

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2007

Present:	Robert Irvine Tom Wylie Michael Alldis Jan Andrews Eric Begbie Simon Breasley Walter Cole Paul Culley Michael Evans Duncan Greaves Andrew Macfarlane Mike Sherman	Chairman Vice 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 Charlotte May Peter Marshall Richard Thorne	Director of Research (item A5.3 only) Director of Shooting Standards (item B3 only)

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Carl Eriksson, Lee Freeston, Peter Pursglove, Ray Walters and Colin Shedden

A2. To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that items B2, B3, C1 and C6 should be regarded as confidential.

This was agreed.

A3. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman declared an interest in Agenda Item B.2 (3.1.3).

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A.4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22nd February, 2007.

Page 3, Item A5.3 - The third paragraph to be amended to read "*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.*"

Page 8, Item C.4 - The second paragraph to be amended to read "*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.*"

Page 9, Item C.6 – Third paragraph, part line 3 to be amended to read "*and Carl Eriksson to be invited...*"

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 22nd February, 2007.

a) There were no matters arising.

A5.1 Oral Report on Proposed Communications Centre.

The interval since the last meeting had been short so little progress had been made. The Architect had contacted an engineer, who would assess the viability of a road through the wooded area. This study will involve a site investigation in order to determine the ability of the ground to support a road. The highways planner had only provided oral agreement to the proposal and the Council may be reluctant to allow the removal of any trees or hedges due to their amenity value on the edge of the village.

Members discussed various aspects of the project, in particular the possibility of obtaining an adjacent location for car parking and the need for a tree survey. It was felt that a more proactive approach was needed in order to push the scheme forward.

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It was agreed that the Chairman, the Chief Executive, the Director of Business Management and Andy MacFarlane would arrange to meet with local councillors to discuss the scheme and try to agree a way forward.

A5.2 Oral report on possible external review of BASC governance

It was noted that a meeting with the President had not yet taken place and that an update would be given to the next meeting of council.

At this juncture, whilst equipment was being set up for the following item, the Chairman of the Executive & Finance Committee informed Council that to be procedurally correct the minutes of the Executive & Finance Committee held on 22nd February 2007 would need to be agreed prior to Council considering Item B.1 – Financial Statements for 2006.

It was agreed to amend the order of items on the Agenda and to take Item C.1 at this stage.

Note - although Item C.1 was taken out of sequence, for the purposes of continuity it remains in sequential order in the minutes.

A5.3 Oral report on BASC policy on lead shot

The Director of Research joined the meeting and delivered a short up-date on issues arising out of his presentation to the February meeting of Council. Some discussion took place after which Council members were asked to pass their thoughts direct to the Director of Research so that focus could be given to the issues for consideration and a further presentation made to the April meeting of Council.

A5.4 To review Action Points from the meeting of 22nd February 2007

A5.4.1 Challenges and Opportunities in Game Shooting.

It was agreed to remove this item as an action point and that any further updates should be brought to a future meeting of Council.

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 the Director of Operations providing an up-date in his May report to Council.

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A5.4.4 Structure, role and function of principal officers, Council and Committees

It was unclear whether the working group had been given the remit to consider the Executive and Finance and the Disciplinary Committees. It was noted that the working group would liaise to confirm the areas on which it had agreed to work and would report back to Council.

The Chairman of the working group reported that they were to meet for a full day in April with a view to analysing the information received to date and formulating a fledgling model for progress. A report would be brought to the April meeting of Council that would particularly identify if significant changes to the Constitution were required.

A5.4.5 SWOT Analysis

To remain as an action point.

A5.4.6 Respect for Quarry DVD

It was noted that a paper had been appended to the Director of Operations Report. Council members were asked to note the contents and were made aware that further discussion would take place at the April or May 2007 meeting of Council. Any comments on the paper should be directed to the Director of Operations.

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 Membership retention

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

A5.4.9 Sponsorship for top level air gun young shot for the 2012 Olympics

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

A5.4.10 Rearing of grey partridges primarily for food production

Item on main agenda under Advisory Committee minutes.

A5.4.11 Rearing of game birds in Newcastle Disease areas

Item on main agenda under Advisory Committee minutes.

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.

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A5.4.13 Lead shot issues and contamination of game meat

It was noted that an update had been provided earlier in the meeting.

