



**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**9<sup>th</sup> October 2024, The George Hotel, Lichfield**

**Present**

Mr J. Littleton <b>LVP</b>	President
Mr J. Davies	Vice President
Mr. M. Halley	National Secretary/Treasurer* and No 9 District
Mrs L. Bairsto	No 1 District
Mr S. Walker	No 2 District* and Standard Bearer
Mr J. Needs	No 7 District
Mr C. Richards <b>JP</b>	No 8A District
Mr A. Middleton	Shop Manager
Mrs A. Newis	No 15 District Membership Secretary
Mr F. Byrne	NPC Representative
Mr I. Ferguson	Editorial Chair

*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 Philip Arpad, formerly Secretary of Hereford and Worcester branch. He then presented Past President Francis Byrne with a statuette to commemorate his service as President.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Mrs M. Bailey	Media manager
Mr S. Barker	No 5 District
Mr C. Webb	No 6 District
Mr J. Ford	No 8b District

**3.0 Minutes of the April Council meeting held on 13 April 2023**

3.1 The minutes were read for accuracy.

Proposed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting

**Proposed:** Mr C. Richards

**Seconded:** Mr S. Walker

*Carried Unanimously*

**4.0 Matters Arising.**

The Secretary indicated that he had written to Chief Executive of Kent regarding the closure but the situation was no further forward

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

5.1 The National Secretary advised Council that three letters had been received seeking support from NARF. They would be replied to accordingly as decided by Council. Page | 2

## **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 so far this year was £4620.00 and costs to publish and circulate the magazine have remained similar to 2023

Balances on the accounts were as follows:

Current Account: £30,795.98

Business 1 year Bond: £33572.97

Business 100-day Notice: £33,285.71

Both these accounts would receive interest in January 25 and October 24 respectively

As The Association funds were in a healthy position, he recommended investing a further £4000.00 in the 1-year bond when it matured in January 2025

## **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 241 this year since January 2023. 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 committee presented a paper on Awards and Recognition. The paper was approved and will be circulated to all Branches

## **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. His request for a potential new editor fell on deaf ears so he was happy to continue for a further period.

## 9.b Website and Facebook.

Whilst Facebook continues to grow and be successful, It was hoped that more members would contribute items. Whilst there has been an increase in members wishing to join and use the Facebook facility, they need to provide their membership number.

An agenda item had been submitted from No4 District regarding the web site. The National Secretary indicated that the website had been re-launched as NARFIRE.uk. Council agreed to seek professional assistance to redesign the front page, as well as opening up the members only section to advertisers for a small fee.

## 10.0. Report of the PSPC and NPC

10.1 NARF's representative F Byrne submitted an update on both organisations. He encouraged members to visit the NPC website for up-to-date information as this was the only organisation that represented the retired. Colin Richards reported on the NPC conference where the star turn was the Older Peoples Commissioner for Wales who had the ability to influence the Welsh Government.

Age Cymru and the M. Halley reported that contacted had been re-established with Age Scotland. The PSPC no longer existed

## 11. Age UK Report

Cliff Webb, in tendering his apologies indicated that his first meeting would be in November. Colin Richards updated Council on the work of Age Cymru, and the M. Halley reported that contacted had been re-established with Age Scotland.

## 12. Shop Manager

12.1 The Shop Manager reported that members were able to pay by card when buying merchandise. There had been some losses in the post, and he was changing carrier to Very. Turnover was lower than last year.

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

Morag Bailey reported that annual service of remembrance would be held at the National Memorial Arboretum on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Council expressed dismay regarding the organisation at the Arboretum this year and agreed to write to the FFMT. The National Secretary apologised for the standard of wreath. He was under the impression they were made by a local florist and not synthetic as was provided on the day.

## 14.0 Any other business

- a) **Rebranding of the Association** It was agreed that the National Secretary would draw up a revised ballot paper to be distributed in the December issue of Narf News
- b) **Recruitment materials** The National Secretary was to write to all Branches to remind them that leaflets and posters were available for display on fire service premises.
- c) **Standard Bearer Uniform.** The Standard bearer requested permission to have a lightweight uniform made locally. Council approved this.

**Council meeting, George Hotel, Lichfield**  
**9 October 2024**

d) **Future Council and AGM meetings.** A request from No 4 District regarding meetings was discussed. It was agreed that in future the Council meeting and AGM would be held on the same day during the week ie. Council in the morning and AGM in the afternoon.

e) **Donations.** There had been three occasions this year where money had been donated to the Association following the death of a member. The Treasurer proposed that these and any future donations should be used towards the awards scheme approved by Council earlier.

Page | 4

**The April Council meeting and AGM would be held on 3rd April 2025. The venue to be notified in due course.**

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 1215

**NOTE**

**Branch secretaries are reminded that reports are attached and should be circulated to all Branch members.**