THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2006

Present:	**Robert Irvine**	**Chairman**
	Tom Wylie	**Vice Chairman**
	Michael Alldis	
	Jan Andrews	
	Eric Begbie	
	Simon Breasley	
	Walter Cole	
	Paul Culley	
	Michael Evans	
	Lee Freeston	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Peter Pursglove	
	Mike Sherman	
	Ray Walters	

Ex-Officio Members	**John Swift**	**Chief Executive**
	Philippa Bursey	**Director of Business Management**
	Glynn Cook	**Director, Wales**
	Christopher Graffius	**Director of Communications**
	Simon Hamlyn	**Director of Operations**
	Vivienne Jasper	**IPS Secretary**
	Roger Pollen	**Director, Northern Ireland**
	Colin Shedden	**Director, Scotland**
Secretary:	**Amanda Forshaw**	**Minute Secretary**

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Carl Eriksson, Ian Haddon, Andrew Macfarlane and William Notton

The Chairman read out a letter which had been posted to him by William Notton. The letter stated that it was William Notton's intention to resign from Council with immediate effect. Council noted the contents of the letter and the Chairman informed Council that he would be responding to the letter.

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that items B.2; B.3; B.4; B.5, B.6 and C.1 should be regarded as confidential.
This was agreed.

A.3. Declaration of Interests

The Chief Executive, Director of Business Management, Director of Communications, Director of Operations, Director Scotland, Director Wales, Director Northern Ireland and the IPS Secretary declared an interest in agenda item B.2 – BASC Pension Scheme.

The Chief Executive, Director of Communications, Director Northern Ireland and Director Scotland declared an interest in agenda item B.3 - Family Membership.

A.4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th July, 2006.

It was agreed to amend the wording on page 6, B5 to read "(To keep reserves in line with the budget policy adopted over the last couple of years in relation to reserves, a target surplus of £123K would need to be aimed for.)"
It was agreed to amend the numbering in section D and to amend Simon Hamlyn's title to Director of Operations.
Subject to the above amendments the Minutes were duly accepted as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings.

A.5. To take Matters Arising from the meeting held on 20th July, 2006.

A5.1 To decide a proposal to establish a working group to review governance issues.

It was noted that the previous meeting had sought comments from Council members in respect of this issue on how best to proceed with the suggestion and that these would be brought forward to this meeting. Council debated on how best to proceed. It was agreed that a small group should be established in accordance with the paper submitted to the July Council by Eric Begbie. The group would be chaired by Tom Wylie and be made up of 3 elected Council members and 2 staff. There were 4 candidates from Council members, Ray Walters, Jan Andrews, Eric Begbie and Mike Evans.
It was agreed that a ballot be conducted to determine who the 3 Council members should be. The IPS Secretary was asked to send out ballot papers to all Council members so that a vote could be taken.

A5.2 Oral Report on Proposed Communications Centre.

It was noted that progress remained slow. A report had been received from the Surveyor however this had been returned to him for further amendment.

A meeting had been held with Stace, a project management company. They had provided some good advice particularly around the disability laws, for example, consideration would need to be given in regard to installing a lift into the building. Other areas around security were also considered as well as logistical considerations during the build process, for example, the provision of alternative toilet facilities until new ones were in place.

Concern was expressed regarding the costs for the project in that as time goes by these will escalate in line with inflation. It was agreed that once detailed costs had been received, these would be brought to Council.

To remain an action point

A5.3 Oral Report on Avian Influenza

It was reported that official bodies were making preparations for a recurrence of AI and that BASC had organised a small working group to liaise with DEFRA. It was noted that the Directors of Scotland and Northern Ireland should make arrangements to liaise with their relevant governing bodies too. It was reported that the Trading Standards office in Norfolk were looking at the compliance of shoots in that area. BASC will implement the Communicable/Notifiable Diseases (CND) Crisis Management Plan if needed, they were also keeping in touch with partner organisations.

A5.4 To decide admission to Membership

(Confidential item)

A5.5 To decide a donation in memory of Bruce Wilson-North, the late Director General of the CLA and BASC member

It was noted that the CLA had to date raised a total of £7,500 in memory of BWN and that, through the CLA Charitable Trust, they were proposing to utilise the funds as a bursary to train forestry students to help them through college. A proposal was put to Council that BASC should donate £2,500 towards the fund. ***It was agreed that £2,500 should be donated to the fund and that an offer would be made to the student to undertake a summer work experience placement with BASC.***

A5.6 Action Points Arising from the meeting held on 20th July 2006

A5.6.1 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.

A5.6.2 WHT Review
To remain as an action point.

A5.6.3 Regenerating ownership, partnership & commitment.
To remain as an action point.

A5.6.4 Role of Chairman.
To remain as an action point..

