Women in the Fire Service UK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, 22nd June 2025 at 09:15

Held at

The Fire Service College

Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 0RH

Minutes

Attendees:

Directors - Jules King ([Chair] JK), Caroline Anderson ([Vice Chair] CA), Paula Lyons ([Secretary/Minutes] PL), Sara Slater SS, Jo Henry (JH), Amy Beams (AB), Kathryn Billing (KB), Nicola Lown (NL)

Patrons - Alex Johnson (AJ), Dany Cotton (DC)

1. **Welcome**
   The Chair gave a welcome and introduction.

   The “Buddy” competition and winners were announced.

   The “Golden Ticket” draw was completed.

   The silent auction was completed – there were two bids of the same amount and so a draw took place.

   The total raised from the raffle for the Firefighters Charity in memory of Jennie Logan and Martyn Sadler reached £2,142.00

   A thank you was made for the sanitary towel donations.

   A poem was read by a delegate:

   https://www.facebook.com/WFSUK1/posts/pfbid0215B8mQTsF3U8jKVDWaTAwnCMHMk72UFSW2Td1GLntyDxsu2fZtwHwWcrjhzZDmGEl

   The Chair thanked everyone involved for helping with this year’s event – volunteers, instructors, Purple shirts.

2. **Apologies for absence:** Sara Slater, Treasurer

3. **Minutes of the last AGM held on 9th June 2024**
   There were no corrections or amendments to the previous year's AGM minutes.

4. **Treasurer update**
   The chair confirmed these had been verified by an external consultant. A vote was undertaken to continue with Nick Westbury. No objections received.

6. **Chair's report**

   "It has been another really busy year for WFS, and whilst we appreciate this event at the college is our flagship event, there have been many other initiatives completed over the last 12 months.

   Delighted to see other regional events being organised including

   - Greater Manchester
   - East Region
   - Scotland (2nd year)
   - Wales (2nd year)

   We have recently produced a regional event pack available to regional reps organising events. The guide is designed to help guide and bring consistency to all events.

   We have continued our work with Women to Work who deliver the Women's Development Programmes. This is a fire service specific programme delivered over 3 half-day sessions. If you are interested, please do have a look on the website.

   We continue to work with the NFCC sharing our experiences and feedback on conferences and toolkits, and contribute to the lived experience advocacy forum.

   We have received an invite to attend a ministerial advisory group specifically looking at reform within the sector and there have been two recently introduced task and finish groups - culture and inclusion and college of fire and continue to have an Influence and voice at national level across a number of areas.

   To date, Corporate members total 57 FRS and other organisations

   Sometimes people ask what they get for being an individual member of WFS -

WFS is a not for profit organisation funded entirely from our membership. Events like this take a lot of organising along with the other events we put together in our own time. All purple shirts/ instructors that have helped this weekend are volunteers

We do not want to be exclusive by saying you can only access our events and programmes if you are a member as we want to support as many women from the FRS as possible. However, if you have enjoyed this weekend, please do sign up to be an individual member. All information available on the website"

Elections of Directors and National Executive Committee

The election of Directors was conducted online this year and was accessible to all members.

The meeting was informed that Nicola Lown and Caroline Anderson would be stepping down as Directors. Nicola Lown would be remaining as a Patron.

Director elections included:

Directors		**Elected**
Chair	Julie King	Unanimous
Vice Chair	Vicky Wallens-Hancock	Unanimous
Treasurer	Sara Slater	Unanimous
Company Secretary	Paula Lyons	Unanimous
Regional Support	Karla Stevenson	Unanimous
HR Advisor	Joanne Henry	Unanimous
Partnerships Liaison	Kathryn Billing	Unanimous
Corporate Member Services Liaison	Amy Beams	Unanimous

Patrons confirmed as Dany Cotton, Alex Johnson, and Nicola Lown

Following submission of nomination forms that were approved and seconded, the following people were unanimously elected into post for the forthcoming year.

Executive Members		
Executive Member (1)	Jenny Nangle	Unanimous
Executive Member (2)	Karen Pointer	Unanimous
Executive Member (3)	Lynsey McVay	Unanimous
Executive Member (4)	Sue Mallinson-Smitham	Unanimous
Co-opted Member		
Co-opted Member (1)	Beth Barton	Unanimous
Co-opted Member (2)	Ceri Sumner	Unanimous
Co-opted Member (3)	Jan Morris	Unanimous
Co-opted Member (4)	Nicky Thurston	Unanimous

Sue Mallinson-Smith will also replace Nicola Lown in her CITF role.

The following were elected into Regional Representative roles.

Region	Regional Rep	Elected
North East	Lisa Howsden (Cleveland)	Unanimous
Yorkshire and Humberside	Caz Whiteman (South Yorkshire)	Unanimous
North West	Paige Williams Merseyside)	Unanimous
Wales joint reps	Hannah Lodder (Mid & West Wales)	Unanimous
	Clare Amor (South Wales)	Unanimous
	Emma Edwards (North Wales)	Unanimous
East Midlands	Kate Garrigan(Leicestershire)	Unanimous
West Midlands	Sam O'Brien (Hereford & Worcester)	Unanimous
East	Daisy Byron (Bedfordshire)	Unanimous
South West	Olivia Crook (Devon & Somerset)	Unanimous
South East	Ellie Hayes (Surrey)	Unanimous
London	Anna Snelson	Unanimous
Scotland	TBC	Unanimous

7. Final thoughts

The Chair further thanked everyone and referenced the effort that had gone into the décor and sanitary products attendees had brought for charity. A final thank you was given to the catering team.

There was a reminder to ensure room keys were returned.

Instruction was given on the morning workshops.

AGM concluded at 09:41 hours