

NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER NETWORK

MEETING MINUTES

16th October 2008

13.45 hours

Venue

Cornwall Conference Room

Address is: West Exe Technology College, Hatherleigh Road, Exeter, EX2 9JU.

Members Present:

Iain Cox (Chair)
Ronnie King (Vice Chair)
Les Fielding (NFSN Secretary)
Andy Perry (Shropshire FRS)
Barry Kiddell (Staysafe UK)
Chris Hartrick (Devon & Somerset FRS)
David Lloyd (Staysafe UK)
Duncan Stainthorpe (West Yorks FRS)
Henry Lloyd (Staysafe UK)
Ian Sloss (Staffs FRS)
Joe McCaferty (Tyco)
John Ivison (IFC) (EFSN)
Julian Parsons (Wiltshire FRS)
Keith MacGillivray (Scottish FRS Advisory Unit)
Len Allen (Beds & Luton FRS)
Mark Bennett (South Wales FRS)
Martin Crandon (Somerset CC)
Neil Perry (CPIG)
Noel Cornforth (Cleveland FRS)
Paul Hardy (Hertfordshire FRS)
Paul Smith Lord Mayor Exeter
Paul Scourfield (South Wales FRS)
Peter Holland (Lancashire FRS)
Peter Smith (Devon & Somerset FRS)
Nigel Reynolds (Oxfordshire FRS)
Roibert Wilkinson (Lancs Fire Authority)
Ray Cassar (Lancashire FRS)
Roger Brason (South Yorks FRS)

Apologies:

IC Alan Brinson (EFSN)
RK Andy Goves (Wiltshire FRS)
LF Ann Jones (Welsh Assembly)
AP Brian Mellor (Kirklees)
BK Chris Gill (Viking Corp.)
CH Colin Taylor (Domestic Sprinklers PLC)
DL David Hayman (Tube Trade Plc.)
DS David Smith (ABE)
HL Dawn Whitaker (Northants FRS)
IS Eddie Roberts (Surrey FRS)
Jmc Ian Whitaker (Yorkshire Water)
JV John Cook (Lincs. FRS)
JP John Sparke (CPIG)
KM Jon ONeil (FPA)
LA Keith Pratley (Welsh Water)
MB Ken Bishop (Tyco)
MC Mark Abram (Cheshire FRS)
NP Michael Clapham MP
NC Norrie Davies (D & G FRS)
PH Paul Fuller (Beds & Luton FRS)
PSm Peter Holland (Lancashire FRS)
PSc Richie Rickaby (Tyne and Wear FRS)
PMH Rosemary Everton
PS Steve Bryant (Mid & West Wales FRS)
NR Stewart Kidd (BAFSA)
RW Tim Gray (Wiltshire FRS)
RC Myles Platt (Merseyside FRS)
RB Chris Howard (Merseyside FRS)

Present

Steve Mills (West Mids FRS)
 Steve Fellows (H & W FRS)
 Suzanne Taylor (Homesafe Ltd.)
 Tim Birchall (Beds & Luton FRS)
 Martin Carnell (D & S FRS)
 Peter Tobin (D&S FRS)
 Alan Bowers (FRS)
 Jim Laker (D & S FRS)

Apologies

SM Steve Seaber
SF Dave Beverly (FBU)
ST Neil Gibbins D&S FRS)
TB Rob Martin (M&WW FRS)
MC Jo Fowler (East Sussex FRS)
PT Peter Armstrong (BAFSA)
AB Simon Rooks (Tyco)
JL

Seminar Programme:**Timings****Lunch****12:30 – 13:00****Technical Tour of Sprinkler Protected College Facilities****13:00 – 13.45****Seminar Presentations**

Sprinkler Reliability and Cost Considerations in Meeting ADB Approval - John Ivison, International Fire Consultants **13:45 – 14:00**

Darwen Moorland School with the Darwen Academy – Ray Cassar Lancashire FRS **14:00 – 14:15**

Sprinklers in Schools - Martin Crandon, Somerset County Council **14:15 – 14:40**

Approved Document B - Henry Lloyd & Barry Kiddell, Staysafe UK Ltd. **14:40 – 15:00**

Installing a domestic sprinkler system: A customers prospective - Tim Birchall **15:00 – 15:15**

Tea / Coffee Break**15:30 – 15:45****NFSN Meeting Agenda:****15:45 – 17:00****1. Minutes of NFSN meeting 27th August 2008 – Matters Arising**

1.1. Accuracy – accepted as a true record?

1.2. Matters Arising not on the agenda

a) (1.3.a) - Carbon Footprint of fire – Jim Marsden ongoing

JM

b) (2.3) – Water Liaison Group - Roger Brason to be covered in 3.3

c) (5.3) – Chair to write to FPA re Insurance – Written but no reply to date, Chair to chase up

Chair

d) (5.5) – Details of Kirklees scheme have been provided

2. Chairs Report – NFSN Progress

2.1. NFSN FRM Magazine supplement – The chair presented the FRM Supplement. This is now available on the web site and will be available in hard copy for those attending the 10th Anniversary Dinner.

2.2. Residential Sprinklers - NERA Cost Benefit Analysis - Thames Gateway.

Release of CBA report deferred to November, in order to gather and qualify further information.

RK has attended meetings and commented on this on behalf of the NFSN. BAFSA, EFSN and some member Fire & Rescue Services have commented also.

