THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2006

Present:	**John Graham**	**Chairman**
	Michael Alldis	
	Jan Andrews	
	Eric Begbie	
	Walter Cole	
	Graham Crompton-Howe	
	Michael Evans	
	Lee Freeston	
	David Frost	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Robert Irvine	
	Andy Macfarlane	
	Ray Walters	
	Tom Wylie	
Ex-Officio Members		
	John Swift	**Chief Executive**
	Roger Pollen,	**Director, Northern Ireland**
	Simon Hamlyn	**Director of Operations**
	Philippa Marshall-Purves	**Director of Business Management**
	Vivienne Jasper	**IPS Secretary**
Secretary:	**Amanda Forshaw**	**Minute Secretary**
In Attendance:	**Robert Pownall**	
	Michael Sherman	
	Paul Culley	
	Richard May	
	All in attendance as candidates standing for election to Council	
In part time Attendance:	**Mark Cokayne**	**Wildfowl and Wetlands Officer**
	Dr John Harradine	**Director of Research**
	Both in attendance for item A5.4	
	Stuart Scull	**Head of Gamekeeping**
	In attendance for item B1	
	Simon Cussons	**WHT Trustee**
	Paul Walkden	**WHT Trustee**
	Mark Cokayne	**Wildfowl and Wetlands Officer**
	Diane McKenzie	**PA**
	All in attendance for item B4	

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**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2006**

A1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Simon Breasley, Ian Haddon, William Notton, Peter Pursglove, Carl Eriksson, Glynn Cook, Christopher Graffius and Colin Shedden.

The Chairman introduced the guests for the day who were in attendance as candidates standing for election to Council in June 2006.
It was agreed that those candidates who were unable to attend the meeting would be invited to attend the March meeting of Council.

The Chairman informed Council of two additions to the agenda:
1. An update on Avian Influenza would be added as agenda item A5.4
2. A matter to be raised by Jan Andrews as agenda item B5.

A2 **Confidential Agenda Items**

It was noted that the Business Management Report would be regarded as confidential.
It was noted that the minutes of the Research Advisory Committee should also be regarded as confidential due to some of the contents being of a sensitive nature.

A3 **Declaration of Interests**

The Chief Executive, Director of Operations and Director of Business Management declared an interest in item B4 on the Agenda.

A4 **To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th January 2006**

The Minutes were duly accepted as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings.

A5 **To take Matters Arising from the meeting held on 26th January 2006.**

A5.01 BASC as a sporting agency.
It was noted that a report had been received from Decisions Express and AIS detailing the approach that could be taken. Council were informed that the Director of Communications was compiling a strategy document and would be discussing plans with the Chief Executive, Director of Operations and Director of Business Management. It was anticipated that the project would be implemented later in the year.

A5.02 Challenges and opportunities in gameshooting.
Item on main agenda – presentation at B1.

It was noted that the recommendations of the Gameshooting Advisory Committee had been incorporated into the paper.

It was noted that no further progress had been made in relation to Langholm.

A5.03 Analysis Paper on Animal Aid.
Item on main agenda – incorporated into presentation at B1.

A5.04 Re-development at Trochry
Item on main agenda.

A5.05 Position statement on wind farms and coastal erosion
Expert on climate change to attend March meeting of Council.

A5.06 Proposed Communications Centre.
Item on main agenda.

A5.07 The provision of advice to membership on suitability of candidates for election to Council.

1) Induction programme for prospective Council members
To remain as an action point.

2) Invite to candidates for election at 2006 AGM to attend February meeting of Council.
It was noted that four candidates were in attendance and that the remaining candidates would be invited to the March meeting of Council.
To remain as an action point.

A5.08 Review of BASC support to WHT
Item on main agenda.

A5.09 Proposed DEFRA Code on snares.
It was noted that the Gamekeeping Advisory Committee had reviewed the code and that no changes were recommended.

A5.10 Consideration of the provision of relevant papers to Council members wishing to attend committee meetings as observers.
Item on main agenda.

A5.11 Memorandum of Understanding between BASC and Countryside Foundation for Education.
It was noted that this was progressing and that a meeting was to be held to go through the final version before signing.
It was agreed that the document would be circulated to Council members in its final form prior to signature.

A5.12 Regenerating ownership, partnership and commitment.
Eric Begbie expressed disappointment at the lack of vision shown by some at the recent operations meeting but the Director of Operations reported that the Regional Directors were enthusiastic about the idea of gaining more member support, however the logistics of doing so would need further consideration.
It was agreed that the Director of Operations would prepare a paper on the way forward for further discussion between the Regional Directors and Eric Begbie.

