

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20th JULY, 2006

Present:	Robert Irvine Michael Alldis Jan Andrews Eric Begbie Simon Breasley Walter Cole Paul Cully Michael Evans Lee Freeston Duncan Greaves Ian Haddon Andy McFarlane Peter Pursglove Mike Sherman Ray Walters	Chairman
Ex-Officio Members	John Swift Philippa Bursey Glynn Cook Christopher Graffius Simon Hamlyn Vivienne Jasper Colin Shedden	Chief Executive Director of Business Management Director, Wales Director of Communications Director of Operations IPS Secretary Director, Scotland
Secretary:	Amanda Forshaw	Minute Secretary
In part time Attendance:	Richard Thorne	Director of Shooting Standards (In attendance for agenda item B.2)

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Carl Eriksson, William Notton, Roger Pollen and Tom Wylie.

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that items B.4; B.5; B.8; C.2; and C.7 should be regarded as confidential

This was agreed.

A.3. Declaration of Interests

Director of Business Management and IPS Secretary declared an interest in agenda item B.4 – BASC Pension Scheme.

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A.4.1 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th May, 2006.

It was agreed to amend the wording on paragraph (g), page 10 to read “***It was noted that the legal requirement states once every day.***” (in respect of the inspection of traps and snares).

It was agreed to delete the word “minor” from paragraph 2, page 13 of the Minutes.

Subject to the above amendments the Minutes were duly accepted as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings.

A.4.2. To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th June, 2006.

It was noted that Peter Pursglove was in attendance at the meeting and agreed that the Minutes be amended to reflect this.

It was agreed to remove reference in agenda item 4.1. to the meeting of 18th May, 2006. It was also agreed to replace the final sentence of agenda item 4.1. with the following “Postal votes were opened, it was still inconclusive and it was decided that a postal ballot of all elected members be arranged immediately with a return date and time set for 5.00 pm. on Friday 16th June, 2006”.

Subject to the above amendments the Minutes were duly accepted as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings.

Deep concern was expressed by some members over the process employed in the count of the postal ballot returns for the positions of Vice Chairman and Chairman of E&F. It was noted that whilst the elections held for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chairman of E&F within the context of the council meeting proper, had a person nominated to oversee the count, no such independent witness was so appointed to be part of the count of the postal ballot. To overcome this failure to provide consistent transparency, it was urged that this situation be addressed, so that it never happens again.

A.5. To take Matters Arising from the meeting held on 18th May, 2006.

A5.01 Challenges and Opportunities in Gameshooting

It was noted that this is an agenda item at the meeting of the Shoot Summit scheduled for 13th September, 2006.

To remain as an action point.

A5.02 WHT Review

To remain as an action point.

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A5.03 Regenerating ownership, partnership & commitment.

To remain as an action point.

A5.04. Role of Chairman.

To remain as an action point..

A5.05. BASC Education Policy

To be placed on the agenda of the October meeting of Council.

A5.06 Raptor Policy

Item on main agenda (B.1)

A5.07 SWOT Analysis

Noted that Draft Delivery Plan has been circulated internally. This will be further considered by Senior Management before being placed on future agenda for consideration by Council alongside proposed budget bids for 2007/8.

To remain as an action point

A5.08 Respect for Quarry DVD

Item on main agenda (B.2)

A5.09 Wildfowling Magazine and Custodian Magazine

Noted that it has been agreed that from 2007 the Custodian Magazine will increase to 32 pages and there will be four editions per annum at no extra cost to BASC. The Wildfowling Magazine will increase to 24 pages from 2007 and there will continue to be two editions per annum, again with no increase in cost. Both magazines will be printed on higher quality paper and arrangements are being made for unity of design. The issue of price stamping is to be looked at.

A5.10 Structure, Role and Function of Principal Officers, Council and Committees.

Item on main agenda (B.3)

A5.11 BASC Pension Scheme

Item on main agenda (B.4)

A.5.12 Family Membership

To be placed on the agenda of the September Meeting of Council.

A.5.13 Membership Subscription Matrix

It was noted that this is now in place.

A.5.14 Alternative Income Streams

It was noted that this will be considered within the Five Year Plan.

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A.5.15 Phased Direct Debit Payments

To be placed on the agenda of the September Meeting of Council.

A.5.16 Online Voting Facility

To be placed on the agenda of the September Meeting of Council.

A.5.17 Financial Reporting Standard No.5

It was noted that changes to the accounting practice to comply with this Standard are underway.

A.5.18 Shoot Assurance Scheme

To be discussed in item C.5- Chief Executive's Report)

A.5.19 Avian Influenza

Consideration was given to BASC having a formal policy in relation to threats posed by the possible introduction of Avian Influenza to the United Kingdom.

It was agreed to ensure careful monitoring of the situation and that the BASC website be kept up-to-date.

A5.2 Oral Report on Proposed Communications Centre.

It was noted that the line of sight issues are still being dealt with and the Surveyor is preparing a report which will hopefully assist in future negotiations with the neighbour concerned.

To remain an action point

B.1 To approve a revised document on Raptor Policy

Council received a revised document on Raptor Policy previously presented in November 2005. The following minor amendments were agreed :-

Page 3, paragraph 5 – where it refers to an underlying rejection of science in favour of anecdotal experience, mention should be made that this happens on both sides of the argument.

Page 5, paragraph 4 – to be amended to read “No studies have looked specifically at disturbance caused by raptors during the shooting season on game shoots”.