B.1 To approve the Financial Statements for 2006

The Director of Business Management tabled revised financial statements which contained some amendments made since the Executive and Finance Committee, had considered and approved them at their meeting on 22nd February, It was explained that HMRC, subsequent to that meeting, had confirmed that any retrospective liability in relation to the VAT treatment of BASC subscriptions, would only go back as far as January 2006, rather than to 1994 as they had considered. The consequence of this decision was a £150,000 reduction in the provision for VAT to be paid and the consequent removal of what has been note 4 to the previous accounts. The effect of this increased the net surplus for 2006 from £190,000 to £340,000.

The Chairman of the Executive and Finance Committee endorsed the accounts as presented and recommended their acceptance by Council and subsequent presentation for adoption at the forthcoming AGM. He went on to praise the work conducted by the Director of Business Management.

It was agreed to accept the Financial Statements as presented.

B.2. To consider Honours, Awards and Presentations at the AGM 2007

It was agreed to that all nominations would be considered at the April meeting of Council.

B.3 To receive a paper on the relationship between courses, certification, accreditation and qualifications

Council considered a paper presented by the Chairman of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee, Duncan Greaves. It was noted that this was intended to open debate regarding the clarity of processes and mechanisms for the accreditation of courses.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive, the Director of Operations, the Director of Shooting Standards and Duncan Greaves would meet and produce a follow up paper which would be brought to the April meeting of Council.

B.4 To receive a paper regarding the introduction of on-line voting for candidates for election to Council

Council considered a paper presented by the Director of Business Management which outlined how the process of on line voting would work. It was stated that appropriate safeguards would be built into the system to ensure data security; that

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the scheme would provide an almost immediate financial benefit to the Association, and that the Auditors had reviewed the scheme and had endorsed its introduction if adopted by Council. It was noted that legal advice would be obtained in relation to the need for changes in the wording of the constitution which refers to ballot papers. Members asked that if a Special General Meeting is needed, if possible it should be convened immediately after the AGM.

It was agreed that subject to legal advice, the proposal should be accepted.

C.1 To approve the minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee held on 22nd February 2007

The Chairman of the Executive and Finance Committee informed Council that the Financial Statements for 2006 had been examined by the committee and were ratified as presented. Some discussion ensued around the issue of who should sign the report of the Executive and Finance Committee. It was agreed that it should be signed by both the Chairman of the committee and the Chief Executive. The document is to be altered and signed at a later date by both parties.

Subject to the financial statements being amended as agreed, the minutes were noted as presented.

C.2 To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

C.2.1 To take the minutes of the Gamekeepers Advisory Committee – 6 February 2007

There were two recommendations to Council:

- i) On the legality of rearing grey partridges primarily for food production – the committee concluded that under current legislation grey partridges can be reared for food production but only killed between 1st September and 1st February. The Committee acknowledged the government proposals to allow year round sale of game birds providing the birds were legitimately shot during the previous shooting season.
- ii) On the legality of rearing game birds in areas where there has been an outbreak of Newcastle Disease – the committee concluded that game birds can be reared in areas following an outbreak of Newcastle Disease. It is a notifiable disease therefore DEFRA will put in place measures regarding movements of livestock and bio-security. Shoots suffering an outbreak would be required to clean their premises in line with official advice and inspection by DEFRA. A period of 30 days would elapse before restocking.

Council accepted the above recommendations.

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

C.2.2 To take the minutes of the Scottish Committee – 15 February 2007

There were no recommendations to Council. A correction to the minutes was to be made to lines 4 and 5 of the last paragraph of item 8 by the Chairman of the Scottish Committee.

Subject to the amendment, the Minutes of the Scottish Committee were accepted as presented.

C.2.3 To take the minutes of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee – 21 February 2007

There were three recommendations to Council:

- i) That BASC go ahead with the recognition of the PAS course by NPTC as a level 2 National Standard.
This was accepted by Council.
- ii) To trial a Young Shots Training Portfolio/Record of Achievement – this would be conducted by David Knowles in the South East Region.
This was noted by Council.
- iii) To enable a further recommendation regarding shooting, shooting related courses, certification, accreditation and qualifications, a report from Duncan Greaves detailing pros and cons will follow.
This was noted by Council

The minutes of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee were accepted as presented.

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

The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

C.4. To receive an oral Report from the Chief Executive

It was noted that the Chief Executive had been asked to provide an update on the consent issue relating to the Humber. It was reported that following his intervention last year, the Chief Executive had encouraged Natural England to come back to the table in an effort to resolve the differences. They had agreed to hold meetings at three levels:

- a) First, between the two clubs involved and Natural England

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- b) Second, with all of the clubs on the Humber once the issues with the initial two clubs had been resolved
- c) Finally, a high level meeting between the Director of Conservation and Land Management and his opposite number in Natural England

The two clubs had been asked to withdraw their appeal and Natural England had written to them to arrange a structured meeting which would be a relaxed process but would be conducted in a formal way. Natural England had made it clear that BASC's involvement was welcome.

