

Women in the Fire Service

National Executive Committee held virtually

10 December 2020 at 1130 – 1300

1. **Apologies** received from Jenny Nangle, Carley-Jo Rackley, Gina Gray, Lynsey McVay, Louise Brown, Amy Webb, Kasey Grainger, Sharon Lewin, Sue Mallinson, Joanne Henry, Serena Benassi, Lisa Howsden and Bex Sims

Present: NEC: Jules King (JK), Caroline Anderson (CA), Cheryl Rolph (CR), Dany Cotton (DC), Alex Johnson (AJ), Nicola Lown (NL), Nicky Thurston (NT), Sara Hall (SH), Hannah Lodder (HL), Divine Zake (DZ), Miriam Heppell (MH).

Karen Smith (KS) & Nathalie Holden (NH).

Local reps: Peggy Male (PM), Jan Morris JM), Jo Dawson (JD), Nathalie Parkinson (NP), Nicola Bottomley (NB), Caz Whiteman (CW), Sammy Spooner (SaS), Nicole Smy (NS) & Sara Slater (SS).

The NEC congratulated Jules King on the award of the Queens Fire Service Medal in 2020 honours. It was felt that her contributions merited such an award and the NEC was rightly proud of her and wished her and her family an enjoyable investiture.

2. **Minutes of last meeting** held on 21 September 2020 were read and agreed a true record.
3. **Matters arising.**
 - Bank account – CR advised that the 2 banks which looked promising for a small business account had declined to take on new business /insufficient turnover so we would remain with Barclays. KS now had online access and we would look to try & improve facilities.
 - SYFRS had agreed to take over WFS payroll and AW & SS along with the outgoing bookkeeper had made all the necessary arrangements for smooth transfer in December 2020.
 - Tiered membership – WFS MOU and articles were an agenda item of January 2021 so that matter could be discussed & agreed then.
4. **Appointment of co-opted member.**

The NEC were reminded that AW had declared her intention to stand down from her role as Treasurer in June 2020 but had agreed to stay on due to the pandemic and no AGM. During the past few months, Hon Officers had undertaken a search of suitable qualified and appropriate people and subsequently SS Financial Services Manager from South Yorkshire FRS had agreed to stand at the 2021 AGM. Until then, the NEC were asked to approve SS as co-opted member, which was unanimously agreed. JK welcomed SS to the meeting and to WFS.
5. **WFS Gifts and Hospitality – declarations.**

None declared.

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6. **Chair's report.**

As we all constantly flex and adjust to the government changes and our lives continue to be affected by the pandemic, I am reminded of the human tragedy this has and continues to be. I am sure we have all been impacted in our work and personal life – some positively and others negatively and more than ever we must continue to support each other in any way we can and often it is the smallest of things that can really make the biggest difference.

As you will all know there has been much work done by the HO's this year and I recently circulated an update to you all. The most important thing is of course continuing to support Karen and Nat as they have had to be flexible with things often changing rapidly and they are now working one day a week and our current plan is for them to stay on the furlough scheme until the end of March 2021.

Since our last meeting the online WFS shop has been launched and I would encourage you to have a look and get some orders in, every purchase makes a difference! Also, please do encourage others to have a look and if you can please share this on Facebook and Twitter. My sincere thanks to Karen, Nat and Karen's daughter Emma for all their hard work on getting the shop up and running.

The last thing I wanted to share is an appeal to you all to please do stay in touch with each other and especially when Keren messages you, please do take the time to reply as there are occasions when there is not too much communication coming back – Thank you.

7. **Treasurer's report.** (provided by CR in AW absence).

Whilst the bank balances looked healthy at the moment, CR advised NEC that with no event planned for 2021, the financial situation was still precarious but assured NEC that the HO were still working to the guiding principles for the medium to long term survival. CR confirmed that KS had issued all the invoices for CM and AJ had written to all FRS CFO's who were not CM. This had produced a positive response from 4 other FRS. The online shop had gone live with c£2.5 stock for sale.

8. **Updates from NEC and reps.** Everyone provided an update on what they had personally and or professionally been involved in during the year. Lots of positive initiatives and ideas sharing was swapped including;

- Revitalising the mentoring scheme,
- More links with AFSA,
- LFB WFS page was being updated and momentum continuing with more reps.
- SYFRS cadets were applauded for their Christmas efforts,
- AJ Podcast – WFS mentioned. AJ has link if people want,
- Notts already planning IWD – 'choose to challenge' theme – ideas and plans already in place and AJ suggested a recent contact made from Army,
- NH asked that everyone do all they could to promote the shop so we could sell the stock and help funds. **ACTION ALL**
- Action plans and revitalised approach in Essex as well as pending invite for WFS to join the Women's Forum and

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- Cleveland Women's network had met recently.

DC had recently attended FSC and our presence had been missed and NS said how much she enjoyed these meetings for their positivity. JM had 2 interviews for AM positions and everyone wished her luck.

9. **2021 meetings** – January, April, September & December. The next meeting is **13th January 2021 at 1000 (to be held virtually)**. Dates for remainder of year will be arranged as soon as possible