

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

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

Present:	Robert Irvine Tom Wylie Michael Alldis Jan Andrews Eric Begbie Walter Cole Paul Culley Michael Evans Lee Freeston Duncan Greaves Andrew Macfarlane Mike Sherman Ray Walters	Chairman Vice Chairman
Ex-Officio Members	John Swift Philippa Bursey Glynn Cook Christopher Graffius Simon Hamlyn Vivienne Jasper Roger Pollen Colin Shedden	Chief Executive Director of Business Management Director, Wales Director of Communications Director of Operations IPS Secretary Director, Northern Ireland Director, Scotland
Secretary:	Amanda Forshaw	Minute Secretary

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Simon Breasley and Peter Pursglove. It was noted that Carl Eriksson was not present at the meeting.

The Chairman informed Council that Ian Haddon had sent him an e-mail in which he had tendered his resignation from Council. The Chairman read out the contents of the e-mail received, and confirmed that he had replied to Ian Haddon on behalf of Council.

The Chief Executive reminded Council of the protocols that were required to be followed in instances such as this. It was reported that the e-mail from Ian Haddon had been sent using his wife's e-mail account on the 14th November 2006. The Chief Executive will write to Ian Haddon to acknowledge the e-mail and to affirm that the date on which the resignation is applicable from is the 14th November 2006. If the Chief Executive does not receive a response to the

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contrary within 7 days, this date will be deemed to be the date of resignation. It will also be brought to Ian Haddon's attention that he is still bound by the confidentiality of Council. With regard to Ian Haddon's membership of the Game Shooting Advisory Committee, this will be a matter for the Chairman of that Committee to consider. It was noted that the Chairman of the Game Conservancy Trust had been notified of the situation as Ian Haddon is a member of the GCT marketing committee and that the Chairman of GCT will reflect upon the matter.

It was noted that Ian Haddon would be removed from all circulation lists within BASC forthwith, Council were asked to do the same from their private circulation lists.

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that items B.1 and B2 should be regarded as confidential.
This was agreed.

A.3. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman, Chief Executive, Director of Business Management and the IPS Secretary declared an interest in agenda item B.4 – Group Personal Pension Plan Oversight Committee.

A.4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th October, 2006.

It was agreed that the second A5.3 on page 5 of the minutes should be changed to A5.5.

It was agreed the words in B7.4 (c) (page 9) should be changed from '...the UK...' to '...GB...'

It was agreed that the apostrophe in item C3 (page 9) should be removed from the word MPs.

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 19th October, 2006.

A5.1 Oral Report on Proposed Communications Centre.

The alternative solution would be the building of an access through the woodland. The architect had contacted the planning department to assess their view of this solution. If the Council is amenable, there will be a longer line of sight requirement to be addressed, over the land on the opposite side of BASC's

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entrance, in an area where the speed limit is 60mph. Council will be kept informed of progress.

A5.2 To review Action Points from the meeting of 19th October 2006

A5.2.1 Challenges and Opportunities in Gameshooting.

To remain as an action point with a paper brought to the January 2007 meeting of Council.

It was noted that the Chairman of the Game Conservancy Trust was keen to have the document so that it can be used as a framework in future summit meetings. This would be discussed at the next summit meeting.

A5.2.2 WHT New Development Plan

To remain as an action point with a paper brought to the October 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.2.3 Regenerating Ownership, Partnership and Commitment

Ongoing, to remain as an action point. It was noted that this would also need to be considered as part of the Structure, Role and Function of Principal Officers, Council and Committees (action point A5.2.7).

A5.2.4 BASC Education Policy

It was noted that a project management process was to be undertaken in relation to this. To remain as an action point.

A5.2.5 SWOT Analysis

Item on main agenda.

A5.2.6 Respect for Quarry DVD

To remain as an action point. This would be discussed later in the meeting under item C1.1.

A5.2.7 Structure, role and function of principal officers, Council and Committees

It was noted that a meeting had been held on the previous day and that

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following on from the meeting Council members would be receiving a questionnaire so their thoughts and views could be taken into account in the process. Council members were asked to reflect and consider before returning their responses. It was agreed that action points A5.2.11 and A5.2.12 be incorporated into this remit, and further that consideration should be given to also incorporating action point A5.2.3 in this grouping To remain as an action point.