A5.6.5 BASC Education Policy
To be placed on the agenda of the October meeting of Council.

A5.6.6 SWOT Analysis

This will be discussed later in the meeting when the Delivery Plan is discussed.
To remain as an action point

A5.6.7 Respect for Quarry DVD

It was noted that this was still to be considered in detail at the Shoot Summit. It was noted that since the last presentation, the production costs have come down as a cheaper provider has been found. Further discussions relating to this will be held at the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee meeting in October.
To remain as an action point

A5.6.8 Structure, Role and Function of Principal Officers, Council and Committees.
Item on main agenda

A5.6.9 Family Membership
Item on main agenda

A5.6.10 Phased Direct Debit Payments
Item on main agenda.

A5.6.11 Online Voting Facility
Item on main agenda.

A5.6.12 Core Budget Parameters and Subscription Rates
Item on main agenda

A5.6.13 Admission to Membership
Item on main agenda

B.1 <u>To receive a paper to confirm the process for receipt of nominations to Council</u>

Council received a document which outlined the process for receipt of nominations to Council including the timescales which had to be adhered to in order to meet the publication deadlines for Shooting and Conservation. It was noted that the March edition would carry the supplement featuring a skeleton agenda, manifestos and photographs, ballot paper and existing elected member biographies. The May edition of Shooting and Conservation would contain the final agenda, accounts, Chairman's report and the role of Council by the Chairman. It was requested that the May edition also be used to promote the election.

A query was raised with regard to the proposed training day for potential candidates. It was confirmed that this would be looked at in the near future.
It was agreed that the process to be used in regard to nominations to Council as detailed in the paper be accepted and implemented.

B.2. <u>To decide pension matters</u>

(Confidential item)

B.3 <u>To receive a proposal for implementation of a family category of membership</u>

Council considered a paper presented by the Director of Business Management on the feasibility of introducing a family category of membership. It was noted that the implementation cost was high and that without a subscription rise it could not be achieved. The benefits however of introducing the category would include encouraging more women and junior members to BASC.
It was agreed that the proposal be moved forward with the aim of having a family category of membership established in 2007.

B.4 <u>To receive a proposal to introduce phased direct debit payments</u>

The Director of Business Management presented a report to Council which outlined the costs and implications of introducing phased direct debit payments for members. Council debated the proposal. It was noted that the introduction of phased payments could help with member retention as well as offering flexibility to members. It was recognised that the completion of the paperless direct debit system project would have to be completed first.
It was agreed that the proposal should be taken to the development stage.

B.5 <u>To receive a progress report on the development of the 2007 budget</u>

The Director of Business Management presented a paper to Council which provided an update on the projected forecast of the 2006 budget, a review of the budget parameters and subscription rates required for 2007, and a note of the proposed new projects and posts. It was noted that without a subscription increase there would be a minimal surplus if any, to spend on new projects or posts.

Council debated the options. It was noted that if a subscription increase was implemented, a full explanation of how the money will be spent should be given to members. It was generally agreed that a little and often increase is better than one off larger increases.

B.6. <u>To receive a progress report and discussion paper regarding an online voting facility</u>

Council received a paper outlining the proposal to introduce an online voting facility for members together with the associated costs of doing so. It was noted that further research would be needed which included liaison with the Scrutineer and the Electoral Reform Society

It was agreed that the proposal should be pursued and a more detailed specification drawn up to be included as a bid in the 2007 budget round.

B.7 <u>To decide a financial contribution to The Environment Council to the 'hen harrier dialogue' process</u>

It was noted that a process was underway to bring stakeholders together under the auspices of the Environment Council to ensure dialogue continued regarding the illegal control of raptors and to recognise that the management of this was needed. Whilst there is no promise of the outcome, continued dialogue could help to break the log jam.

The stakeholders include: Countryside Alliance; Moorland Association; RSPB; English Nature; National Gamekeepers Organisation; BASC and DEFRA.

In order for the process to continue and to get buy in, the various stakeholders have each been asked to contribute £5,000 to future funding. A total of £37,500 was required which would fund a further 9 working group meetings as well as the costs of convening the meetings and towards a wider consultation process.
It was agreed that a £5,000 contribution be made.

B.8 <u>To review Council policy on electric training aids</u>

The Director of Communications asked Council to consider their policy on electric training aids for dogs. He reminded Council that in 2004, the Kennel Club made a resolution that electronic collars should not be used as a training device except in the hands of experienced dog handlers. At the time, the Gundog Advisory Committee recommended that this advice should be followed. This meant that Shooting and Conservation could take adverts for electronic collars as long as they did not stipulate the word 'training'. Council were asked to note that the use of such collars has proliferated.

