



**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025, The Holiday Inn, Chapel Lane, Walsall**

**Present**

Mr J.Littleton <b>LVP</b>	President* and No 4 District
Mr J.Davis	Vice President
Mr. M. Halley	National Secretary/Treasurer* and No 9 District
Mrs L.Bairsto	No 1 District
Mr S.Walker	No2 District and Standard Bearer
Mr S.Barker	No 5 District
Mr C.Webb	No 6 District
Mr J.Needs	No 7 District
Mrs A Newis	No 15 District
Mr A.Middleton	Shop Manager
Mr F.Byrne	NPC Representative

*Note*                      *\*Dual Position*

**1.0 The President**

**1.1** The President John Littleton welcomed everyone and asked those present to stand and remember those who were unable to attend and those who had passed on including Mr B.Morris formerly No 8B representative and Mrs M.Smeed from 8A District

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Mrs M.Bailey	Media Manager
Mr H.Whitaker	No 3 District
Mr C.Richards	No 8A District
Mr J.Ford	No 8B District
Mr I Ferguson	Editorial Chair

**3.0 Minutes of the October Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

3.1 The minutes were read for accuracy.

Proposed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting

**Proposed:** Mr S.Walker

**Seconded:** Mrs L.Bairsto

*Carried Unanimously*

**4.0 Matters Arising.    NONE**

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## **5.0 . National Secretary's Report & Correspondence**

5.1 The National Secretary advised Council that there was no major correspondence worthy of mention. All requests for ID cards and membership had been forwarded to either John or Alison.

## **6.0 Treasurer's Report**

6.1 The Treasurer advised Council that the Association was continuing to be financially sound. The income from the advertising in 2024 was £5642 which equates to 1.5 magazines

Balances on the accounts were as follows :-

Current Account : £17346.19

Business 1 year Bond : £33572.97

Business 100 day Notice : £34,720.87

The 1 year bond matured in January 25 and interest of £1818.87 was added to the bond plus he had invested a further £4,000 in the bond as agreed at the October Council meeting. The total currently invested is £74,113.00

## **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 a net decrease of 6 this year since January 2025. Reasons for the numbers were – non payment of subs, resignations, removal by Branch Secretary, Members changing address without informing the Association continued to be a problem. Only 2 Districts were showing signs of recruitment.

### **7a Individual Membership report.**

Alison reported that although a few members had passed on, the number of Individual members remains around 607

## **8.0 General Purposes Committee (GPC)**

8.1 The General Purpose had not met

## **9.0 Editorial Committee Report**

9.a The editor reported that the magazine was continuing to receive positive comments. He was encouraged by the number of articles submitted by members for publication in future issues and happy with the support of Creative Souls and the printers PCP.

### **9.b Website and Facebook.**

Whilst Facebook continues to grow and be successful, It was hoped that more members would contribute items. Members are reminded that they **MUST** supply their Membership number as part of the application process

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The new website was being further upgraded and would be launched shortly with the new Logo. Branches would be encouraged to link their websites to the new one.

## **10.0. Report of the NPC**

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10.1 NARF's representative F Byrne submitted an update on the reinvention of the NPC. Colin Richards reported on NPC Wales and Age Cymru and the M.Halley reported that contacted had been re-established with Age Scotland

## **11. Age UK Report**

Cliff Webb, reported that he had attended on line meetings where the following subjects were discussed : - cost of Living, Winter Fuel payments, Pension credit and Digital exclusion in the elderly

## **12. Shop Manager**

12.1 The Shop Manager reported that members were able to pay by card when buying merchandise.

## **13. Report of Firefighters Memorial Trust. (FMT)**

Morag Bailey reported that annual service of remembrance would be held at the National Memorial Arboretum on 1st September. The Service on 4th May would be held in London. It was agreed that the standard of wreath last year was unacceptable and the secretary would contact the NMA.

## **14.0 Any other business**

1. The Secretary advised Council on the outcome of the ballot and a new badge was displayed.
2. Continuity meetings. Council were advised that there had been no requirement for a meeting
3. It was confirmed that Mr P.Sherry had been nominated for a recognition award. The Secretary was to write to him regarding his choice of award.
4. The cut off date for the addition of long service bars was queried. The secretary was to write to the Home Office for clarification

**Branch secretaries are reminded that reports have been distributed and should be circulated to all Branch members.**