at 19:30 hours on **16th April 2018**, at the Showroom and Workstation.