
TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 4

MEETING: 19th SEPTEMBER 2011

SUBJECT: BRAVERY AND MERITORIOUS CONDUCT AWARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Bravery and Meritorious Conduct Awards Scheme provides for Members of the Authority to recognise individuals who perform commendable acts of bravery, gallantry or community actions.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is for the Authority to recognise the meritorious and brave actions taken by Mr David Thompson during an incident that occurred in his neighbourhood on 1st July 2011.

2 AWARD NOTIFICATION

- 2.1 At the commencement of today's meeting, the Chairman of the Authority, Councillor Robert Heron, will present a Gold Award for brave and meritorious conduct to Mr Thompson in recognition of his actions in rescuing a casualty from a suspected gas explosion at 6 Craigshaw Square, Hylton Castle, Sunderland.

3 INCIDENT DETAILS

- 3.1 On the 1st of July 2011 Mr Thompson was in his house when he heard a loud explosion, he ran to his next door neighbours house, Mrs Mary Pells Black, to find her trapped behind her locked front door and on fire. To gain entry to the house quickly he broke the living room window with a paving slab and made his way to Mrs Black. He put out the flames on Mrs Black with a coat from the staircase and attempted to leave via the front door but was unable to find the key. At this point the kitchen was still on fire from the suspected gas explosion and the premises filling with smoke. Unable to get to the front door Mr Thompson picked up Mrs Black and made his way through the burning kitchen and was approaching the back door when a second gas explosion occurred, blowing both of them out of the rear door of the property.
- 3.2 Without doubt Mr Thompson placed himself at extreme risk throughout his rescue of Mrs Black. It is extremely unfortunate that Mrs Black died later that day from her injuries however Mr Thompson's brave actions gave Mrs Black family a few precious hours to share before her passing.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Authority is recommended to

- a) Endorse the Gold Award for Meritorious Action; and
- b) Congratulate and thank Mr Thompson for his actions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- Bravery and Meritorious Conduct Policy