

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION  
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD VIA TEAMS MEETING ON 21 MAY 2021 AT 09:00AM**

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Attendance       | Eoghan Cameron<br>Claire Sadler<br>Robin Marshall-Ball<br>Ian Grindy<br>Oliver McCullough<br>Al Gabriel<br>Ian Coghill<br>Cara Hutchens<br>Alasdair Mitchell<br>Professor Ann Mortimer<br>Carl Woodall | Chairman<br>Vice-Chair                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Ex-Officio:      | Ian Bell<br>Angela Davies<br>Caroline Bedell<br>Steve Bloomfield<br>Dan Reynolds<br>Steve Griffiths<br>Colin Shedden                                                                                   | Chief Executive<br>Executive Director of Business Management<br>Executive Director of Conservation<br>Executive Director of Shooting & Operations<br>Director England<br>Director Wales<br>Director Scotland |
| Minute Secretary | Sandra Forkin                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Present          | Garry Doolan                                                                                                                                                                                           | Deputy Director of Communications & Public Affairs                                                                                                                                                           |

**Chairman's Welcome**

**1. To receive apologies for absence and to note absentees**

Apologies had been received from Lord Dear, Paul Shaw, & Tommy Mayne.

**2. To confirm confidential items**

It was confirmed that items 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, and 18 were noted as confidential.

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**3. To identify suggested items of any other business**

None.

**4. Declaration of Interest**

Robin Marshall-Ball declared an interest in item 14 and item 15. Paul Shaw has an interest in item 15 but is not present at the meeting.

Professor Ann Mortimer declared an interest in item 15 as Paul Shaw works for her on a part time basis.

**MEETING**

**5. Minutes of previous meetings**

**5.1 Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Council meeting**

The Chairman advised Council that only 6 approvals had been received and wished to check if anyone has an issue with the minutes.

There were no objections from Council in relation to the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> February were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**5.2 Minutes of Executive and Finance Committee 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

The Executive and Finance Committee minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> February were noted.

**6. Matters arising from earlier Council meetings**

The CEO gave an update in relation to a member's case.

***Shrivenham testing report***

The CEO updated Council in relation to the Shrivenham lead v steel testing and advised that the production of the report has been delayed; we do not know why. Interim findings are positive with steel as effective, if not more effective than lead especially against fur / feather targets.

The Executive Director of Shooting and Operations advised that once the report is received the highlights of the paper will be published in the magazine.

***Welsh co-option***

The Chairman advised Council that he had met Richard Williams and the Director Wales and will be recommending that Richard Williams is co-opted onto Council into the Welsh seat. The Chairman confirmed that he will be supporting this recommendation.

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***Gun Trade Banking Issue***

The Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs advised Council that the Head of Policy and Campaigns and Paul Shaw have been unable to pursue this issue to date.

The Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs advised Council that the Gun Trade Banking has been an ongoing issue for some years and gave Council an update. The Head of Policy and Campaigns is due to speak to Paul Shaw as soon as possible.

**7. Health and Safety Report**

The Executive Director of Business Managements report presented was taken as read.

The Chairman asked why the cleaning contract had been reviewed and changed to another provider. The Executive Director of Business Management advised that the contract was due for retendering to ensure we were getting best value. In addition, during the tender process the current cleaning contractors informed the Association they were closing down and gave the Association notice. Therefore, following a tender exercise a new cleaning contractor has been engaged.

**8. Confidential Item**

**9. SLC Coalition – Oral - \*\*Confidential\*\***

**10. Strategic Risk Register \*\*\*Confidential\*\*\***

**11. Covid-19 Update \*\*\*Confidential\*\*\***

The paper presented was taken as read.

The CEO gave an overview of the current Covid restrictions and advised that more work, especially face to face meetings, is being conducted in BASC offices.

A safe balance of WFH and F2F with effective C-19 protocols is being established.

Country Director updated Council on the relevant COVID restrictions and the implications for shooting & conservation.

In addition the Director Wales advised that work is taking place to produce a paper on stalking.

The Executive Director of Business Managements paper on membership and finances at the end of April was taken as read and she gave an overview of the paper.

The Chairman stated that there has been a phenomenal amount of planning and work undertaken by staff taken place during the pandemic. He invited the Chairman of E&F to expand on some of the context.

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BASC's E&F Chairman stated that over the past 18 months we have seen positive results in the graphs and statistics, and this is a great credit to the organisation. Our performance is above our best-case scenario, and this did not come about by accident. Good decisions can only be made based upon the correct information, and this shows the depth of knowledge that the CEO and the Executive Director of Business Management and their teams have and which has been achieved throughout this period. We have continued to serve our membership, set up a fighting fund and invest in GWCT. This positive picture has only come about by all the hard work from the staff on the ground.

The Chairman of E&F thanked the CEO and all staff for such an effective outcome.

The Chairman reinforced that message stating that the CEO and staff have Council's appreciation and thanks for all the hard work that has taken place.

**12. Overview of Membership Marketing**

The Executive Director of Business Managements paper was taken as read. She gave a brief overview of the work that is on-going and that there are two main streams.

- Membership and recruitment and retention project team.
- Marketing Review

The Chairman stated that we saw some samples of some very effective advertisements and asked if these have appeared yet in the Shooting Press, the Executive Director of Business Management stated that these are being publicised on social media and are being filtered through to the printed press as well.

**13. NE Partnership Agreement**

The Executive Director of Conservation's paper presented was taken as read. The Executive Director of Conservation referred to the paper presented and hoped that Council had all had chance to read the paper and agreed for the partnership to be renewed.

