

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 16th March 2006

Present:	John Graham	Chairman
	Michael Alldis	
	Jan Andrews	
	Eric Begbie	
	Simon Breasley	
	Walter Cole	
	Graham Crompton-Howe	
	Michael Evans	
	Lee Freeston	
	David Frost	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Ian Haddon	
	Robert Irvine	
	Andy Macfarlane	
	William Notton	
	Ray Walters	
	Tom Wylie	

Ex-Officio Members

John Swift	Chief Executive
Christopher Graffius	Director of Communications
Colin Shedden	Director, Scotland
Glynn Cook	Director, Wales
Roger Pollen,	Director, Northern Ireland
Simon Hamlyn	Director of Operations
Philippa Bursey	Director of Business Management
Vivienne Jasper	IPS Secretary

Secretary:	Amanda Forshaw	Minute Secretary
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In Attendance:	Robert Crofts
	David Mills
	In attendance from Item A2 onwards as candidates standing for election to Council

In part time Attendance:	Mike Harley	English Nature
	In attendance for item B5	

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Pursglove and Carl Eriksson.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 16th March 2006

The Chairman introduced the guests for the day who were in attendance as candidates standing for election to Council in June 2006.

A2 Confidential Agenda Items

It was noted that items B1, B3.1, C1 and C5 should be regarded as confidential.
This was agreed.

A3 Declaration of Interests

Simon Breasley declared an interest in The Blackwater Wildfowlers nomination in item B3.1 on the Agenda,

A4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd February 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 23rd February 2006.

A5.01 BASC as a sporting agency.

It was noted that a meeting was to be held with AIS on the following day and that the process continued to move forward in accordance with the schedule.

A5.02 Challenges and opportunities in gameshooting.

It was noted that the Game Shooting and Gamekeeping Advisory Committees were yet to provide feedback in readiness for discussion with partner organisations.

- a) Provision of action plan on quarterly basis.

To remain as an action point

- b) An oral report in relation to Langholm.

Item on main agenda

A5.03 Climate Change

Item on main agenda.

A5.04 Proposed Communications Centre.

Item on main agenda.

A5.05 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) Invitation to candidates for election at 2006 AGM to attend March meeting of Council.

It was noted that two candidates were in attendance. Derek Stocker and Mike Lobb had been unable to attend.

A5.06 Review of BASC support to WHT

To be brought to the April meeting of Council.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 16th March 2006

A5.07 Memorandum of Understanding between BASC and Countryside Foundation for Education.

It was noted that a meeting was to be held with the CFE and that their main trustee, Lord James Percy, wished to see the final version before it was circulated to Council.

To remain as an action point.

A5.08 Regenerating ownership, partnership and commitment.

It was noted that Eric Begbie and the Director of Operations had been in communication and that the next step was to arrange a working group to brainstorm possible ideas for the way forward.

To remain as an action point.

A5.09 Confidentiality Issues

Item on main agenda.

A5.10 Role of Chairman.

To remain as an action point.

A5.11 Avian Influenza

Item on main agenda.

A5.12 AGM 2006

Item on main agenda.

A5.13 AGM Resolution

Poor attendance of Council members.

Item on main agenda.

A5.14 AGM Resolution

Council members and advisory committees.

Item on main agenda.

A5.15 Defra's Wild Boar Consultation

It was noted that a response has now been posted on the BASC website.

A5.16 Paper on the promoting of Shooting as a topic for schools.

A draft education policy for Council to consider would be brought to a meeting of Council later in the year.

To remain as an action point.

A5.17 Vacant fundraising post

Item on main agenda.

A5.18 WHT fundraising cartridge

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 16th March 2006

It was noted that Andy Macfarlane had spoken with the Head of Membership and Marketing and that there were two issues – a WHT cartridge and one for the Centenary celebrations, nothing had been agreed at present. Council asked to be kept informed of progress.

To remain as an action point.

A5.19 Shooting Times

The Director of Communications was yet to speak with the editor of the Shooting Times.

To remain as an action point.

A5.1 **Verbal up-date on proposed Communications Centre**

It was noted that the Chief Executive and the Director of Business Management had been to speak with our neighbour, David Birkett-Evans, regarding the plans and the requirements of the Highways Agency. Due to a visibility requirement, the Highways Agency was seeking an undertaking that nothing higher than 1 metre would be erected on the land adjacent to the road. It was noted that a written response was awaited from Mr Birkett-Evans before submission of the final plans to the planning authority.

To remain as an action point

It was noted that a number of potential major donors had been identified and that the Director of Operations was confident of a good response from some of them when the time came to ask for donations.

It was noted that the Welsh Development Agency were not keen to provide grant aid as they preferred to do so for green type projects.

Robert Irvine will be reviewing costs and standards

A5.2 **Verbal up-date on Langholm**

It was noted that there had been some minor developments although BASC was not directly involved in the project. It was reported that there was a shortfall for this year and that progress reports had not yet been made. It was expected that the project would continue with August/September seen as the target date for commencement.

It was agreed that this would be taken off the action points and that a report would be made to Council as and when progress was made.

A5.3 **Update on Avian Influenza**

It was noted that the next steps in relation to this issue would be led by events, i.e., an occurrence of H5N1 in the UK or wider within Europe.

It was reported that shooting may be affected in any one of three ways:

- 1) The closing of a shoot around an outbreak or more generally.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 16th March 2006

- 2) Restrictions on the movement of birds and/or bird products. Discussions with DEFRA continued regarding the right policy and proportionate responses.
- 3) The impact on game meat marketing. This was an agenda item for a forthcoming meeting with partner organisations. It was also suggested that the Game Shooting Advisory Committee discuss it at their next meeting to brainstorm ideas.

