



## **Annual General Meeting Minutes of Bucks Branch held at Aylesbury Fire HQ on Sunday 2nd September 2012**

### **Welcome:**

The members were welcomed by the Chairman Jeff Goddard who acknowledged that the meeting start had been somewhat delayed due to traffic problems. As it was holiday season,

There were a large number of apologies for absence and there were nine members present.

|                         |                                   |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jeff Goddard (Chairman) | Terry Price (Assistant Secretary) | Ernie Shankster (Treasurer) |
| Peter Robinson          | Ray Hedges                        | Chris Stevens               |
| Bill Edwards            | Bob Eastland                      | Malcolm Ash                 |

### **Apologies:**

There were a large number of apologies made for absence but regretfully I have mislaid the list, the apologies were due to members on a ski holiday (spending the kid's inheritance) or not feeling too well.

### **Minutes of Last Meeting:**

These were read and approved as a true record.

### **Matters Arising:**

Peter Robinson advised the meeting that in the Agenda Item 5 (Election of Officers)

Item "P" the Fire Fighters Charity Branch Representative had been left as "To Be Agreed"; he had received a telephone call from Eric Frost who had not been at the Bisham Abbey meeting

To advise that he had been the rep for the previous year! Eric would be prepared to continue in

The role but felt that without a car and not having his own computer, it might be prudent to

Elect another candidate, although he was willing to continue if no other member volunteered!

The consensus of the meeting was: that it would be preferable to have the post filled with

Someone who had access to a computer. Terry told us that he would contact Terry Ridgley and ask him to become a NARF Member and then if he did, try to get him to take on the FFC Rep role.

Jeff updated us on Item 4 progress: The legal decision of the Government resulted in our fight to get the Retail Price Index reinstated instead of Consumer Price Index had failed.

It was acknowledged that member pensioners will lose money. Following the ruling no further appeal would be allowed.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Ernie circulated a healthy branch statement of accounts and advised success in obtaining a substantial number of subscription arrears.

Ernie advised that our branch account had been emptied of funds due to the bank having been advised by our past treasurers (Jack Cracknel) solicitor claiming the funds as part of his estate when he had passed away. Following meetings with the bank manager (HSBC) at High Wycombe, Ernie and Terry at their meetings, demanded full restitution of the funds and to rectify the branch bank account which, resulted in complete satisfaction of the branch bank account.

### **Secretaries Report:**

Terry explained that by reason of domestic problems, Eddie Kemble (who had taken over as Secretary in October 2011) had not been effective and felt that he should relinquish the role to allow someone with more free time to take the position. Terry had been dealing with matters since Eddie's problems had materialised but stated he was not willing to become Branch Secretary. We need to seek a replacement from the members. Terry was willing to continue as Assistant and to do some of the administrative work. It was agreed that the branch seek to invite a member who was willing to take the post and (which is not unduly arduous) to contact Terry or Jeff and the Branch officials were authorised to appoint someone to the post.

### **Assistant Secretaries Report:**

Terry advised that following representation to the Chief Fire Officer about the un-satisfactory involvement of the brigade at funerals of former brigade members, the Chief had agreed. He had also formed a uniformed Guard of Honour and regular involvement of the Honour Guard would be approved wherever possible. This was warmly received by the members. *It was proposed by Peter Robinson and seconded by Chris Stevens that a vote of thanks is made to the Chief Fire Officer. This was approved unanimously.*

Jeff at this point mentioned an initiative that had been mooted by National Council, that coffin drapes might be purchased for funerals at which NARF would have a presence. After discussion it was agreed not to take up this initiative.



Terry advised that the support for the Dinner at Bisham Abbey on the 16th September Was satisfactory and it would be going ahead. Mark Jones (CFO) would be attending the function with his wife Gwen.

### **Election of Officers:**

#### **Chairman:**

Proposed by Peter Robinson and seconded by Bob Eastland that Jeff retained the Chairman role, Jeff accepted and was re-elected.

#### **Secretary:**

This had been previously covered and a volunteer would hopefully be forthcoming at an early date!

#### **Assistant Secretary:**

It was proposed by Malcolm Ash and seconded by Chris Stevens that Terry be elected. Terry was re-elected.

#### **Treasurer:**

Proposed by Chris Stevens and seconded by Ray Hedges, Ernie Shankster was re-elected.

#### **Fire Fighters Charity Representative:**

This was to be arranged (see earlier minute)

#### **District Representative:**

Peter advised the meeting, that John Biggs had reluctantly decided to resign as Bucks Branch Representative to No6 District. Jeff Goddard stated that he would be willing to attend these infrequent meeting with Peter who was District Chairman. This was then proposed by Bill Edwards and seconded by Malcolm Ash and Jeff was elected to the post.

### **Any Other Business**

**NARF Magazine:** Comments were invited and it was the general feeling that the magazine was excellent and that a considerable improvement had been achieved by the smaller format and better content.

**National Constitution:** Jeff gave an explanation of why it had been felt necessary to modify the NARF Constitution. Terry circulated copies of the document but made it clear, that he personally was not happy with the document as presented. As he considered that this was an opportunity to make the whole document more acceptable to the members as it gave all the hallmarks of a constitution which had been consistently changed **every three years** in small sections with little thought to the content of the whole document which he felt was not of an acceptable or professional standard. He thought that now might be the right time to bring it up to date. This view Jeff thought to be valid although Peter did not totally agree with the sentiments expressed. The meeting felt that this was an issue that should be brought to the attention of the Council and that much more time should be allowed for Branch evaluation before any change of format was ratified formally by the members. Terry agreed to put his suggestion as to changes into writing and circulate it to Branch members as soon as possible so that response to Council could be made as speedily as possible!

**NARF Annual Dinner:** Terry advised the meeting, that he had been in contact with a former BBC photographer, since he felt that photographs taken in an ad hoc fashion at the function and later uploaded into our Branch Website, did not do full justice to the event particularly for members who might log into the site. He had invited the chap to attend our dinner as a guest in exchange for taking more professional photographs at tables.

**National Council Business Plan 2013:** Jeff told us that the business plan for this year had concentrated on Pension problems and many of the items listed last year had been effectively dealt with. The new plan was on the Agenda to establish whether Bucks members wanted anything included into the plan for the forthcoming year. Since members had not yet seen the draft plan, Terry said he would circulate this and other relevant papers to members as soon as able.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

### **The meeting concluded at 1pm.**