A5.13 Confidentiality Issues

1) Contents of Business Management Report always regarded as confidential. Completed.
2) Chairman to mark agenda items he considered as confidential. Completed.
3) Council should determine those items they considered confidential at the start of each meeting. Completed.
4) Future minutes to be marked 'confidential' until confirmed. ***To be discussed in item B2 on main agenda.***
5) Definition of confidential and production of paper at next meeting of Council. ***Item on main agenda.***
6) Synopsis of Advisory Committee minutes to be placed on website. Chairman of Advisory Committee to decide.

A5.14 Role of Chairman.
To remain as an action point.

A5.1 Verbal Up-date on Redevelopment at Trochry

It was confirmed that the building is now complete and that the Scottish Committee had held their recent meeting there. The car park and drainage system was now complete at a cost of £5,000. There were some minor modifications required before the building control officer releases the completion certificate and these are in hand. The fire officer has confirmed satisfaction with the emergency exits and alarms. A number of celebrity names were put forward to be approached for the official opening, the Chief Executive asked to be kept informed regarding the selection.

A5.2 Verbal up-date on proposed Communications Centre

It was noted that a meeting had been held in London regarding fundraising which had resulted in a suggestion that BASC seek grant aid from the WDA prior to submitting an application for planning consent on the basis that grants were more likely to be given if it was thought that jobs were under threat. It was reported that the planning consent was ready and that the planners had indicated their agreement to the size and look of the proposal. It was noted that an application for grant aid would be submitted in the first instance. The Chief Executive hoped to discuss with BASC's neighbour the possibility of purchasing a strip of adjoining land

To remain as an action point

A5.3 Verbal up-date on Langholm

This was reported on earlier in the meeting.

A5.4 Update on Avian Influenza

The latest developments on the spread of AI within Europe were highlighted. It was noted that the Communicable Disease Crisis Management Action Plan had been put into operation and that regular meetings and briefings were now being held to monitor and report on the situation as it develops. It was confirmed that BASC will resist any unjustified restrictions on sporting shooting.

To remain as an action point.

B1 **To receive a presentation on the challenges and opportunities in game shooting**

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on the above and distributed a paper to Council members at the meeting. It was noted that the paper was a draft. It was agreed that the tables within the paper would be converted into an action plan and would be brought to meetings of Council on a quarterly basis. In the interim, the paper would be sent to members of the Game Shooting Advisory Committee and the Gamekeepers Advisory Committee for their comments prior to distribution of the paper at a forthcoming Shoot Summit.

It was agreed that the Head of Gamekeeping is to co-ordinate the distribution and responses.

B2 **To receive a paper on confidentiality issues**

Council discussed the content of a paper received regarding confidentiality issues. It was agreed that an alteration to the paper be made in section 4(viii) relating to litigation. It was noted that all papers to E & F were of a sensitive, and therefore confidential nature, and could therefore be issued on request to any elected member wishing to attend an E & F meeting.

It was agreed that Mike Evans would proof read the document and it would then be brought before the next meeting of Council.

B3 **To discuss the AGM 2006**

B3.1 **To approve arrangements for conducting the council ballot**

It was agreed by Council that the same process for conducting the council ballot should be used as last year.

B3.2 **To approve the AGM agenda**

Council considered the draft agenda of the 2006 AGM and there were some suggested Resolutions.

Council discussed the issue of non-attendance by Council members.

It was agreed that a system to deal with the non-attendance of Council members should be included within the constitution. The Chief Executive will draft a rule CHANGE to be put forward as a resolution at the AGM to be approved at the next meeting of Council.

Council discussed the role of elected Council members in Advisory Committees

It was agreed that David Frost will draft a rule change to be put forward for consideration at the next meeting of Council.

It was agreed that the approval of the agenda will be deferred until the March meeting of Council

Council members were reminded of the categories for Honours and Awards and were asked to give consideration to nominations in readiness for the March meeting of Council.

B4 <u>To review BASC's support of WHT</u>

Council received a paper from the Trustees of the Wildlife Habitat Trusts which outlined their proposals for cost saving and development plans for the Trusts. It was noted that the figure of £40,500 for BASC's staff time in support of the WHT in 2004 was in error and was in fact £49,500. Council discussed the proposals in detail before reaching the following decisions.
It was resolved that BASC Council expresses its continued support for the principles of WHT.

It was resolved that the Trustees should come back to Council in 2 months time with the anticipated full overhead staff costs required to run WHT in the financial years 2006 and 2007 as they see fit.