A5.2.8 Phased direct debit payments

Item on main agenda.

A5.2.9 Online voting facility

Item on main agenda.

A5.2.10 Core budget parameters and subscription rates for 2007

Item on main agenda.

A5.2.11 Procedure for the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

To be included in the remit of action point A5.2.7.

A5.2.12 Executive & Finance Committee and Disciplinary Appeals Committee

To be included in the remit of action point A5.2.7.

A5.2.13 Group Personal Pension Plan oversight committee

Item on main agenda.

A5.2.14 Membership category for overseas visitors

It was noted that the Director of Scotland was to liaise with other organisations which provide temporary cover and would put the findings together to discuss with insurers in February. A paper would be brought to Council at a future date to be confirmed.

A5.2.15 Sporting Rifle Training Course

It was noted that the Director of Shooting Standards would present a paper to the January 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.2.16 Membership Satisfaction Survey

This had now been completed and can be removed as an action point.

A5.2.17 Junior membership age limit

Item on main agenda.

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A5.2.18 Shoot Summit

Item on main agenda.

A5.2.19 Sponsorship for top level air gun young shot for the 2012 Olympics

It was noted that before a decision is made consideration should be given to what other organisations (NRSA and CPSA) were doing in relation to the provision of support for those in similar circumstances. It was agreed that further soundings would be taken and the findings brought back to Council in January 2007.

A5.2.20 Rearing of grey partridges primarily for food production

A report to be brought to the March 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.3 Other matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October, 2006

It was noted that the revised pro-forma for candidates seeking election to Council was ready to use for the next candidates to be nominated for election to Council.

It was noted that the last sentence in item A5.5, (page 5) of the minutes should be incorporated into action point A5.2.20.

B.1 To decide the budget for 2007 and confirm subscription rates

Council considered the contents of a paper previously provided to them by the Director of Business Management.

All budget bids, including those for new posts had been categorised into high, medium and low priority, with posts with a high priority being recommended for sanction by Council. Council were asked to give consideration to these recommendations and agree to their implementation. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the detail and impact of the overall budget, particularly in regard to the proposed new posts. Representations were also made by several members regarding changing the priority rating of both the Deer Officer and the Policy Officer, Scotland from medium to high. In addition, increases in the budgets for both the Firearms and Air Weapons Advisory Committee and the Gundog Advisory Committee to £3,000 were also considered. It was recognised that the justification of some of the new posts would be hard to “sell” to members.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive would write an open letter to Council to justify the sanctioning of each of the new posts so that this could then be shared with the membership.

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B.2. To consider the junior membership age limit

Council considered a paper presented to them by the Director of Business Management in respect of the effect of increasing the upper age limit for Young Shots.

It was agreed that a further paper would be brought to a future meeting of Council once more statistical analysis was available.

B.3 To receive a progress report on the delivery plan and SWOT analysis

Council considered a paper presented by the Chief Executive. It was noted that one of the most important elements related to that of project management planning systems. This would necessitate a cultural change, however it was felt that by implementing such systems cost savings would ultimately be made. It was concluded that the issues covered in the SWOT analysis had been addressed in the delivery plan. It was noted that Council had not completed a full SWOT analysis in July of last year.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive would explore with his contacts the ways in which a benchmark of the organisation could be established together with associated costs. A report is to be made at the January 2007 meeting of Council.

B.4 To decide on Committee membership of the Group Personal Pension Plan Oversight Committee

At this juncture, due to a previously declared interest, the Chairman handed over the chair to the Vice-Chairman, thereafter Council considered a paper presented by the Director of Business Management. It was noted that whilst there was no legal obligation for such a committee to be established, it was felt that the pension element of employees' remuneration was important and as such should be monitored. It was noted that in April 2007, a new staff committee would be formed to comply with the Information and Consultation regulations and that part of their remit would include an overview of the pension scheme. The Chairman and the Director of Business Management would still be part of such a committee as would the Chief Executive and the Head of Human Resources. Additional new members would be democratically elected at that time.

It was agreed that until April 2007, membership of the committee should comprise the Chief Executive, the Head of Human Resources, Debbie Pheby, Phillip Pugh, together with the Director of Business Management and the Chairman sitting as ex officio members.