Council considered what their stance should be and decided that they would like to hear the views of the Gundog Advisory Committee before reaching a decision.
It was agreed that the views of the Gundog Advisory Committee be sought and brought to the next meeting of Council. A request was made for a paper to be presented by the Director of Communications too.

B9 To approve membership of the Executive and Finance Committee and the Advisory Committees

It was noted that future agendas should be amended to ensure that the Executive and Finance Committee is differentiated from the Advisory Committees

It was noted that an amendment to the paper as presented was made to the Firearms and Air Weapons Advisory Committee in that David Penn was not a corresponding member but rather a full member.

Council were reminded of section 5(e)(ii) of the Constitution and the Secretaries of all Committees were asked to ensure that the members of each committee were actually members of BASC, otherwise they should be noted as 'observers'.

The following changes were noted to the papers as presented:

A new member to replace Andrew Dale in the Conservation and Land Management Committee was being sought.

A representative for Northern Ireland was yet to be appointed for the Deer Advisory Committee.

A correction was made to the Game Shooting Advisory Committee – Jackie Auger should read Jacqueline Auger. Ian Grindy is a corresponding member and Paul Culley is to be added to the list of members.

A correction was made to the Gundog Advisory Committee – Jamie Stewart was to be a corresponding member, and Sheila Gussey was to be the Secretary. It was also noted that the representative for Scotland is to change, to be advised by Jan Andrews.

It was agreed that the recommendations for members to all of the Committees be accepted.

C.1 To approve the Minutes of the E & F Committee held on 20th July, 2006.

The Minutes of the E & F Committee were approved.

C.2 To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

C.2.1 Conservation and Land Management– 15.05.06.

There were 2 recommendations to Council.

C2.1.1 The provision for an additional Conservation Officer to start in 2008 should be included in the new 5 year plan. It was noted that the Chief Executive would liaise with the Director of Conservation.

C2.1.2 That the Green Shoots programme should be central to the new 5 year plan. It was noted that this is the case.

It was agreed that the recommendations be noted and incorporated into the business planning procedure by Senior Management.

The Minutes of the Conservation and Land Management Advisory Committee were accepted as presented.

C.2.2 <u>To take the Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee – 22.08.06</u>

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

C.2.3 <u>To take the Minutes of the Gamekeepers Advisory Committee – 30.08.06</u>

There were three recommendations to Council.

C2.3.1 That BASC's response to the Game Laws consultation should include the continuation of no shooting on Sundays and Christmas days. It was noted that this should be qualified to refer to game shooting.
It was agreed that BASC's response to the Game Laws consultation should include the continuation of no shooting on Sundays and Christmas days at game.

C2.3.2 To change the name of the 'Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management Department' to 'Gamekeeping and Gameshooting Department'.

C2.3.3 Sufficient resource should be provided to employ another Officer within the department.

Council noted recommendations C2.3.2 and C2.3.3 and asked Senior Management to take these on board.

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

C.2.4 <u>To take the Minutes of the Scottish Committee – 07.09.06</u>

There was one recommendation to Council.

C2.4.1 That temporary overseas membership is reinstated as a service to Shooting Providers. It was noted that there were strict rules imposed by the FSA which meant that any insurance had to be provided directly by BASC.
It was agreed that a proposal would be drafted to meet all of the legal requirements and would be presented to a future meeting of Council.

Comments were made in regard to the accuracy of some of the statements and information contained in the recently published BASC Wildfowling Permits booklet. The relevant staff were asked to note these issues and amend, where applicable, any conflicting or misleading statements and information.
It was agreed that the Director of Operations would take this up with the Director of Conservation and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Officer.

It was noted that the first paragraph of section 11, page 7 of the booklet was misleading.

The Minutes of the Scottish Committee were accepted as presented.

C.2.5 **To take the Minutes of the Welsh Committee – 10.09.06**

There were two recommendations to Council.

C2.5.1 That an explanation of the increase in subscription rates be given to members in Shooting and Conservation.

C2.5.2 To support the revision of the current game laws but raise concern relating to public conflict over Sunday shooting.

It was noted that the two recommendations made had already been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

The Minutes of the Welsh Committee were accepted as presented.

C.2.6 It was noted that the minutes of the Deer Advisory Committee would be taken at the next meeting of Council.

C.3. **To receive the Chairman's Activities Report**

The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

C.4. **The receive the Chief Executive's Report.**

The Chief Executive gave an oral presentation to Council.

It was noted that a recent FACE board meeting had re-structured the 36 member countries and that the Chief Executive had been made Vice President of FACE responsible for five countries – France, Germany, United Kingdom, Spain and Italy.

The Chief Executive had recently met with the President and reported that a further meeting was to be held with him to discuss fundraising plans.

It was noted that a report on the Shoot Summit would be brought to the next meeting of Council.