2.3. Water Liaison Group

Key Points from meeting 10/10/08

- a) Booster pump issues.
- b) Inadequate supplies.
- c) Difficulties on obtaining the right size connection.
- d) Some companies appeared to be insisting that a sprinkler supply must always be to tank and pump, even when the mains pressure available satisfies BS92151.
- e) Water Companies are unsure what to do if it is apparent that a sprinkler system would fail to work in accordance with BS 9251 at certain times of the day / year. Should they impose conditions to ensure total compliance?

There is disagreement as to whether a meter must be fitted to the sprinkler supply, even though the pressure loss caused by the meter will jeopardise the success or significantly increase the cost (and therefore number of low cost systems being promoted by the DCLG)

(There are a number of options to overcome this issue. One solution would be to provide a separate metered supply for the sprinklers; this meter would not have to be as accurate as the domestic supply. Another option is a variable flow meter that opens up to a larger orifice when a sprinkler is operated).
- f) There is disagreement as to whether the water company has any liability (or serious risk to reputation) if the pressure or flow supplied is inadequate.
- g) There is disagreement as to whether an infrastructure charge should be made for a domestic / residential sprinkler system.
- h) What duty of care do water companies have to end users of a sprinkler system when approving a sprinkler system? Throughout the time the connection is in service.
- i) Some companies automatically require expensive network analysis to be carried out at the expense of the applicant before deciding whether to grant a connection. This significant cost is discouraging such installations being considered and the increased connection cost is jeopardising their installation.

RK suggested Tim Birchall give his presentation to the next water meeting.

SM suggested putting link to WRAS web site on the NFSN Web site.

RK TB
SM LF

2.4. Welsh Legislative Competence Order – Letter has now been signed by Welsh Assembly Ministers and sent to Hywel Frances, Chairman of the Welsh Affairs select committee. It will be on their Autumn agenda and once agreed will require

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rubber stamping by the British Cabinet.

RB advised that Ann Jones will be speaking at the BAFSA Conference in November

- 2.5. Joint Sprinkler Coordination Group – Nick Raynsford has now been appointed Political Advisor to the sprinkler coordination group on an annual retaining fee.

He will be Chairing the morning session at the NFSN Parliamentary Seminar.

PMH It would be useful if members could advise names of MP's they are aware of supporting sprinklers.

All

Chair – this will be extremely useful in preparing for the next review of the Building Regulation in 2013.

RW advised Chair to write to fire authorities and ask them to provide names of MP's who are supportive.

Chair

- 2.6. EU Meeting – Chair. Nick Ross and Alan Brinson attended. Very well coordinated by Alan Brinson, Well attended reception, some very useful contacts made. Peter Skinner MEP for South East

- 2.7. Countryside Properties, Accordia Living development at Cambridge has made history by becoming the first ever residential scheme in Europe to win the RIBA Stirling Prize 2008. The design incorporates Homesafe Greenflow fire sprinklers.

Architects Alison Brookes Associates, bold, brave, fire engineered design is much referenced as part of the groundbreaking scheme.

The RIBA Stirling Prize, in association with The Architects' Journal, is awarded by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to the architects of the building which has been the most significant for the evolution of architecture in the past year.

Kevin McCloud, who presented the Channel 4 coverage live from the awards ceremony in Liverpool on Saturday 11 October, hailed the Accordia community as "the new benchmark in British housing."

The Chair reported that Nick Ross has contacted Kevin and it is possible that we could enlist his help in the future.

3. Financial Up-date

- 3.1. Accounts – RK presented the accounts and reported that the NFSN currently hold a balance of £22,947.89 and outlined key areas of expenditure since the last meeting.

- 3.2. Subscriptions:

The Vice Chair is pleased to report that thanks to efforts of the Committee all Fire & Rescue Services in the UK are now members of the NFSN.

The NFSN now have 23 sprinkler company members. RK expressed thanks to Peter Armstrong of BAFSA for his support in achieving this.

PMH felt that this was worthy of a press release.

PH felt that it would be useful to list members on the web site and provide a contact email address for each FRS.

4. Reports

- 4.1. IS - thanked the NFSN for the support for their residential sprinkler event planned in Staffs November

- 4.2. NC - Middlesbrough College to be sprinklered in Cleveland
- 4.3. SM – Sandwell library and office block hopefully to be fitted with sprinklers
Small heritage building in Birmingham lost to fire, seminar on this subject to be arranged.
- 4.4. TB – Flats over 30m - Beds & Luton FRS successful in challenging the design and sprinklers are now being fitted.
- 4.5. KMc - Rose Park court case will be going ahead in near future
New Hospital not sprinklered, Questions asked why in Scottish assembly. Cost benefit analysis being carried out for sprinklers in all health care premises
- 4.6. HL – Fire Risks Relating to timber frame buildings under construction. Sprinklers being some areas London for example to protect during construction.
PMH- advised of report relating to consideration of suppression to protect vulnerable building during construction.

5. **NFSN Events**

5.1. Meetings

- e) NFSN Parliamentary Seminar 2nd February 2009 – Westminster
Programme will be sent out in near future.
RK Asked if local MP's could be canvassed to come along to the reception following the seminar. **All**
Also consider others in your areas that need to be influenced and encourage key people who do not support sprinklers to attend. **All**
- a) NFSN Meeting and AGM 5th March 2009 – West Midlands

6. **Any Other Business**

- 7. **Date of next meeting and AGM – 5th March 2008 – West Midlands FRS Headquarters**