

AGENDA ITEM 4: MINUTES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY'S URGENCY COMMITTEE HELD AT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS ON MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2002 COMMENCING AT 5.50PM AND CONCLUDED AT 6.15PM.

Present: J C G Brooks (Arrived late), E E Herbert, B J S Patman

(Councillor B J S Patman in the Chair)

1.01/02 MINUTES 26 APRIL 2001

The Part I Minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 26 April 2001, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1.02/02 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the said Act indicated:

	Agenda Item	Paragraph
4	Part II Minutes – Thursday 26 April 2001	1
5	Premises Expenditure Q4 2001/2002	7 & 8

Note: The following is a summary of the items considered in the Part II Agenda of the Urgency Committee meeting held on Monday 25 February 2002.

1.03/02 PART II MINUTES: 26 APRIL 2001

The Part II Minutes were received and approved as a correct record.

1.04/02 PREMISES EXPENDITURE Q4 2001/2002

The Urgency Committee approved the proposals put forward to allow the expanded Premises Budget to be spent within the current financial year.

Signed: 
Chairman

Date: 16 July 2002

AGENDA ITEM 7: PART II MINUTES – MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2002

1.03/02 PART II MINUTES: 26 APRIL 2001

The Part II Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 25 April 2001, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1.04/02 PREMISES EXPENDITURE Q4 2001/2002

The Urgency Committee was advised (Agenda item 5 – not reproduced) of proposed expenditure on premises during the last quarter of 2001/2002, and were requested to approve the awarding of some contracts without a full tendering process in accordance with Section 10 of the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts. An urgent decision was required to allow the expanded Premises Budget to be spent within the current financial year.

Members attention was drawn to Appendix A (not reproduced) which indicated that the Planned Maintenance and Capital Budget for premises had a balance of £94,000. In addition a further £184, 000 has been made available by:

- Fire Authority approval at its meeting in December 2001 to the virement of £100,000 from the funding allocated for the purchase of equipment to effect the outcome of the Special Appliances Review.
- £64,000 diverted from the Service Delivery Directorate Budget originally intended to be used for the refurbishment of Drill Yards and the introduction of secure RTA areas.
- £20,000 diverted from the Human Resources Directorate Budget originally earmarked for the temporary accommodation for the Training Centre.

(Note: At this point it was necessary for Councillor E E Herbert to leave the meeting)

This gives a total of £278,000 being made available to spend on much needed improvements to Brigade premises. A detailed summary of how the funding would be spent was presented in paragraph 5, together with a financial breakdown set out on page 12 of the report (not reproduced).

For the reasons set out in paragraph 4 of the report (not reproduced) and in order to complete these works in time to an agreeable standard and within budget, would be impossible, given the time constraints if the brigade had to undertake a full external tendering process in each instance. The preliminaries for the works has already been undertaken and in most cases orders for the work have been issued as failure to do so would make it impossible to complete the works within the financial year.

It was reported that the proposed Premises Strategy, currently being prepared, would reduce the need for works to be undertaken at short notice and will also provide the Authority with a list of Approved Contractors.

In supporting the proposals set out in the report Members were of the opinion that the proposed refurbishment programme should be publicised in the Berkshire Stag and other suitable Brigade publications.

RESOLVED: That, on the grounds of urgency and in accordance with Section 10 of the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts, the proposals set out in the report be approved and implemented accordingly.

Signed: 

Chairman

Date: 16 July 2002