Council voted and out of 10 members eligible to vote, 9 votes were to approve that the partnership agreement should be renewed. Therefore, this is carried.

**14. AGM \*\*\*Confidential\*\*\***

The Executive Director of Business Management gave an update on the arrangements for the AGM.

**15. Honours and Awards Committee (Oral)**

**Election of Chairman**

The CEO reminded Council that currently he has been acting as the caretaker for the Committee.

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The CEO confirmed that Paul Shaw and Robin Marshall-Ball have both declared an interest in becoming the Chairman and papers have been received from both candidates along with proposer and seconder.

The CEO suggested that with Paul Shaw not being present at today's Council meeting that Council members who are eligible to vote, send an email by the end of the day to the Executive Director of Business Management with their vote for Paul Shaw or Robin Marshall-Ball.

The Executive Director of Business Management will come back to Council to announce the results.

It was suggested and agreed that the runner up assume the role of vice-chair if they are amenable.

The CEO agreed that this is a very sensible suggestion and will engage to secure the candidates agreement or otherwise.

The Chairman stated as part of the governance review, we are likely to upgrade BASC Advisory Committees to having Vice-Chairs, so this does follow.

**16. Council Attendance 2020/2021**

The Executive Director of Business Management's paper was taken as read.

The Chairman advised Council that given the horrendous year we have all had, BASC Chairman felt that the Council attendance record should be disregarded this year due to the impact of the pandemic. The attendance figures in this report are not relevant in the current situation.

The Chairman highlighted the importance of this report (in normal circumstances) demonstrating good governance and adherence to our own standards as laid out in Council roles and responsibilities. The aim is to demonstrate that we are all meeting our Council duties.

**17. Chairman's Report \*\*\*Confidential\*\*\***

**18. Chief Executive's Report \*\*\*Confidential\*\*\*  
(Including updates from Executive Directors)**

The CEO paper presented was taken as read and he gave an overview of the paper presented.

The CEO advised that the BDS has a new Chief Executive and a new Chair. BASC is working closely with the BDS in relation to the FC tree strategy and the DI partnership. The CEO confirmed that the Deer Initiative partnership is continuing with BDS providing the secretariat and BASC the secretariat for best practice.

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The CEO advised that the Forestry Commission has a new Chief Executive, who will take up the position in August,

The CEO advised that the Game Fair is going ahead, we have various plans from full / normal and minimal attendance. These plans ensure staff are safe and sufficient covid regulations will be in place.

The CEO referred to Natural England and inviting the Chairman to take a position in the Game Fair theatre to answer questions from his shooting stakeholder community.

The Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs gave an overview of the details presented within the CEO report. He confirmed to date he is expecting 28 MPs to attend the Game Fair.

The Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs gave an overview in relation to the Government animal welfare bill. Council raised the positive feedback on the sustainability article recently published within S&C.

Council praised the Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs in relation to the number of MP's that are due to attend this year's Game Fair.

The Executive Director of Conservation gave an overview of the details presented within the CEO report, advising Council that the Gamebird release details were published 5<sup>th</sup> May.

The Chairman of the Wildfowling Committee advised that at the recent meeting the BASC Wildfowling team were praised for all the hard work that has been carried out on consenting.

The Executive Director of Shooting and Operations gave an update in relation to the sustainable ammunition transition and the engagement with cartridge manufacturers.

The Executive Director of Shooting and Operations gave an update in relation to the work the regions are currently carrying out with regards to shoot visits, these are being very well received, operationally we are in a very positive place.

The Executive Director of Shooting and Operations gave an update in relation to the new Game Shooting Level 1 course which has recently been piloted and will be delivered to a group of BASC staff in June at Marford Mill and will be a very good course for new entrants into game shooting It is expected to be launched July 2021.

The Executive Director of Shooting and Operations gave an update on the Sustainable Ammunition Day taking place on 15<sup>th</sup> July and the Countryside Clay Shoot which is taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The Executive Director of Business Management gave an overview of the details presented within the CEO report.

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The Executive Director of Business Management stated she would like to remind Council members that the E&F papers are available for all Council members to view, however would like to bring the budget setting and FCA compliance papers to the attention of all Council members and advised that they read them.

The Executive Director of Business Management gave an update on the new legislation which is due to come in that will be requiring internet payments go through dual authentication. The FCA previously delayed until September 2021 and this has now been delayed again until spring 2022. It was noted that this additional security is part of the new CRM system, and the Association will implement it when the new CRM and members portal goes live.

The Executive Director of Business Management gave an update on the progression of the new CRM system.

The Executive Director of Business Management updated Council that the financial system currently in place is no longer fit for purpose, therefore a paper will be presented to Council at the next meeting for approval to go out to tender for a new system.

Council asked how BASC's investment portfolio was currently performing. The Executive Director of Business Management stated that it is currently doing well but reminded Council it is a long-term investment.

The Chairman reiterated that, as agreed by Council, Council will be updated on a 6-monthly basis regarding the BASC investment portfolio.

**19. Any other business by leave of the Chairman**

Fighting Fund – approval rule.

The CEO will bring a short paper to Council in July which will ask for increased freedom to approve expenditure upfront from the fighting fund as required. The CEO feels that at present the approval rule is unduly constraining and reduces operational agility.

**22. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 12:00am – (Elections only)  
Council Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 9:00am – Venue TBC

The Chairman and CEO will look at the Council meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> July – and come back to Council.

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Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chairman