THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER 2006

Present:	**Robert Irvine**	**Chairman**
	Tom Wylie	**Vice Chairman**
	Michael Alldis	
	Jan Andrews	
	Eric Begbie	
	Simon Breasley	
	Walter Cole	
	Paul Culley	
	Carl Eriksson	
	Michael Evans	
	Lee Freeston	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Andrew Macfarlane	
	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**
In Part-time Attendance:	**Richard Thorne**	**Director of Shooting Standards** **In attendance for item B3**
	Alan McCormick	**Deer Officer** **In attendance for item B7.1**

A1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence had been received. It was noted that Ian Haddon was not present at the meeting. The Chairman informed Council that Roger Pollen would be late joining the meeting.

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that items B.4 and C.6 should be regarded as confidential.
This was agreed.

A.3. Declaration of Interests

The Chief Executive, Director of Business Management, Director – Wales, Director of Operations and the IPS Secretary declared an interest in agenda item B.4 – BASC Pension Scheme.

The Chief Executive, Director of Operations and Lee Freeston declared an interest in agenda item B.6 - WHT.

A.4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st September, 2006.

It was agreed that the sentence in D.1 (Page 13) should read as follows "***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 agreed to remove the sentence in A5.1, 'The group should consider…..'

It was agreed to amend the section on page 10, C.2.4.1 6, to read as follows:

> "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."

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 21st September, 2006.

A5.1 To review Action Points from the meeting of 21st September 2006

A5.1.1 Challenges and Opportunities in Gameshooting.
To remain as an action point with a paper brought to the January 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.1.2 WHT New Development Plan
To remain as an action point with a paper brought to the October 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.1.3 Regenerating Ownership, Partnership and Commitment
Ongoing, to remain as an action point.

A5.1.4 Role of Chairman
It was agreed that this would now be subsumed into the working party review and should now be removed as an action point.

A5.1.5 BASC Education Policy
Item on main agenda.

A5.1.6 SWOT Analysis
To be considered at the November meeting of Council.

A5.1.7 Respect for Quarry DVD
To remain as an action point. Duncan Greaves to keep Council updated.

A5.1.8 Structure, role and function of principal officers, Council and Committees
Ongoing. The action point table should be changed to reflect Tom Wylie as the person responsible.

A5.1.9 Phased direct debit payments
It was noted that work with the software house was underway and that 4 phasing options were being enabled. To be brought to the November meeting of Council as part of the budget.

A5.1.10 Online voting facility
To be brought to the November meeting of Council as part of the budget.

A5.1.11 Core budget parameters and subscription rates for 2007
To be brought to November meeting of Council.

A5.1.12 Procedure for the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
Item on main agenda.

A5.1.13 Executive & Finance Committee and Disciplinary Appeals Committee
Item on main agenda.

A5.1.14 Group Personal Pension Plan oversight committee

Item on main agenda.

A5.1.15 Establishment of a Trust for the Group Life Assurance Scheme
Item on main agenda.

A5.1.16 To review policy on electronic training aids
Item on main agenda.

A5.1.17 Membership category for overseas visitors
It was noted that the Director of Scotland was responsible for this action. A paper would be brought to Council at a future date to be confirmed.

A5.1.18 Sporting Rifle Training Course
It was noted that the Director of Shooting Standards would present a paper to the January 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.1.19 Membership Satisfaction Survey
It was noted that this was ongoing and the Chairman of the Research Advisory Committee would have sight of the survey questions before the survey was sent out.

A5.1.20 Junior membership age limit
To be discussed at the November meeting of Council.

A5.1.21 Shoot Summit
It was noted in confidence that a discussion was to be held with Mark Hudson in November regarding the future of the Shoot Summit. The Chief Executive would present a report to the November meeting of Council.

A5.1.22 Sponsorship for top level air gun young shot for the 2012 Olympics
Item on main agenda.

A5.1.23 Publicising BASC Services
It was noted that this should be removed as an action point and that senior management should move this issue forward.

A5.1.24 Paperwork for prospective members of Council
Item on main agenda.

A5.2 Sponsorship for a top level air gun young shot for the 2012 Olympics

It was noted that the Chief Executive was to progress this matter with the Head of Marketing, and to report back to Council on a date to be confirmed.

A5.3 Revised pro-forma for candidates seeking election to Council

Council considered a paper for adoption presented to them. Amendments were suggested as follows:

a) Remove the words 'by which normally known' on the first line.
b) Amend the typing error in the 2nd main paragraph, change 'you' to 'your'
c) To ensure that a form of words is incorporated into the documentation provided to candidates to make clear to them that the information they provide has to be accurate and truthful, as to do otherwise may lead to disciplinary proceedings against them.

