

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2007

Present:	Robert Irvine Tom Wylie Michael Alldis Jan Andrews Eric Begbie Simon Breasley Walter Cole 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
In attendance	Richard Thorne	Director of Shooting Standards (item B1, only)

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Paul Culley, Carl Eriksson and Peter Pursglove.

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that item C5 should be regarded as confidential.
This was agreed.

A.3. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

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A.4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th November, 2006.

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 16th November, 2006.

In response to a request which had been made for the membership to be given the opportunity to buy the WHT stamp when renewing their membership. It was noted that initiatives to encourage this had already been implemented and included a message on the renewal and joining pages of the website; and a reminder on the membership card carrier issued to all new and renewing members.

A5.1 Oral Report on Proposed Communications Centre.

It was reported that a meeting had been held between BASC, the architect and representatives of the planning and highways planning departments. The line of sight remained a problem and it was noted that the parameters were more onerous in Wales than in England. It had been indicated that, in terms of access to the public highway, a roadway through the woods was the preferred option although to satisfy the planners a commitment to re-plant around the site might be necessary. Until a solution had been found such that the grant of planning consent was more certain, no planning application would be submitted.

A query was raised with regard to sponsorship. It was reported that prospective major donors are being cultivated and that the Director of Operations and the Fundraising Manager were in close contact with the Director of Business Management.

A5.2 Oral Report on Avian Influenza

BASC's contingency plans remain in place should an outbreak occur in the UK. The European press had recently reported an outbreak of the H5N1 virus in Hungary that had resulted in 3,300 geese being culled. Detection measures remained in place in the UK and that calm decisions would be taken when needed.

A5.3 To review Action Points from the meeting of 16th November 2006

A5.3.1 Challenges and Opportunities in Gameshooting.

It was reported that comments on the original paper circulated to members of the Shoot Summit had been received from the CA, NGO and the GCT with comments awaited from the CLA. The GCT had raised a number of issues and the Chief Executive was to meet with Theresa Dent in May to discuss these. It was agreed that the Chairmen of the Game

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Shooting and the Game Keeping Advisory Committees would consult with their committees to establish whether or not this should remain as a Council agenda item.

A5.3.2 WHT New Development Plan

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

A5.3.3 Regenerating Ownership, Partnership and Commitment

It was noted that there was nothing to report at the current time.

A5.3.4 SWOT Analysis

Item on main agenda.

A5.3.5 Respect for Quarry DVD

It was noted that the Director of Operations, the Director of Shooting Standards and the Director of Research were putting together a scoping document to outline what the DVD would look like and to determine its' content and cost. The document would then be forwarded to the Chairmen of the Game Shooting, Shooting Standards and Research Advisory Committees for their comments, any amendments deemed necessary would be incorporated. It was noted that this remained a topic of interest for the members of the Shoot Summit and the Director of Operations was asked to prepare a presentation of the proposal that the Chairman and Chief Executive could in due course present at the Shoot Summit.

It was agreed that a detailed proposal outlining the content and cost of this item be brought to the March meeting of Council.

A5.3.6 Structure, role and function of principal officers, Council and Committees

Item on main agenda.

A5.3.7 Membership category for overseas visitors

It was noted that the Director of Scotland was to meet with Marsh, the insurance brokers, in March. A paper would be brought to the April meeting of Council. It was noted that there are currently 1200 overseas members and the income these generate should be factored into the recommendations.

A5.3.8 Sporting Rifle Training Course

Item on main agenda.

A5.3.9 Junior membership age limit

It was agreed that this would be considered at the May meeting of Council.

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A5.3.10 Sponsorship for top level air gun young shot for the 2012 Olympics

It was noted that this would be discussed during a forthcoming lunch with the BSSC. A report would be brought to the March meeting of Council.

A5.3.11 Rearing of grey partridges primarily for food production

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

A5.3.12 Rearing of game birds in Newcastle Disease areas

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

B.1 To receive a paper on Sporting Rifle Training Course

It was noted that the intent had always been to ensure that there was no monopoly of course provider, and work was now in hand to establish providers in each English Region, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Potential local providers would be expected to run pilot courses on each module they wished to deliver during the first half of 2007, such that they could be evaluated in terms of standard. The Shooting Standards team were working towards LANTRA accreditation, whilst retaining the concept of an 'Attendance Certificate'. An update was also given on the Air Rifle Coaching initiative.

