



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS

**MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on
Sunday 23rd April 2023
at
The Aubrey Park Hotel, Redbourn, St.Albans AL3 7AF**

Present

9 members were present

1.0 The President

1.1 The Vice President Mr John Littleton opened the meeting at 1100hrs and asked everyone to be upstanding to receive the Standard and to remember those of our colleagues who were suffering ill health or had passed away since the last meeting of the Association.
He welcome everyone to the meeting including guest Andy Essen, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

2.0. Apologies for Absence

2.1	Mr G.Holden	Age UK
	Mrs L.Bairsto	No 1 District
	Mr F.Byrne	President
	Mr B.Morris	No 8 District

The Vice President invited Area Commander Andy Essen, Head of Service for Community,Safety and resilience to address the AGM. He informed the meeting of some of the challenges currently facing the Service following the Reform Agenda, White paper, Bain report, HMCIFRS report, Grenfell, Manchester Arena and the recent reports on culture within the Service and the likely affect the Fire and Rescue Service in the future. After his talk the Vice President presented Area Commander Esson with the Association plaque to commemorate the occasion.

3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 2^{3rd} April 2022 at Bank House Hotel, Worcester

3.1 The minutes of the AGM dated 23rd April 2022 were read for accuracy.

It was proposed by Mr C.Richards and seconded by Mr S.Walker that the minutes be accepted as a true record. **Carried Unanimously**

Carried Unanimously

4.0 Matters Arising

4.1 No Matter arising

5.1 Presidents Address

The Vice President read a report on behalf of the President Francis Byrne as follows. Unfortunately I have had to give my apologies for not attending the National Council and AGM. With other colleagues, retired and serving, I shall be celebrating, with our friends in Krefeld Fire Service, the 50th anniversary of our twinning between the Fire Services of Leicester and Krefeld.

I am pleased to be able to report the successful transfer of vital roles within NARF. Post holders had indicated a wish to stand down after many years of service and members have stepped forward to volunteer their services and I thank both the retiring and new post holders for the dedicated work that they do. NARF would not possibly be able to continue without the officials giving their time freely at all levels.

Recruitment continues to be a challenge and I know that we are not unique in this area, it remains an area of difficulty for most organisations following the cancellation of meetings and activities during the months of lockdown.

Where you are able I would ask that you encourage others to join NARF and to also share with other members your experiences in retirement. We have had a number of excellent articles sent to Ian for NARF News.

As I enter the third year in the office of your President, although the physical handover was delayed due to the extreme circumstances we all experienced, it was always my intention to complete one term of office in line with the Constitution and hand over to my successor. This is still my intention in order to allow others the opportunity to step forward with new ideas and a fresh approach to the way NARF operates. Please consider whether you would consider taking up this opportunity to contribute to the future of NARF.

My best wishes to you all.

Francis Byrne.

6.0 National Secretary's Report & Correspondence

The National Secretary reported that he had received no correspondence relating to the AGM.

7.0 Motions for Discussion and Voting

There were no motions to be voted on.

8.1 Treasurer's Report

8.1 The Treasurer confirmed the amounts in the Association accounts as follows:-

Current bank Account -	£41,493.62
Business Account 1year Bond -	£41,094.78
Business 100 day notice account -	£31,786.11

The Association was financially sound and he was confident that there were sufficient funds in reserve to meet the annual expenses of the Association if necessary. The support of advertising revenue from Bourne Media would help in defraying the cost of publishing the magazine

The treasurer was pleased he could present the accounts for 2020, 2021 and 2022 for approval. As those attending the AGM were those present at the previous days Council meeting he did not intend to go through the accounts again.. It was proposed by C.Richards JP and Mr I.Ferguson that the accounts for the three years above be approved **Carried unanimously**

8.2. Subscriptions

8.2.1 The Treasurer proposed no change to the annual subscriptions of membership to the National Association

8.3. Appointment of Auditors

8.3.1 The National Secretary recommended that the existing auditors Chipchase and Manners be retained as they were able to access the accounts remotely via our Sage accounting package. **Agreed**

9. Confirmation of NARF Officials on National Organisations 2023/2024

The following officials were put forward for endorsement by those present :-

Mr. F.Byrne	PSPC, NPC,
Mr. G.Holden	Age UK
Mr. M.Halley	Age Uk (Scotland)
Mr. C.Richards	NPC & Age UK (Wales)

The President asked for a show of hands in favour – ***Unanimous.***

10. 0 There being no further business the Vice President closed the meeting at 1130 hours and those present stood whilst the Standard withdrew.