

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2007

Present:	Robert Irvine Michael Alldis Jan Andrews Eric Begbie Paul Culley Carl Eriksson Michael Evans Lee Freeston Duncan Greaves Andrew Macfarlane Peter Pursglove Mike Sherman Ray Walters	Chairman
Ex-Officio Members	John Swift Philippa Bursey Glynn Cook Christopher Graffius Simon Hamlyn Vivienne Jasper Roger Pollen	Chief Executive Director of Business Management Director, Wales Director of Communications Director of Operations IPS Secretary Director, Northern Ireland
Secretary:	Amanda Forshaw	Minute Secretary
In attendance	John Harradine John Dryden Mike Lobb Gary Mountain John Thornley	Director of Research (item B1, only) Candidates standing for election in 2007 (for the whole meeting)

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Simon Breasley, Walter Cole, Colin Shedden and Tom Wylie. Apologies had also been received from Robert Crofts, the fifth candidate standing in the forthcoming election.

A warm welcome was extended by the Chairman, on behalf of Council, to the candidates standing in the forthcoming election. After general introductions were made the Chairman expressed the hope that the candidates would find themselves better informed about the running of BASC after their attendance at this meeting.

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A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that items B1 and C5 should be regarded as confidential.
This was agreed.

A.3. Declaration of Interests

Lee Freeston, the Chief Executive and the Director of Operations declared their interest in item B3 on the agenda.

A.4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th January, 2007.

Page 4, Item B.1 - The complete paragraph to be amended to read *“Council was told that progress through Riflecraft had been less than had been hoped, either in terms of promotion or delivery. 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 up-date was also given on the Air Rifle Coaching initiative.”*

Page 9, Item C.4 – First paragraph, part line 2 to part line 4 to be amended to read *“He had received a non-committal response in writing, but privately had been told that the Government would not support the Sheridan Bill.”*

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 25th January, 2007.

a) There were no matters arising.

A5.1 Oral Report on Proposed Communications Centre.

It was reported that construction of an entry through the woods was being considered. It was noted that this would attract significant additional costs. Disability discrimination legislation also pointed to the need for a lift to be incorporated in the new extension.

The timetable for the scheme was estimated at 64 weeks from submission of the planning application to final completion. It was not known whether the road through the woods would have to be built first or whether construction of the building and the road could run in parallel. Since a survey will be needed to

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establish the viability and cost of the proposed new road and entrance the submission of a planning application is still two to three months away.

A5.2 Oral Report on Avian Influenza

Members were given an up-date on the recent outbreak of AI in Suffolk. Special mention was made of the work carried out by key members of staff, in particular Dr Peter Marshall for the application of pressure that lead to the early lifting of the restrictions placed on shooting in the area. Council agreed that congratulations should be extended to Dr Marshall. It was reported that lessons were still to be learned as a result of the recent experience and that these were being taken into account. It was noted that DEFRA would now include representatives from the shooting community in the advisory forum helping to formulate policy within the first 48 hours of any further outbreak. It was confirmed that the Director of Operations and Dr Peter Marshall were to review BASC's contingency plan.

A5.3 Progress report on a possible external review of BASC governance

It was noted that there were three strands to the governance review:

- (i) A small working group has been established to conduct a review and is currently working on the results of a questionnaire based survey of council members.
- (ii) The Chairman and the Chief Executive are to meet with David Jenkins, a contact of the President's from Deloitte. The President thought that David Jenkins may be helpful to BASC in looking at the top, non-executive level of Council.
- (iii) The Chief Executive plans to meet with Tony Cadman, who is connected with the Engine group of Companies, with a view to discussing possible development priorities and associated staff and resource issues.

At some stage the three levels will be brought together.

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A5.4 To review Action Points from the meeting of 25th January 2007

A5.4.1 Challenges and Opportunities in Gameshooting.

To remain as an action point.

A5.4.2 WHT New Development Plan

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

A5.4.3 Regenerating Ownership, Partnership and Commitment

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

A5.4.4 SWOT Analysis

To remain as an action point.

A5.4.5 Respect for Quarry DVD

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

A5.4.6 Structure, role and function of principal officers, Council and Committees

It was reported that the work of the Working Party was progressing well and that the immediate tasks were to better define the role of Council and to clearly identify and focus upon those problems that required structural or constitutional change.

