



**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

5 April 2019

at

**Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Durham**

Present

Mr. A.Jeffrey	President* No 15 District (<i>Individual Membership Secretary</i>)
Mrs L.Bairsto	Vice President* No 1 District
Mr C.Bailey LVP	National Treasurer and No.2 District
Mr. M. Halley	National Secretary* and No 9 District
Mr G.Holden LVP	No 4 District
Mr J.Needs	No 7 District
Mr C. Richards JP	No 8A District
Mr B Morris	No 8B District
Mr I.Ferguson	Editor
Mrs M.Bailey	Web Mistress and FMT
Mr. F. Byrne	PSPC and NPC
Mr P.Buckland	Shop manager
Mrs M.Smeed	No 8A District Treasurer

Note **Dual Position*

1.0 The President

1.1 The President Alex Jeffrey opened the meeting at 1300 and welcomed those present. A minute's silence was held for those members lost to us since the last meeting of the Association in particular Life Vice Presidents Harry Martin and Peter Maguire.

1.2 Ian Ferguson introduced Stuart Errington, Chief Fire Officer of Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service who welcomed the Association to Fire Brigade Headquarters. He expressed his delight at being able to host the Association and outlined ethos and pressures affecting the Service.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mr J.Littleton LVP	Membership Secretary
Mr H. Whitaker	No.3 District
Mr P. Moore	No 5 District
Mr S. Walker	Standard Bearer

3.0 Minutes of the October Council meeting held at Sutton Coldfield Fire Station on 3rd October 2018

3.1 The minutes were read for accuracy.

Proposed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting

Proposed: Mr G.Holden

Seconded: Mr C.Richards JP

Carried Unanimously

4.0 Matters Arising.

G.Holden reported that there had been no response to the article on a future vision for the Association.

5.0 . National Secretary's Report & Correspondence

5.1 The National secretary reported that he had continued to pursue Royal Mail regarding the question of postal charges without a successful outcome.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

6.1 The Treasurer presented his report to the meeting commenting that the Association continues to be in good financial health. There were however two unexpected major items of expenditure. One was the imposition of VAT on the whole printing/packaging being done by PCP and not just the postage charges. This amounted to about £4,000. Secondly was the outstanding money owed to the Association in respect of the publication of NARF news. This was up for discussion later in the agenda.

7.0 Membership Secretary's Report

7.1 The Membership Secretary informed the meeting that he continued to receive returned copies of NARF News which was reducing dramatically in number. He asked that Branches continue to keep details of members addresses as accurate as possible so NARF News returns continue to reduce.

7.2 The membership secretary reported an increase of 16 since Jan 2019 and queried whether members could be allowed to join from Jersey and Guernsey. Council saw no reason why they should be refused. Members changing address without informing the Association continued to be a problem. Colin Richards expressed concern regarding a couple of his overseas members who were not receiving the magazine.

8.0 General Purposes Committee (GPC)

8.1 The General Purpose committee presented the Associations Privacy and Equality and Diversity Policies under GDPR Regulations which were adopted. The committee was asked to produce a form for new members to sign on joining as well as a Disputes Procedure for the Association.

9.0 Editorial Committee Report

9.1 The Treasurer advised the meeting of a financial issue associated with the printing of NARF News. Council members accepted that the issue needed to be addressed with a degree of urgency and agreed a course of action to resolve the current situation. The Secretary would commence the agreed course of action with immediate effect.

9.2 Facebook & Website

Members of Council were encouraged to subscribe to the National Association of Retired Firefighters United Kingdom Facebook page. There are currently 1300 members of the Association and Branches and Districts were encouraged to do posts to the Facebook page.

10.0. Report of the PSPC and NPC

10.1 NARF's representative F Byrne updated Council on various issues within the PSPC. and NPC Reports from both organisations were published on the website

11. Age UK Report

Graham Holden reported that involvement with Age UK (England) had been re-established. Items being pursued were : TV Licences, Delay in Green Paper on Social Care, Universal credit and Post Office account closures

11.1 AGE UK Wales. Colin Richards reported that Blue badges and social isolation through potential loss of TV licencing were the main issues.

12. Agenda for AGM

No comments

13. Shop Manager

13.1 The Shop Manager reported steady sales particularly after each issue of NARF news. A new NARF/Poppy badge had been produced and was on sale for £5.00

14. Report of Firefighters Memorial Trust. (FMT)

Morag outlined the reason for the change in date of the Annual Service in London. There were to be no formal arrangements for an annual service at the National Memorial Arboretum. Council expressed a wish that the services should continue and asked that be raised at the next FMT meeting

Details of all FMT activities are on the website www.firefightersmemorial.org.uk or by contacting Morag Bailey

15.0 Any other business

15.1 Representatives on outside organisations

Those Council members who represented the Association agreed to continue.

15.2 Membership

Membership query raised by North Wales Branch regarding non uniform personnel. It was agreed refer the wording of paragraph 4.1 to encompass all personnel who worked for the Fire Rescue Service to the General Purpose Committee for review and report to the October Council meeting .

15.3 Duties of the Standard Bearer.

It was agreed that the National Secretary would confirm in writing the expected duties of the National Standard Bearer.

15.4 Headgear at ceremonies.

Following a request from Staffordshire regarding the wearing of headgear at ceremonies, Council had no objections to navy berets and the Association cap badge being worn. It was felt that the decision to wear should be taken at Branch level.

15.5 October Council Meeting

It was agreed that the October meeting would be held at Sutton Coldfield Fire Station on Wednesday 9th October 2019.

15.6 2020 Annual General Meeting and Council meeting

It was agreed that the above meeting would be held in Leeds on 28/29 March 2020

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 1635

NOTE

Branch secretaries are reminded that reports have been circulated prior to the Council meeting and should be circulated to all Branch members.