CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

7 JUNE 2019

PRESENT:

CHAIR
Cllr Paul Kirton – Stockton on Tees Borough Council
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Tim Fleming, Marjorie James, Stephen Thomas
MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Teresa Higgins, Naweed Hussain, Jon Rathmell, Ashley Waters
REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Billy Ayre, Adam Brook, Norah Cooney, Mary Ovens
STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Luke Frost, Jean O'Donnell, Andrew Stephenson, William Woodhead MBE
AUTHORISED OFFICERS
Chief Fire Officer, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer, Treasurer

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Clerk sought nominations for the position of Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2019/20.

Councillors Paul Kirton and Jon Rathmell were subsequently proposed and seconded. A vote was taken and Councillor Kirton received nine votes to Councillor Rathmell's seven.

Councillor Paul Kirton in the Chair

The Chair thanked Members for their support and placed on record thanks to Councillors Jan Brunton-Dobson, Ray Goddard, Rob Cook, Neil Bendelow, Gillian Corr, Mick Stoker, Mike Young and Tom Mawston for their contribution and support during their time on the Authority

RESOLVED – that Councillor Paul Kirton be appointed Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2019/20.

2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

It was noted no Declarations of Interests were submitted to the meeting.

3. APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Chair sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2019/20. Councillors Jean O'Donnell and Luke Frost were proposed and seconded with Councillor O'Donnell receiving nine votes to Councillor Frost's seven.

3. APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR Cont.

Councillor James queried whether it was appropriate to have a Chair and Vice Chair from the same authority. The Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer (LAMO) confirmed that provided that they had been properly nominated by councillors from the constituent councils this was acceptable.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Jean O'Donnell be appointed as Vice Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2019/20.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of 29 March 2019 be confirmed.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on 22 March (Appointments) and 26 April 2019 be confirmed.

6. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR

Zoe Billingham - Fire & Rescue Inspection Update (April)
LGA - Supporting the Business Case for Investment in FRSs
- Restricting Exit Payments in the Public Sector
Home Office - Fire Revenue Firelink Grant

RESOLVED – that the communications be noted.

7. REPORT OF THE LEGAL ADVISER AND MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 Business Report 2019-20

The Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer (LAMO) referred Members to The Constitution at Appendix A which included:

- CFA Membership 2019/20
- Calendar of Meetings 2019/20
- Terms of Reference
- Delegation Scheme
- Financial Procedure Rules
- Code of Corporate Governance
- Standing Orders of the Authority
  - Regulation of Proceedings & Business
  - Contract Procedure Rules
- Members Allowance Scheme
- Ethical Governance Framework
- Member Development Plan

The LAMO reported that Councillors Rathmell, Waters, Frost, Brook and Fleming had formed the 'CFA Independent Group'. Voting took place on the nominations received for committees and outside bodies.

RESOLVED:-

(i) That the Constitution as outlined at paragraph 3 and Appendix A be approved.

(ii) That Member appointments to committees and outside bodies (as nominated and outlined in the table below) be approved.

7.1 Business Report 2019-20 cont.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LAB	KIRTON	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	O'DONNELL	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	HIGGINS	MIDDLESBROUGH
CFAIG	RATHMELL	MIDDLESBROUGH
CFAIG	FLEMING	HARTLEPOOL
CFAIG	FROST	STOCKTON ON TEES
LIB DEM	OVENS	REDCAR & CLEVELAND

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

SOC LAB	JAMES	HARTLEPOOL
LAB	THOMAS	HARTLEPOOL
CFAIG	WATERS	MIDDLESBROUGH
LAB	HUSSAIN	MIDDLESBROUGH
CONS	COONEY	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
CFAIG	BROOK	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
LAB	AYRE	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
CONS	STEPHENSON	STOCKTON ON TEES
INDEP	WOODHEAD	STOCKTON ON TEES