Page 7, penultimate paragraph to be amended to indicate that it is a relatively common occurrence for licences to be issued.

Council agreed to adopt the Raptor Policy subject to the above amendments being made and the final paper being circulated to Council Members.

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**B.2. To debate a scoping document for the proposed Respect for Quarry DVD
(Director of Shooting Standards in attendance for this item)**

Council debated a paper on the proposed Respect for Quarry DVD aimed at promoting better shooting. It was agreed that Council is determined that the difficult issues concerned with respect for quarry be pursued, both at a strategic policy level and at a practical level in terms of any resources that might be used. This will be further discussed with partner organisations at a Shoot Summit meeting and brought back to Council at a future date. In addition the matter will be considered by the Shooting Standards Committee, who will prepare a paper suggesting how best to proceed. Information on possible penetration rates to be obtained so as to inform any recommendations.

To remain as an action point.

B.3 To decide a proposal to establish a working group to review governance issues.

Council considered a paper presented by Eric Begbie on the suggested composition and remit for a working group to review governance issues. There was some debate whether the remit of the group would be taking a new look at the Association or making amendments to the existing Role & Operations paper. It was agreed that the matter be deferred to the September meeting of Council and that in the meantime Council members forward their views to the author of the paper on possible ways to proceed.

To remain an action point.

B.4 To receive a report on the costs and implications of winding up current Pension schemes and decide on replacing them with a Group Personal Pension Plan.

(Confidential item)

B.5 To decide the core budget parameters and subscription rates for 2007.

(Confidential item)

B.6. To debate and decide a consolidated policy statement and position on laying cages.

Council agreed the following resolution:-

Council reaffirms its resolution of January 2005 that battery cage laying systems providing inadequate space and welfare for pheasants and partridges are incompatible with the values of BASC and the future of driven game shooting. Council continues to recommend the phasing out of such cages prior to the publication of the new Defra statutory code on game farming expected in 2008.

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In line with its resolution of November 2005 Council will urge the government to give an assurance, within the context of the Animal Welfare Bill, that any new code on the keeping of gamebirds in captivity will specify minimum spaces for laying stock during the laying season of 1 square metre per pheasant and 0.5 square metres per partridge. Council stresses that partridges may therefore continue to be housed for laying purposes in the traditionally designed “partridge boxes” that have been used so successfully for many years.

Council opposes the permanent housing of gamebird laying stock in severely restricted spaces for the duration of their economic lives. After the laying season pheasants and partridges not released into the wild should be moved to separate enclosures providing appropriate space and living conditions.

B.7 To receive a meeting programme for the AGM and Council meetings 2007.

Subject to the amendment that E & F Committees will be arranged following Council Meetings as and when required and with the agreement of the Chair of E & F, the proposed programme of meetings for 2007 were agreed.

Council further agreed that the AGM for the centenary in 2008 will be held on Saturday 14th June, 2008 at Marford Mill.

B.8 To decide admission to membership

(Confidential item)

C.1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on 10th June, 2006.

It was agreed that the Apologies for absence and mention of deceased members should be recorded in alphabetical order.

Subject to the agreed amendments the Minutes of the AGM were approved..

C.2 To approve the Minutes of the E & F Committee held on 10th June, 2006.

The Minutes of the E & F Committee were approved.

C.3 To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

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C.3.1 Firearms Advisory Committee – 22.06.06.

The Minutes of the Firearms Advisory Committee were accepted as presented.

C.3.2 To take the Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee – 26.06.06

The Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee were accepted as presented.

C.4. To receive the Chairman's Activities Report

The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

C.5. The receive the Chief Executive's Report.

It was noted that in respect of the Shoot Assurance Scheme, the CLA is pressing for the establishment of a company limited by guarantee to 'own' both the Code of Good Shooting Practice and the Assurance Scheme

Council agreed that BASC is best served by joining both the Assurance Scheme and the company on a one year pilot basis subject to agreed performance criteria – and making it clear that it will review its position accordingly.

The Chief Executive's Report was accepted as presented.

C.6. To receive the Director of Communications' report

It was noted that the second paragraph under "Animal Welfare Bill" is incorrect.

The Director of Communications' report was accepted as presented.

C.7. To take the Director of Business Management's Report

It was noted that the new telephone operating protocol implemented at Marford Mill last week is working well.

The Director of Business Management's Report was accepted as presented.

C.8 To take the Director of Operations' Report

The Director of Operations' Report was accepted as presented.

Council wished to place on record their thanks and best wishes to John Dryden who retires from BASC on 3rd August, 2006, after 21 years of service.

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**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
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D.1 To discuss post AGM Council meeting procedure and in particular :-

D.1.1. Procedure for the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

To be placed on the agenda of the September meeting of Council.

D.1.2. Executive and Financial & Disciplinary Committees

To be placed on the agenda of the September meeting of Council.

Any Other Business by Leave of the Chairman.

Council members were asked to advise Joanne Ford, HR Assistant, of their preferred means of having Council paperwork delivered.

Peter Pursglove provided members with an up-date on his personal situation following the receipt of death threats in May 2006. Peter reported that the Police Unit involved dealt with the matter extremely well and following an arrest during the last week of June, the matter has now been concluded.

Members were reminded that occurrences such as these are most unusual, but that should they have any concerns in this respect to get in touch with the Chief Executive or John Walkman.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 21st September, 2006, at 9.30 am.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3.50 pm.

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