Subject to the above amendments, the paper was accepted for adoption.

A5.4 Oral Report on Proposed Communications Centre.

It was noted that a useful report had now been received from the Surveyor and that this was being used by BASC's legal advisor.
To remain an action point

A5.5 Oral Report on Avian Influenza

It was noted that as at the 10th October 2006, DEFRA had tested 224 birds from BASC members and these had all proved AI negative.

It was noted that there had been an outbreak of Newcastle Disease in Scotland and that members were receiving advice regarding this. The Gamekeeping Advisory Committee were asked to consider the law as it stands on the rearing of gamebirds and in particular any restrictions imposed.
The Gamekeeping Advisory Committee to report to a future meeting of Council.

B.1 To discuss the procedure for the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Council were asked to note that this area was likely to be covered in the working party review that had been instigated. It was agreed that this would form part of that review and as such would be brought back to Council at a future date to be confirmed as part of the review outcome.

B.2. To discuss the Executive and Finance Committee and the Disciplinary Appeals Committee

As above, Council were asked to note that this area was likely to be covered in the working party review that had been instigated. It was agreed that this would form part of that review and as such would be brought back to Council at a future date to be confirmed as part of the review outcome. A request was made that the correct titles be used for the Committees as noted in the heading B2.

B.3 To receive a draft BASC Education Policy

Council considered a paper presented by the Director of Shooting Standards. It was noted that the proposal would form a platform from which the Standards team would work to promote shooting within the educational sphere.

It was noted that associated costs were more likely to increase from year 3 onwards once the bedrock has been laid. Encouragement was given to the Director of Shooting Standards to ensure that Local Education Authority directors were involved at the outset, as they were the ones most likely to influence curriculum policy.

It was noted that the projected costs would have to be fed into the budget process; that the forward plan would capture any wider activity; and that the project would have to be formally managed. On this basis, Council agreed to move forward with the policy.
The Director of Shooting Standards and the Director of Operations would develop a more formal policy subject to budget approval in November.

B.4 To decide pension matters:

B4.1 To receive a proposal for membership of the Group Personal Pension Plan Oversight Committee

The Director of Business Management informed Council that this would be presented at the November meeting of Council.

B4.2 To receive a proposal to consider the establishment of a Trust for Group Life Assurance

Council considered the content of a paper presented by the Director of Business Management which sought to establish a Trust to replace what in effect was already in place but which had to be changed to reflect the new pension scheme rather than the occupational scheme.

Council noted that until a revised Trust was established, the beneficiaries of employee members of the pension scheme would be subject to inheritance tax on benefits payable should the member die beforehand. The new trust deed will have to be registered with HMRC before this restriction is lifted.

Council requested that future paperwork be supplied well in advance of the meeting so that proper consideration may be given to such proposals.

Council noted that the proposal was merely to maintain the status quo of what was already in existence.
It was agreed that a new Trust should be established and furthermore authorised the Chief Executive and the IPS Secretary to sign the necessary deeds on behalf of the Association.

B.5 To receive a paper on the policy on electronic training aids

Council considered a paper presented by the Director of Communications and a recommendation made by the Gundog Advisory Committee.

It was agreed that:

a. ***Council should review its policy on electronic training equipment for dogs;***
b. ***BASC should offer advice on the use of such equipment;***
c. ***The Gundog Advisory Committee should draw up the advice for inclusion in the Gundog Code of Practice; and***
d. ***BASC magazines may take any advertisement which complies with any new policy. .***

B.6. To receive a report on the status of WHT Trustees and decide new appointments of WHT Trustees

Council received a paper outlining the proposal to appoint new Trustees to fill the vacancies in each of the WHT Trusts. Council noted that until these vacancies are filled, it is not possible for quorate meetings to be held.

It was agreed to invite Alan Jarrett to become a Trustee to the Wildlife Habitat Trust and Wildlife Habitat (Conservation Stamp) Trust; and for Jeanne Bracegirdle and Lee Freeston to become Trustees for the Wildlife Habitat Charitable Trust.

B.7 To receive reports and decide on issues arising in current legislative consultations

B7.1 Deer

Council received an oral presentation from Alan McCormick, BASC's Deer Officer. It was noted that the main focus of the consultation was on the regulatory reform process. It was noted that BASC proposed to respond to the consultation to incorporate in particular the following areas: the use of .22 centre fire rifles; technicalities of the definitions; humane dispatch; dependent deer cull; licensing procedures for out of season and night shooting; Chinese water deer closed season; and shooting from a mechanically propelled vehicle.