A5.4.7 Membership category for overseas visitors

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

A5.4.8 Junior membership age limit

It was agreed that this topic should be incorporated in a research-lead, general review of member retentions and that a paper should be presented to the September 2007 meeting of Council by both the Director of Business Management and the Director of Operations.

A5.4.9 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 at the end of March. A report would be brought to the April meeting of Council.

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A5.4.10 Rearing of grey partridges primarily for food production

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

A5.4.11 Rearing of game birds in Newcastle Disease areas

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

A5.4.12 Quality Assurance and Complaints Procedure

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

B.1 To receive a presentation on lead shot issues including contamination of game meat

Council received a presentation that provided an update on issues pertaining to lead shot, including its effect on game meat, and findings in relation to the currently available alternatives. It was noted that further restrictions on the use of lead for shot and bullet heads could be anticipated in the near future with alternatives being prescribed. Council discussed the need to anticipate such regulation and how best to advise members.. It was felt that similar presentations should be made to the Shoot Summit members; the Editors of Shooting and Country magazines; members of the Trade; as well as policy and political decision makers.

It was agreed that Council would re-visit the strategy and policy at the March 2007 meeting of Council.

B.2. To receive a report on the proposed rationalisation of Codes of Practice

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

- a) A policy for producing codes of practice to cover content and consistency.
- b) A table grouping the codes of practice together.
- c) A flowchart providing guidance on the production of codes of practice.

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It was reported that the Chief Executive and the Director of Firearms were currently in the process of applying the protocol to produce a re-draft of the Gun Safety Code of Practice. This encompasses the Shotgun Safety, Airgun and Rifle Codes. The design of the re-drafted code will be such that elements can be lifted from the code to allow independent use. It was noted that application of the above protocol across all of the codes of practice would take time and the purpose of the current paper was to make Council aware of the procedure. A request was made to ensure that Countries were included in the process.

It was agreed to add the subject to the list of action points so that interim updates are presented to Council by the Chief Executive.

Meanwhile, Council agreed that:

- i) Re-prints of existing codes should go ahead as and when needed and that the artistic style could be changed as long as the content remained the same.*
- ii) The content may be changed if there is a change in legislation provided the change is sanctioned by the relevant advisory committee(s).*
- iii) Where a major re-draft of a code is required, the changes must be sanctioned by the relevant staff and advisory committee(s), and then ratified and agreed by Council.*

B.3 To receive a paper regarding a possible donation to WHT

Council considered a paper presented by the Director of Business Management. Council were reminded of a decision made in 2001 for BASC to make a donation to WHT of an amount, not exceeding £50,000, equal to the external income generated by the Trusts provided that the Association makes sufficient surplus to enable it to do so. A recommendation to donate £12,000 to WHT was made. It was noted that whilst tax savings could be made for the Association if it were to donate to the Wildlife Habitat Charitable Trust rather than Wildlife Habitat Trust, it was felt that the trustees would prefer not to be subject to the restrictions applicable to the use of monies held by a charity.

It was agreed that a sum of £12,000 should be donated to WHT on a goodwill basis, rather than being tied to the imaginary surplus on fundraising and merchandising activities. This sum is to be paid to the Trust after the 2006 financial statements are adopted at the AGM in June.

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B.4 To discuss the AGM 2007

B.4.1 To approve arrangements for conducting the Council ballot

Council were informed that arrangements had been made for the supplement to contain the Chairman's introduction, the statements of the candidates standing for election, the voting paper, the short biographies of current members of Council and a skeleton AGM agenda. The supplement would be included in the March edition of *Shooting and Conservation*. The voting papers would be dealt with as usual by Baker Tilly. The final agenda and the 2006 financial statements are to be included in the May edition of *Shooting and Conservation*. It was noted that the provision of an online voting facility was currently being investigated.

It was agreed that the candidates' statements be placed on the website and that the arrangements as detailed be implemented.

B.4.2 To approve the AGM agenda

Council considered and accepted the draft agenda as presented to them. It was noted that no candidates had been nominated for the two regional seats. This gave rise to some discussions and it was noted that this subject would need to be visited again in the not too distant future. Council were reminded that they were able to co-opt members if they so wished.