It was reported that the Northern Regional Director had recently chaired a meeting of the Upper Humber Wildfowling Committee and had reported that the clubs had not yet submitted their case to Natural England (NE) and that NE had had no response from the clubs involved since December 2006. NE was now enquiring what the clubs' intentions were as no progress was being made.

The Chief Executive invited Simon Breasley to provide a further update as he had been acting on behalf of the two clubs involved. Simon Breasley's interest in this matter was noted at this point.

Simon Breasley reported that the two clubs were being forced to submit their statements and they had received a series of mixed messages from NE which made them feel as though they were being misled. It was reported that the two clubs had recently met to discuss this issue and how to deal with it, as well as an article that had been submitted to the Shooting Times. It was noted that the clubs will accept a formal meeting but they were concerned that the formal mediator would not be impartial as he was to be selected by NE.

The Chief Executive concluded his report.

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

The Director of Communications provided an update on the issue of tail docking. Following a small hiccup, the Commons had passed the bill and this was now going to the House of Lords. It was expected that full implementation of the bill would take place in April.

The Regulatory Reform Game Order 2007 had now been laid before both Houses of Parliament which effectively removed the restriction on the sale of game between seasons. This would come into effect in England and Wales in August 2007.

The Director of Communications agreed to re-visit the Statistics section of his paper as there appeared to be a small discrepancy on the Northern Ireland figures.

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Thanks were proffered to the Director of Communications for the work he had conducted regarding tail docking.

It was reported that BASC was keen to allow the logo to be used on publications it agreed to endorse to promote BASC's values.

The Director of Communications' report was accepted as presented.

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

Following a query raised by some members in connection with the year on year decline in membership numbers reported in the last couple of months, the Director of Business Management maintained that there was no immediate cause for major concern. A recent telephone survey of a random selection of former members had indicated that the two main reasons for lapsing are giving up the sport and simple laziness. It was noted that attention was being focused on how to retain and recover members.

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

C.7 To take the Director of Operations' Report

It was noted that a supplemental paper had been added to the Director of Operations report outlining the project costs for producing and distributing a Respect for Quarry DVD. Council members were asked to note the contents of this supplement with a view to this being discussed at a future meeting of Council.

It was noted that a trial of a Rifle Awareness day is being conducted in the SE Region.

The Director of Operations extended his thanks to Jan Andrews and Walter Cole for their assistance at Crufts. Congratulations were also offered to Jamie Stewart, Sheila Gussey and the rest of the team for their organisation of the event. Walter Cole endorsed this.

Council were informed that the WAGBI rose would be available for sale as part of the Centenary celebrations.

A suite of initiatives were currently being researched to aid retention rates, and a report would be brought to the September 2007 meeting of Council.

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Members were informed that copies of the recent customer satisfaction questionnaire could be obtained from the Director of Operations if required.

The Director of Operations' Report was accepted as presented.

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

It was noted that the Director of Business Management would e-mail a draft of the letter of representation to members of the Executive and Finance Committee for their approval.

Council agreed to a request that the Association seal be applied at a forthcoming meeting of the Pension Trustees, to deeds which would dissolve the occupational pension schemes and discharge the trustees.

It was noted that issues relating to the Code of Good Shooting Practice and the Shoot Assurance Scheme were being dealt with.

It was noted that progress had been made in the first quarter relating to the 5 year planning process. It was reported however that the senior executive team was still on track to meet the November 2007 deadline. It was agreed to add this to the list of action points so that regular updates could be provided.

It was reported that contrary to what had been published in the last edition of Shooting and Conservation, there would be no parking charge for delegates attending the AGM 2007.

Council were informed of a recent accident involving a gamekeeper using a quad bike travelling to feed his pheasants. The Health and Safety Executive were involved in the investigation. It was noted that the incident had ramifications for lone workers. It was agreed that the Head of Gamekeeping be asked to look into this matter and make recommendations if considered necessary.

It was noted that the smoking ban would come into force in Wales on 2nd of April 2007.

It was noted that no contact numbers had been made available in the last edition of Shooting and Conservation for the wildfowling members.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 19th April 2007, at 9.30 am.

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**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2007**

**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 12.40 pm.

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