B7.2 Game

Council received an oral presentation from the Director of Communications. It was noted that the consultation fell into two parts: part 1, existing licences; and part 2, closed seasons. The main concern which BASC proposed to address in its response related to the law on Sunday Shooting. It was agreed that the position Council took at the previous meeting remained, that is; "BASC's response to the Game Laws consultation should include the continuation of no shooting at game on Sundays and Christmas days."

B7.3 Scottish Knives

Council received an oral presentation from the Director for Scotland. It was noted that the consultation categorised knives between domestic and non-domestic, with the non-domestic knives including those used for hunting. It was recognised that the majority of BASC members would be affected by the non-domestic definition and that BASC would be supporting the case for members including trade members as it is felt that this is an unfair restriction on them.

Of further information to Council was that a consultation relating to tail docking had been circulated and that responses to this had to be submitted by 5 January 2007. Council were assured that a response to this was being considered.

B7.4 Northern Ireland Firearms Order

Council received an oral presentation from the Director, Northern Ireland. It was noted that the consultation relating to the Firearms Order had now been re-released and that of interest to BASC were the three options it was now proposing:

a) shooting age remains at 16; b) shooting age is reduced to 12; or c) to align with the GB in that there is no limit placed on age.

It was agreed that BASC's response should be to cover both bases by showing favour to option c, but that if this was not forthcoming, then option b.

C.1 To approve the Minutes of the E & F Committee held on 21st September, 2006.

The Minutes of the E & F Committee were approved.

C.2 To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

C.2.1 To take the minutes of the Deer Advisory Committee – 7 September 2006

There were 2 recommendations to Council.

C2.1.1 The provision for an additional Deer Officer to be included in the 2007 budget process. It was noted that this would be included in the budget process.

C2.1.2 That the Deer Department name be changed to 'Deer and Large Mammal Management'. This was to be reflected on by the Director of Operations and the

Director of Conservation and Land Management and reported back to the Deer Advisory Committee.

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

C.2.2 To take the Minutes of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee – 23 September 2006

The Minutes of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee were accepted as presented**.**

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

The Chairman relayed praise he had received from MPs at the recent Labour Party Conference on the quality of the lobbying and consistency of approach employed by the Director of Communications, Director of Operations and their respective staff. Council concurred with this.

The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

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

The Chief Executive wished to convey congratulations to the Director of Research and the Head of Publications on their successful contribution to the PACEC report. Council concurred with this.

The Chief Executive's Report was accepted as presented.

C.5. To receive the Director of Communications' report

It was noted that the Press Complaints Commission had decided not to pursue a complaint about an article written by the Director, Northern Ireland.

It was noted that Vernon Coaker MP, whilst unable to meet as planned with the Director of Communications and the Director of Firearms at Purdey's, he did meet at a re-arranged time when the Director of Firearms was not available. It was reported that the meeting was very positive.

The Director of Communications' report was accepted as presented.

C.6. To take the Director of Business Management's Report

It was noted that to date, 2006 had been a quiet year for membership growth and that whilst September had been a particularly quiet month, it was hoped that October would show a recovery.

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

C.7 To take the Director of Operations' Report

The Director of Operations' Report was accepted as presented.

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

A query was raised with regard to the budgeting process for Advisory Committees. It was noted that a schedule would be included in the budget presentation at the November meeting of Council and that it was up to the Secretary of the Advisory Committee to make a bid to be reviewed at that time.

A request was made for all responses to consultations to be made available to Council in advance of their submission.

Congratulations were proffered to Mathew Perring for the successful work he had undertaken with regard to his resolution of a problem with the Lincolnshire Firearms team.

A suggestion was made that an invitation be given to Vernon Coaker MP to visit the Mill. It was agreed that an invitation would be sent though acceptance was considered unlikely.

The Director of Scotland apologised to Council for not bringing to their attention at the last meeting, the death in August of Lord Monro.

Council noted that the Wildfowling conference had been cancelled due to the small number of people who had registered their interest in attending. It was noted that a revised date had been scheduled in March 2007, and that new ways of promoting the conference to ensure its success were being looked at. If Council had ideas to contribute to this, would they please feed them in.

Spare copies of the PACEC report were to be sent to Mike Evans and anyone else who requested them.

A request was made as to whether data was available from protectionists as to whether there was a significant rise in waterfowl numbers due to the reduction in the use of lead shot.
It was agreed that the Director of Research be asked to consider a response.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 16th November, 2006, at 9.30 am.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 19th OCTOBER 2006

This will be preceded by a meeting of Council members only at 9.00am.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1.20 pm.

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