It was agreed that the Director of Operations give an oral up-date at a future meeting of Council regarding the issue of accreditation.

B.2. To review BASC's structure and organisation

Council considered a paper presented to them by the Chief Executive which focussed on three elements.

- a) The continuing work of the Vice Chairman's committee which would be presenting a progress report to Council
- b) The options for Council to commission an independent review of the Association
- c) Work currently being conducted within the senior management team the results of which would be presented to Council in due course

Council then received a presentation from Mike Evans on the initial analysis of the questionnaire recently circulated to elected Council members. The questionnaire had been drafted and circulated in an effort to try and gauge the mood of the elected Council members. It was noted that written feedback was yet to be incorporated into the findings.

From the above it was summarised that members seemed to know what their role on Council was and that they were accountable to the membership as a whole. Council members felt that they were not given sufficient time to consider issues before they were discussed in Council and that all department heads should make

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an annual presentation to Council. It was noted that once the Intranet was up and running, policies would be readily searchable to staff and Council members.

Council members were asked to send comments via e-mail to the Vice Chairman's committee members – Tom Wylie, Eric Begbie, Jan Andrews, Mike Evans and Christopher Graffius.

It was agreed that an update would be presented to the February meeting of Council.

It was agreed that the Chairman and the Chief Executive should meet with the President to explore and further develop the opportunity for a contact of the President's to undertake a review of BASC.

B.3 To receive a paper on Quality Assurance – BASC Complaints Procedure

Council considered a paper presented by Eric Begbie. The advantages and disadvantages of having formalised procedures were discussed. It was noted that formal systems such as ISO 9000 can be very bureaucratic and cumbersome, however to have less formal systems in place could be beneficial. It was noted that there are currently systems in place; in particular, on a regular basis the weekly executive meetings consider complaints and plaudits.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive will consider both points in conjunction with the executive team and with Eric Begbie, and will report to the May meeting of Council.

B.4 To receive a presentation on the progress of the BASC centenary

A presentation was made by the Director of Operations. It covered the objectives of the centenary celebrations and went through some of the initiatives that were to be included.

The Chairmen of the Advisory committees were asked to contact the Director of Operations if they wanted him to make a similar presentation to their committees.

C.1 To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

C.1.1 To take the minutes of the Gundog Advisory Committee – 18 October 2006

There were 4 recommendations to Council.

C1.1.1 *The committee recommends Jan Andrews act as Chief Steward for the BASC Gamekeepers Ring at Crufts 2007.* This was noted.

C1.1.2 *The committee recommends that Council remove the instruction regarding the word training and the following paragraph be inserted with*

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advertising in S & C Codes of Practice (where practicable): “Electronic collars including those incorporating fenceless dog protection, anti bark and sound emitting collars, do have a place in the hands of responsible and experienced dog handlers”. It was noted that the wording for this had been agreed at the last Council meeting. It was reported that consultations on legislation in Scotland and Wales could be expected and that a policy provision was now needed.

It was agreed that the Gundog Advisory Committee be asked to look at this issue in more detail and report back to Council.

It was noted that the last sentence of paragraph number 6 of the minutes should be removed.

Subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Gundog Advisory Committee were accepted as presented.

C.1.2 To take the minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee – 7 November 2006

There was one recommendation to Council.

C1.2.1 That new initiatives are better fed down to the countries and regions with particular reference to the centenary celebrations. This was noted.

It was reported that legislation was being tightened up in relation to game being released into the food chain and that it was the intention of the Northern Ireland committee to lobby for legislation to provide for the sale of duck. A request for a policy on this was made.

It was agreed that the Gamekeepers Advisory Committee should consider this issue and report back to Council.

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

C.1.3 To take the minutes of the Research Advisory Committee – 15 November 2006

There were three recommendations to Council.

C1.3.1 That suitable laboratory type facilities be made available within the new re-structuring plans at Marford Mill. These need to comply with health and safety and practical requirements for both current and likely future research. It was noted that a proposal from the Director of Research should be submitted to the Director of Business Management.

C1.3.2 That Council supports a pilot study of the potential risks of current shot types contaminating soil/water, and the potential benefits of new treated-lead shot types preventing contamination in some situations, by way of informing BASC on likely future issues and exploring management

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options for some types of shooting. It was noted that a presentation was to be made to the February meeting of Council regarding current evidence on lead shot and this should be considered as part of that presentation.