The Chief Executive had attended the Liberal Democrat Conference earlier in the week and reported that it had been a quiet affair.

The Chief Executive had attended a recent board meeting for the Deer Initiative.

The Chief Executive provided Council with an update on progress in relation to the Delivery Plan. He tabled a content list to Council members in order to inform Council and put into context, and to make them aware of the process being undertaken. It was noted that this was a working document for internal use at this stage. The plan would be used in conjunction with the budget to give a steer. It will also be looked at to ensure that the elements highlighted in the recent SWOT analysis are covered and addressed. The Delivery Plan will form the foundations for the 5 year plan and the process for this will begin at the beginning of next year.

The Chief Executive's Report was accepted as presented.

C.5. <u>To receive the Director of Communications' report</u>

Two additional points were noted.

The Liberal Democratic Conference was reported as being a lacklustre affair with the main thrust being climate change.

The results of the PACEC research project are to be published on the 29 September 2006. It was noted that a copy had been leaked to the Shooting Times who were going to break the embargo and publish on the 28 September 2006. It was reported that the Director of Communications was to speak with the Shooting Times to ask them to honour the embargo and in turn would speak with the CA and CLA to ensure that the 29th was preserved.

The Director of Communications' report was accepted as presented.

C.6. <u>To take the Director of Business Management's Report</u>

It was noted that the Director of Business Management had re-arranged her annual holiday to accommodate the changes to the pension scheme. As a result, her report for the next meeting of Council would be delivered during the week of the Council meeting.

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

C.7 <u>To take the Director of Operations' Report</u>

It was noted that the Head of Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management was to commence a phased return to work following his recent sickness.

Questions were currently being compiled for a research survey regarding Ownership and Participation.

The new Regional Director, South West was to meet with a network of contacts at a forthcoming farewell lunch for the ex-Regional Director South West.

It was noted that the Director of Operations may be unavailable for one or two weeks as he was shortly to become a father.

Congratulations were offered to the Regional Director, Midland Region for organising the recent successful Midland Game Fair.

A query was raised with regard to the Rifle Training course. It was noted that an update would be provided at some point in the future.

It was noted that a Membership Satisfaction Survey was currently being compiled.

It was agreed that the list of questions would be provided to the Research Advisory Committee.

The Director of Operations' Report was accepted as presented.

D.1 <u>Any Other Business by Leave of the Chairman.</u>

It was noted that a change to the upper age limit for members' personal accident insurance (not third party) had been negotiated from 75 to 80.

A request by Council members for the conditions of service at Holt Lodge was to be looked into.

Council were reminded to ensure that receipts were supplied in support of all of their expense claims.

Council noted that there had been a drop in the number of FAC holders in Northern Ireland due to changes in disclosure requirements.

Council noted that the Irish News had picked up on a recent report regarding the firearms review consultation which included a reduction in age limit to 12. Peter Hain who was supporting this has withdrawn from the consultation. The criteria for public response has not been defined, once it is, it is likely that Peter Hain will re-engage.

A request was made for the final budget presented to the November meeting of Council to include a statement to show the financial impact of raising the Young Shots age from 18 to 21.

The Director of Communications was asked to investigate why articles submitted for publication in the Custodian were not being published, particularly when the issues of Custodian had been increased to 4 x per annum and a request had been made for articles to be submitted.

The Chairman following discussions with members agreed that it would be both useful and meaningful to have a pre-meeting of Council to be held for Council members only prior to the next Council meeting.

Congratulations were extended to the Conservation and Land Management team for the successful international conference recently held at the Mill, in particular to Dr Conor O'Gorman.

It was noted that BASC had helped the Devon Wildfowlers to renew their lease.

Council noted that BASC had been asked to consider sponsorship for a top level air gun young shot for the 2012 Olympics.
It was agreed that a proposal would be brought to the next meeting of Council.

It was noted that the two items omitted from the agenda which the last meeting of Council had agreed should be included, will be included on the agenda for the next meeting of Council.
It was agreed that the 'Procedure for the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman' and the 'Executive and Finance Committee, and the Disciplinary Appeals Committee' be brought to the next meeting of Council.

It was noted that a draft paper would be brought to the next meeting of Council regarding publicising BASC services.

It was noted that an agenda item would be included for the next meeting of Council in relation to Electronic Collars for Dogs.

A query was raised with regard to the paperwork that was sent out to prospective members of Council in terms of their manifesto.
It was agreed that Eric Begbie, Mike Evans and Lee Freeston should re-look at the paperwork and re-vamp where necessary and bring to the next meeting of Council.

D1.1 Chairman's Honorarium

(Confidential item)

D.2. <u>Date of Next Meeting</u>

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 19th October, 2006, at 9.30 am. This will be preceded by a meeting of Council members only at 9.00am.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3.20 pm.

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