BASC are to concentrate on:

- 1) Being well informed and co-ordinated.
- 2) Participation in monitoring.
- 3) Ensuring partner industries are applying bio-security measures and are aware of what is practical.
- 4) Presenting shooting sports as part of the solution and not a risk factor.

It was noted that the Communicable Diseases Action Plan is still in operation.
To remain as an action point.

B1 To approve the Financial Statements for 2005

It was noted that the 2004 donation to WHT was actually to the WHCT which provided BASC with a tax advantage. Some members expressed concern that, by donating to WHCT, the money might not be used for growing WHT. Following discussion and clarification of a few other points by the Director of Business Management:

The Financial Statements for 2005 were accepted as presented.

It was noted that the Executive and Finance Committee had felt it inappropriate to recommend a donation to the WHT the year 2005.

It was agreed that no donation would be made to the WHT this year.

B2 To receive a final version of the 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 1(iv) to read: 'A document or *item* of business.....'; and in section 1 (xii) (a) to replace the paragraph with: '*It is the responsibility of a Chairman to determine whether a document or item of business is confidential or not*'.

It was agreed that subject to the above changes, the paper be accepted as presented. It was further agreed that all confidential items should be marked "confidential" on each page.

It was noted that the paper would now be incorporated into the Role and Operations paper.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive will circulate a revised Role and Operation paper to Council members by e-mail.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 16th March 2006

B3 To discuss the AGM 2006

B3.1 To approve Honour and Awards

Council went into closed session

B3.2 To receive a resolution on non-attendance of Council members

Council considered various options provided by Farrers regarding how to deal with the non-attendance of meetings by Council members. After considerable discussion, two possible resolutions were voted upon but both were lost. It was therefore agreed that there should be no change in policy but that a watching brief would be maintained for Council to consider at a later date should the need arise.

B3.3 To receive a resolution on Council Members and Advisory Committees

Council received a proposed revision to Rule 5 (e) to be incorporated into the Constitution and Objects. The proposals are to read:

- (ii) 'The Council may appoint Advisory Committees to operate for such periods and with such powers as the Council may from time to time think fit. The members of advisory committees shall include at least one member of Council who shall serve either as Chairman or Vice Chairman. Additional members need not be members of the Council but shall be members of this Association or other persons who in the opinion of Council will be able to make a positive contribution to the affairs of the Association.'
- (iii) 'The Chairmen and members of Advisory Committees shall be appointed annually by the Council.'

It was resolved that a resolution be put forward to the 2006 AGM for points (ii) and (iii).

B3.4 Subject to B3.2 and B3.3, to approve the final agenda

The final agenda for the AGM 2006 was approved by Council.

B4 To receive a briefing on the job description of the vacant fundraising manager post

It was reported to Council that the role had been downgraded and that it was to be a more supportive role for the Director of Operations. The remit of the role would be to put together a programme for fundraising and for example to make all of the necessary arrangements for peer to peer meetings when requests for donations may be made.

B5 To receive a presentation on climate change by Mike Harley of English Nature

Council received a presentation on the implications of climate change for nature conservation. A clear message was that climate change is the most significant threat to the modern world and that mitigation measures for the reduction of greenhouse gases are vital. It concluded that there is a need to raise awareness of

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 16th March 2006

the availability of scientific research, and have the ability to adapt bio-diversity policies, plans and actions to take account of climate change. Finally, there is a need to ensure that climate change is embraced in all of BASC's functions. A copy of the presentation is available to council members who wish to request it.

C1 To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

C1.1 Scottish Committee – 16.02.06

The Minutes of the Scottish Committee were accepted as presented.

It was noted that in adapting the raptor policy paper to comply with English and Welsh legislation, some significant amendments have been made to the document previously approved in principle by Council and the Advisory Committees.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive and the Director, Scotland would look at the changes and report back to Council at a later date.

C1.2 Welsh Committee – 12.02.06

The minutes of the Welsh Committee were accepted as presented.

C2 To take the Chairman's Activities Report

The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

C3 To take the Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's report was accepted as presented. The Chief Executive offered his congratulations to the Director of Communications and his team for the successful outcome of the tail docking vote of parliament. Council concurred.

C.4. To take the Director of Communications' Report

The Director of Communications Report was accepted as presented. The Director of Communications asked that special thanks be extended to Cheryl Davies and to A S Biss for their sterling efforts in contacting almost every member of parliament during the days leading up to the tail docking vote.

Attention is now concentrating on the Violent Crime Reduction Bill.

C.5. To take the Director of Business Management's Report

The Director of Business Management's Report was accepted as presented. Concern was noted regarding the effect that Avian Influenza may have on the figures if an outbreak occurs within the UK.

C.6. To take the Director of Operation's Report

The Director of Operations report was accepted as presented. Thanks were given to the South West Regional Director and his team for a successful Crufts event.

An update was provided on the planned Centenary celebrations.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 16th March 2006

D.1 To take Any Other Business by Leave of the Chairman

It was noted that the BASC Guide to Membership had recently been published. A request was made to take account of the wording 'still' being used in relation to wildfowling.

A query was raised with regard to BASC's SWOT analysis. It was noted that this would be re-circulated to Council members and that they should feed in their ideas via e-mail to the Chief Executive.

It was confirmed that a response had been sent to a letter sent in by a member regarding bag sizes. It was noted that this was a topic to be discussed at the next shoot summit.

The candidates standing for election at the 2006 AGM provided feedback on their experience at this meeting of Council. In general it met with their expectations although they felt that there was a lot to take in.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting.

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 20 April 2006, commencing at 9.00 am.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2.25 pm.

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