C1.3.3 *That consideration be given to seeking financial returns from selling, as appropriate, research survey results.* It was noted that there was already a policy in operation regarding this.

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

C.1.4 To take the minutes of the Scottish Committee – 7 December 2006

There was one recommendation to Council.

C1.4.1 *It was recommended that HQ investigate the Westminster Government's intention to increase road tax for 4x4 vehicles, assess how "essential users" could be determined and ensure that representation on behalf of gamekeepers/stalkers and other members is made.* It was agreed that the Director of Communications would speak with his contacts at DEFRA.

The Minutes of the Scottish Committee were accepted as presented.

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

The Chairman made some typing corrections to his report. He informed Council that he had been asked to Chair the Shoot Summit for the next 12 months and that he had accepted. It was noted that the supply of a minute secretary was the responsibility of the Chairman and that this would be Sheila Potter.

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 now heard from Natural England regarding the Humber; a meeting was to take place with the two clubs involved and Natural England are happy for BASC to take part in the discussions. Obviously this was up to the clubs involved.

It was noted that a donation had been made to the Nightingale Hospice in commemoration of Rebecca van der Putt, one of our ex-members of staff who had recently died at the age of 38.

Council were asked to give consideration to making a donation to the Flatcoated Retriever Rescue, Re-Housing and Welfare Scheme in commemoration of Roy Jordan, an ex-member who had recently died. The Chairman would write a letter to Roy Jordan's next of kin.

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It was agreed that a donation of £ 1,000.00 be made to the Flatcoated Retriever Rescue, Re-Housing and Welfare Scheme.

The Chief Executive's Report was accepted as presented.

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

The Director of Communications reported that he had written to the Home Secretary asking him not to support the Sheridan Bill. He had received a non-committal response in writing, but privately had been told that the Government would not support the Sheridan Bill. It was noted that a careful watch would be kept on this matter.

The Director of Communications referred Council to an article on lead contamination of game meat which had appeared in the press. It was noted that an update on this issue would be given to the February meeting of Council.

The Director of Communications' report was accepted as presented.

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

It was noted that the accounts presented were management accounts and that the statutory form year-end accounts were in the process of being completed. No significant change was anticipated.

It was agreed that a paper on the issue of a donation to WHT be brought to the February meeting of Council.

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

C.6 To take the Director of Operations' Report

The Director of Operations asked Council members to let him know via e-mail if they wished to place orders for centenary merchandise. He reminded Council members that he was available to make a presentation to Advisory Committees and asked that they should let him know by e-mail before the end of March beginning of April.

The Director of Operations reported to Council that the Director Of Operations and the South West Regional Director are discussing with South West Tourism the practicality and cost of initiating a project similar to that being undertaken in Scotland, to promote sporting shooting in the South West.

The Director of Operations' Report was accepted as presented.

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

Council was asked to note that the Chairman of the E & F Committee had agreed to hold a meeting of the E & F Committee immediately after the Council meeting in February.

Council were asked to ensure that they informed the IPS Secretariat by return e-mail or telephone of their accommodation requirements for the eve of the AGM.

It was noted that there had been some breakdown in the e-mail circulation lists to Council. The Chief Executive agreed to raise this at the next executive meeting.

A request was made that the non-attendance of Council members be raised as a matter for discussion. It was agreed that the Chairman would liaise with the Vice Chairman and the Chairman of the E & F on how to proceed with this matter.

It was noted that half of the local authorities in Northern Ireland had asked for the firearms licensing age limits for young people to be scrapped.

A request was made for the Director of Operations to deliver his centenary presentation at the forthcoming wildfowling conference. The Director of Operations will liaise with the Director of Conservation and Land Management to arrange this.

Council noted that following a formal interviewing process for the Press and Policy Officer, Scotland, James Scott had been offered the post and was to commence in his new role on Monday, 29 January 2007.

It was noted that a further meeting had taken place in December relating to the Langholm project. Other organisations had been asked to make financial contributions to this project; as yet BASC had not been approached.

It was agreed that the Director, Scotland in conjunction with the Chief Executive be allowed to deal with this issue as they see fit.

It was noted that Piers Frampton, a member of the BASC Wales Committee, had recently died. The Director Wales was to attend his funeral on behalf of BASC. Condolences were extended.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 22nd February 2007, at 9.30 am.

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

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**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2007**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1.10 pm.

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