B.5 To receive an update with regard to the Shoot Summit meetings

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Council received an update from the Chief Executive. It was noted that future summit meetings would still be convened for the Chairmen and Chief Executives of the representative organisations for constructive discussions to take place. It was noted that the next meeting was to be held in January 2007, and that the topics for discussion would be reflected on in the interim.

C.1 To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

C.1.1 To take the minutes of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee – 26 October 2006

There were 2 recommendations to Council.

C1.1.1 That *Council adopts the Education Policy in its current form “To ensure that shooting and conservation activities are fairly and accurately represented across all sectors of the education system”*. It was noted that the next step in relation to moving this project forward was to ensure that a project management plan was put in place and that the Director of Shooting Standards would be tasked to do this. Council agreed that this project should then move forward to ensure that a web based presence was established, and that updates on progress should be provided along the way.

C1.1.2 That *we proceed with the production of the Respect for Quarry DVD alone, without input from any other organisations*. Council agreed that a project plan should be established which would ensure that more information is gathered including detailed costs. Council should be updated on progress.

Council noted the recommendations and will await further developments.

The Minutes of the Shooting Standards Committee were accepted as presented.

C.2. To receive the Chairman’s Activities Report

The Chairman’s Activities Report was accepted as presented.

C.3. The receive the Chief Executive’s Report.

The Chief Executive notified Council that he had been taking particular interest in the consent for wildfowling within the Humber Estuary SSSI. Council noted that the Chief Executive was to attend a meeting on the 22nd November 2006, with the Hull and East Riding Wildfowling Association and the Holderness and Humber Wildfowling Association, to discuss the background to this issue and to collect data and to consider the options available. It was felt that this was a very sensitive area and could have far reaching implications. At this stage he would be urging the Wildfowling Associations to get back around the table with Natural England rather than going to appeal.

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The Chief Executive's Report was accepted as presented.

C.4. To receive the Director of Communications' report

The Director of Communications' report was accepted as presented.

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

It was noted that October had been a good month and that November had started reasonably well. It was reported that members' personal accident insurance cover would increase from 1 January. The limit for permanent total disablement would rise from £20,000 to £35,000 and the death benefit would increase from £4,125 to £7,500 which is slightly ahead of our main competitors' insurance covers.

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

C.6 To take the Director of Operations' Report

It was noted that the FSA training course had recently passed an assessment by LANTRA with flying colours. Credit for this was extended to Nick Lane and the team.

It was noted that Jamie Stewart had been well received by members in the South West region and that he had established some good contacts through a recent event held to thank John Dryden for his years of service to BASC.

The Director of Operations' Report was accepted as presented.

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

Jan Andrews asked that Council express their thanks to Matt Perring in the Firearms department for the good work he had recently undertaken for members in her region.

It was noted that there was no shooting related legislation coming before Parliament in the next year.

It was noted that a response on the new management plans for bird species was being drawn up by the Director of Research and would be returned to FACE. Any comments in relation to this should be given to the Director of Research.

It was noted that responses to a consultation on coastal access in England were to be submitted early in 2007. It was agreed that the views and opinions of Wildfowling club members should be sought prior to submission.

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It was noted that coaches who wished to take out insurance to work as coaches in their own right should contact Mellerups Brokers who can usually help in this area.

A request was made for assistance from the secretarial assistant in the gamekeeping department, Sian Callister, to help with the Gamekeepers Welfare Trust meeting. This would be arranged.

It was noted that the plan to run a workshop for prospective Council members had fallen by the wayside. It was agreed however, that prospective Council members should be invited to attend a Council meeting in either February or March next year.

A request was again made for the opportunity to purchase a WHT stamp on membership renewal to be restored to its earlier prominence. The Director of Operations agreed to raise this with the Head of Marketing.

It was noted that Doug McAdam had recently been appointed chief executive of the Scottish Rural Property and Business Association. It was reported that he was trying to forge new links with other organisations and that he was a keen supporter of BASC.

Thanks were extended to Sian Callister for the sterling work she had undertaken during Stewart Scull's absence.

It was noted that the decision to increase subscriptions would be discussed in the next weekly executive meeting to determine the best way of communicating this to members.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 25th January 2007, at 9.30 am.

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

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There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12.35 pm.

Signed.....Date.....

Chairman