C.1 To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

C.1.1 To take the minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee – 12 December 2006

It was noted that the recommendation to Council had already been dealt with.

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

C.1.2 To take the minutes of the Welsh Committee – 11 February 2007

There were no recommendations to Council. A correction to the minutes was made on item 3(i) last sentence should read 130 fewer memberships rather than 303.

The Minutes of the Welsh Committee were accepted as presented.

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

The Chairman informed Council that he had recently attended the Gamekeepers Advisory Committee meeting and had found it useful and informative. He plans to attend a meeting of all of the advisory committees in the coming months, time permitting.

The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

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

A query was raised with regard to the use of the word 'qualifications' in the Chief Executive's report. Some nervousness was expressed in the use of this word as it was felt that legislative authorities may begin to insist on qualifications for, say, the issue of firearms certificates. It was explained that the terminology was used particularly in areas where a certain level of achievement had to be demonstrated, for example the FSA and DSC courses. National standards had to be recognised and BASC was working on these through LANTRA. It was noted that the Chairman of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee would present a paper to the March 2007 meeting of Council to explain this process and would include in his paper the need to co-operate with other organisations in establishing such standards.

The Chief Executive's Report was accepted as presented.

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

The Director of Communications reported that the issue of Sunday shooting had received wide coverage in the press and that BASC's position had been made perfectly clear. This had been used to inform Parliamentarians and feedback from DEFRA indicated that a change in the law was no longer going to be pursued.

The Director of Communications reported three separate incidents of breaches of the Code of Good Shooting Practice; one had been reported to BASC because the informant had no confidence in the Code's ability to deal with breaches. It was highlighted that the planned re-write of the Code had been postponed for the second year running, even though the 'Advice on stocking densities' as published by the GCT needed to be incorporated into the text. Concern was also expressed about the poor uptake of the Shoot Assurance Scheme, in that after six months only 20 shoots had registered when the initial planned figure was 300. Council agreed to refer these matters to the Game Shooting Advisory Committee and the Senior Executive Team.

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It was noted that the Chairman and Vice Chairman would be invited to attend one of the forthcoming media training days.

The Director of Communications' report was accepted as presented.

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

It was noted that Joyce Williams who had worked on reception and then with the membership team had retired after 11 years service with BASC. Council conveyed their thanks to her.

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

C.6 To take the Director of Operations' Report

It was noted that a new Regional Officer for the South East had been appointed and was to commence employment on 5th March 2007, her name is Jenni Thompson.

It was reported that the results of the recent gun prize draw had been announced and had raised £62,000 gross. Congratulations were extended to Nick Glazebrook and those who had helped him with this exercise.

The Director of Operations would speak with the Director of Firearms to establish if it is possible for the Chairman of the Firearms Advisory Committee and Mike Alldis and Carl Eriksson to be invited to attend the ACPO, BSSC and Home Office Practitioners Group meeting on 28 February 2007.

The Director of Operations' Report was accepted as presented.

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

Council were reminded to inform the IPS Secretariat by return of their accommodation requirements for the eve of the AGM.

Council agreed that the IPS Secretariat should organise dinner, set for 8pm, for those members of Council who were staying overnight on the eve of the AGM.

It was noted that recruitment plans were now underway for the Game Keeping and Game Shooting Officer.

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It was noted that recruitment plans for the Wildfowling Officer were on the point of being finalised .

A query was raised with regard to the forthcoming smoking ban in all public places and how BASC intended to deal with this at game fairs and events. It was noted that this would be discussed at the next executive meeting.

It was noted that BASC did hold the copyright for WAGBI.

It was noted that the Director of Shooting Standards would be invited to the April 2007 meeting of Council to provide an update on the Shoot Assurance Scheme.

It was noted that a paper on online voting would be brought to the March 2007 meeting of Council. If Council confirm their decision to introduce online voting, it may require a change to the Constitution on which legal advice would be have to be sought. The Director of Business Management is to speak with the Scrutineer, Jill Jones, to obtain her opinion of the proposals. If a decision is made to proceed with the introduction of electronic voting, a statement will be made at this years' AGM.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 15th March 2007, at 9.30 am.

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

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12.42 pm.

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