REPRESENTATIVES FOR OUTSIDE BODIES 2019/20

LGA FIRE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE	Cllr KIRTON
Substitute:	Cllr O'DONNELL
REDCAR & CLEVELAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE	Cllr BROOK
STOCKTON SAFER PARTNERSHIP REPN	Cllr STEPHENSON
CLEVELAND FIRE SUPPORT NETWORK BOARD	Cllr THOMAS
LOCAL PENSIONS BOARD	Cllr HIGGINS

8. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

8.1 Strategic Induction

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) updated Members on the following strategic areas:

- Strategic Direction
- Our Local Risk Profile
- Community Profile 2018-19
- Understanding our Communities
- Community Hazards & Risks
- Managing Risk – Response, Prevention, Protection
- CFA Financial Position including Income Streams, Changes in CFA Funding, Funding Pressures, Forecasted Deficit
- Our Performance including Service Demand, Safer Stronger Communities, Key Performance Outcomes
- Assurance
- HMICFRS Inspection
- Future Challenges

8.1 Strategic Induction cont.

Councillor Frost queried why the Authority paid its staff above the national average wage. The CFO confirmed that the Authority used a standard pay scale which was used across the Fire & Rescue Service.

The CFO reported that the Authority was currently undergoing a HMICFRS Inspection based on the key pillars of Effectiveness, Efficiency and People and outlined the key dates of the inspection programme.

(1440) Councillor Woodhead left the meeting

Councillor James highlighted the progress of the Authority's support for installing sprinkler systems in high rise buildings and houses in multiple occupation (HIMOs) and reported that Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) was the only council in the country to secure government funding to install sprinklers in two new build schools. She expressed disappointment that the other three constituent councils had not also pursued this support for sprinklers via their planning departments.

Councillor James raised an issue with a recent planning application at HBC for a new build which had not included the agreed CFA position statement on installing sprinklers. The CFO agreed to look into this issue and confirmed that the current arrangement was still for the agreed statement to be used.

Councillor Stephenson referred to the pay budgets and asked for details on the CFOs annual remuneration package, including clarification relating to tax implications of using an emergency vehicle. The LAMO confirmed that while information relating to officer remuneration was on the Authority's website and published in the statement of accounts it was not appropriate to discuss personal tax issues.

Councillor Ayre thanked the CFO for the presentation and praised the continued efforts of the Authority to tackle deliberate fires in Eston Hills and other rural areas. He questioned whether the Authority was any closer to tackling this long running problem. The CFO confirmed that staff continued to educate school-aged children and run specific campaigns targeting Easter and Summer holidays. He added that the issue was far wider spread than grass fires and related to the social profile of the area.

The CFO reported that the Authority worked on a multi-agency approach to tackle deliberate fires and pursue prosecutions. He advocated the Hartlepool Community Safety Team model which provided an integrated response from the Council, Police and Fire to tackling community safety issues.

Councillor Waters, who represents North Ormesby ward, reported some issues regarding police attendance and follow up information. The CFO acknowledged that the Brigade's call volume was significantly less than Cleveland Police or North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) but confirmed that 'priority coding' could be utilised when an immediate dispatch was required. The CFO reported that a 'Whatever it Takes' initiative was in place to try and improve the situation.

Councillor James raised the issue of single use barbecues being used in rural areas as well as rubbish and glass being left behind and suggested it would be timely for the Authority to raise awareness of these potential fire dangers. The CFO confirmed that the Brigade does this through social media.

8.1 Strategic Induction cont.

RESOLVED:-
(i) That Members noted the Strategic Induction
(ii) That the Treasurer provides Members with details relating to the CFO salary.

8.2 Information Pack
8.2.1 Campaigns

RESOLVED – that the information pack be noted.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION ORDER) 2006
RESOLVED - "That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 below of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as mended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006", namely information relating to any financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) holding that information and namely information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

10. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES
RESOLVED – that the confidential minutes of the Ordinary meeting of 29 March 2019 be confirmed.

11. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF MEETINGS
RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 11 May 2018 be confirmed.

COUNCILLOR PAUL KIRTON
CHAIR