It was agreed that the Chairman and the Director of Operations would meet to agree the parameters of the resolution to ensure that they were clear.

B5 <u>To receive an additional agenda item from Jan Andrews</u>

It was brought to Council's attention through complaints from members that an article and some adverts in the Shooting Times, relating to catching up pheasants after 1st February, were condoning the breaking of the law as it currently stands. As the Shooting Times is BASC's official magazine, it was felt that this article and adverts were inappropriate.
It was agreed that the Director of Communications would be asked to speak with the Editor of the Shooting Times in the first instance.

C1 <u>To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees</u>

C1.1 <u>Research Advisory Committee – 25.01.06</u>

The Minutes of the Research Advisory Committee were accepted as presented. Council were asked to recognise the importance and to consider the implications of the game shooting wounding loss studies. It was noted that there was to be a presentation on the study later in the year. Council were also asked to consider the implications of using branded cartridges from a specific manufacturer to raise funds for WHT and whether this would impact on other manufacturers who supply BASC with cartridges for young shots days etc.
It was agreed that Andy Macfarlane would speak with the Head of Marketing and Membership in relation to this.

C2 <u>To take the Chairman's Activities Report</u>

The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

C3 <u>To take the Chief Executive's Report</u>

The Chief Executive made a verbal presentation of his report to Council. He reported that Lord Home was looking forward to becoming President. The Chief Executive reported on attending Lord Litchfield's memorial service. He also reported on a meeting with HMRC who were pleased with BASC's contribution to date. The Chief Executive gave Council details of a holding response to the Defra Wild Boar consultation, which Council accepted. Details of a letter from Betty Hasler were given and when the Director of Shooting Standards has had the opportunity to consider the implications, the matter will be placed on the next agenda.
Paper from Betty Hasler on promoting shooting in schools to be presented to Council following consultation with Director of Shooting Standards.

C.4. **<u>To take the Director of Communications' Report</u>**
The Director of Communications Report was accepted as presented**.** It was noted that the Scottish Executive were going to impose a total ban on tail docking with penalty fines of between £5,000 and £20,000.

C.5. **<u>To take the Director of Business Management's Report</u>**
The Director of Business Management's Report was accepted as presented.
It was confirmed that the question of VAT had not yet been resolved.

C.6. **<u>To take the Director of Operation's Report</u>**
The Director of Operations made a verbal presentation to Council.

It was reported that Peter Fabian, Fundraising Manager was leaving BASC on the 28 February 2006. Thanks were extended to Peter for his contribution to BASC. It was noted that John Dryden would be retiring from BASC in August 2006 and that recruitment plans had been drawn up to appoint his replacement. It was noted that Bettina Markussen had left BASC on 10 February 2006 and that a replacement for her post of Research Officer had been appointed and would commence employment with BASC in March.

It was noted that the Joint Economic Study had now been published and that this would being studied prior to the release of an executive summary. Council would be kept apprised as developments are made. It was noted that the FSA courses were fully booked well into May. Meetings with RDA's had been very productive and that meetings were now being arranged with the Regional Government Offices across the country.

D.1 **<u>To take Any Other Business by Leave of the Chairman</u>**
It was noted that Robert Irvine had written a paper outlining his ideas to help BASC generate income other than membership subscriptions. It was noted that this would be a useful contribution to the strategic financial review that was to be undertaken.
It was agreed that Robert Irvine should liaise with the Director of Business Management.

It was confirmed that a replacement for Peter Fabian would be recruited although not necessarily at the same level.
A brief of the job description to be provided to the March meeting.

Commendations were given for the latest edition of the NI Bulletin.

A query was raised as to whether the general age of BASC membership was known. It was noted that statistics had only recently started to be collected so this would be available in the future. **(Post Meeting Note -** the last time research into this subject was made in 2001, the overall mean age of BASC members was 49.5)

It was confirmed that an ex-officio member can vote in Advisory Committees.

It was noted that the Chairman was a member of WLC as an individual and not as an ex-officio. Darren Greaves was noted as an additional member of WLC.

Tom Wylie proffered his apologies for the April meeting of Council as he was getting married.

Tom Wylie, as Chair WLC, pointed out an unhelpful photograph in the latest edition of *Wildfowling.*

The candidates standing for election at the 2006 AGM provided feedback on their experience at this meeting of Council. In general they found it to be a positive experience but not what they were expecting.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting.
It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 16 March 2006, commencing at 9.00 am.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3.25 pm.

Signed…………………………………………..Date…………………………
Chairman