THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 17 MAY 2007

Present:	**Robert Irvine**	**Chairman**
	Michael Alldis	
	Eric Begbie	
	Simon Breasley	
	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**
	Christopher Graffius	**Director of Communications**
	Simon Hamlyn	**Director of Operations**
	Vivienne Jasper	**IPS Secretary**
	Glynn Cook	**Director, Wales**
	Roger Pollen	**Director, Northern Ireland**
	Colin Shedden	**Director, Scotland**
Secretary:	**Amanda Forshaw**	**Minute Secretary**
In attendance	**Richard Thorne**	**Director of Shooting Standards (item B5 only)**

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Jan Andrews, Walter Cole, Paul Culley, Cark Eriksson and Tom Wylie,

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that items B5, C1 and C6 should be regarded as confidential. It was agreed that for future meetings, the determination of confidential items would be agreed between the Chairman and the respective presenters of items and this would be indicated on the agenda.

A.3. Declaration of Interests

Peter Pursglove declared an interest in item B5 on the agenda. The Chairman and Michael Evans declared an interest in Agenda Item B6.

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A.4 <u>To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 April 2007.</u>

Page 2, Item A3 – It was noted that Lee Freeston had declared an interest in this item.
Page 5, Item 3.2 – It was noted that 'James' Teale should be amended to read 'Graham' Teale.
Page 7, Item C1.2 – The Chairman and the Chief Executive would provide a form of words to be inserted to reflect Rule 2(d) of the Constitution and Objects.

Subject to the above amendments, the Minutes were duly accepted as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings.

A.5. <u>To take Matters Arising from the meeting held on 19 April 2007.</u>

a) In relation to page 2, Item A5(a) of the last meeting, it was clarified that in Scotland game sold to or by a game dealer can only be sold for a period of 10 days after the close of the season. This is in contrast to the rules pertaining to England and Wales where game meat will become saleable throughout the year. It was noted that plans to review this currently rested with the Scottish Executive however it was felt that no action would be taken this year. It was agreed that the Director, Scotland would write an article on this topic for the next issue of *Shooting and Conservation*.

A5.1 <u>Oral Report on Proposed Communications Centre.</u>

It was reported that tree, ecological, botanical and topographical surveys were well underway in the woodland adjacent to the mill and whilst the ground provided a good habitat for newts, the adjacent water body was not suitable so it was unlikely that the presence of newts would stop the proposed road through the wood. A report on the soil sample analysis was awaited, following which detailed costs for constructing the road could be derived. It was reported that the Architect remained confident that the planning application could be submitted at the beginning of June. It was noted that this date was being considered as the hard date from which to bottom out the true costs and implications of Plan A and to consider options for Plan B.

It was agreed that a report would be brought to the July meeting of Council with an interim update being provided at the Council meeting following the AGM.

A5.2 <u>On-line voting – legal advice</u>

It was reported that legal advice had confirmed that since there was no intention to withdraw the paper-based voting system on-line voting can be provided without changes to the constitution.

It was agreed to proceed with software development and back office work in readiness for the 2008 elections.

A5.3 <u>To review Action Points from the meeting of 19 April 2007</u>

A5.3.1 <u>WHT New Development Plan</u>
To remain as an action point with a paper to be brought to the October 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.3.2 <u>Regenerating Ownership, Partnership and Commitment</u>
Item on main agenda

A5.3.3 <u>Structure, role and function of principal officers, Council and Committees</u>
Item on main agenda.

A5.3.4 <u>SWOT Analysis</u>
Item included in the Chief Executive's report.

A5.3.5 <u>Respect for Quarry DVD</u>
To remain as an action point with a paper to be brought to the July 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.3.6 <u>Membership category for overseas visitors</u>
Item on main agenda.

A5.3.7 <u>Membership retention</u>
To remain as an action point with a paper to be brought to the September 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.3.8 <u>Quality Assurance and Complaints Procedure</u>
Item on main agenda.

A5.3.9 <u>Re-write of the Five Year Plan</u>
To remain as an action point with a paper to be brought to the November 2007 meeting of Council, with an initial draft brought to the October meeting of Council.

A5.3.10 <u>Relationship between courses, certification, accreditation and qualifications</u>

Item on main agenda.

A5.3.11 On-line voting
Discussed earlier. To be removed as an action point.

B.1 To receive an oral report on the structure, role and function of principal officers, council and committees.

The working group had met on a number of occasions and had gathered information from varying sources. Their findings to date had been collated into groups with two main themes emerging on which the views of Council were sought.

The first was the way in which Council operates and handles its business and the second was the manner in which Council members are elected with particular reference to the English regional seats which were not seen as being particularly effective.

Ideas for consideration included reducing the size of Council, holding fewer meetings and tasking smaller groups to work on specific projects and policy issues. It was noted that this was already permitted under the Constitution. Given the emergent opinion of the English regional seats, it was suggested that the size of Council could be reduced by not replacing all the regional seats with national ones.

In the course of the discussions a number of views and opinions were expressed including:

- the comparative working dynamics of smaller and larger groups;
- the advantages and disadvantages of an arrangement that was seen as closely resembling the old Council and Executive and Finance Committee structure, e.g. better preparation and more informed consideration of matters for debate; lengthy Council meetings; less interaction between staff and Council members (staff like frequency); elitism; don't underestimate the value of Council; important to work in real time.

Council members were asked to express their opinions on all these issues and any other aspects regarding the working of Council. The feedback would be considered by the working group.

It was agreed that Michael Evans should remain a member of the working group and that an update be provided to Council in the autumn.

B.2. To receive a progress paper on regenerating ownership, partnership and commitment

Council members considered a paper and noted in particular the work already in progress in relation to the retention of members. It was noted that the ideas would be fed into the forward plan and that a regular report would be received as each strand developed.

B.3. <u>To receive a proposal on a membership category for temporary overseas visitors</u>

Council considered a paper outlining three proposals relating to Financial Services Authority (FSA) compliant mechanisms for the provision of shooting insurance for overseas visitors. Proposal one is to extend the current membership to incorporate a 'Short term overseas member' category. Proposal two is to use a third party provider to provide BASC branded visitor insurance. Proposal three is not to offer a facility. Council debated the membership options.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive should explore further the proposal to find a third party provider to work in conjunction with BASC.

B.4 <u>To receive a paper on Quality and Complaints Procedures</u>

Council considered a paper outlining the quality standards applied and the complaints procedure currently adopted by BASC. It was noted that there were areas for development in particular the definition of services, branding and performance review, as well as the application of the project management protocol to new services. The Chief Executive agreed to re-write the paper as an annex to the Role and Operations paper.

It was agreed that a paper be brought to the March meeting of Council, summarising the complaints and plaudits received in the preceding 12 months.

B.5 <u>To receive a presentation on the relationship between courses, certification, accreditation and qualifications</u>

The Chief Executive and the Director of Shooting Standards gave presentations to Council and subsequently distributed papers to support them. The Chief Executive reported that discussions were continuing with partner bodies including the Shoot Summit and Lantra. He identified three areas for discussion:

a) Agreeing an overarching policy framework which was the aim of the Chief Executive's presentation.
b) Preparation of an audit of training provision across the shooting community which was the aim of the Director of Shooting Standards presentation, and

c) Provision of a supporting document that explains how the process fits together which was the aim of a paper distributed to Council but originally submitted to the Shoot Summit by the LANTRA consultant Patrick McDaniel.

After some discussion it was agreed that the way forward would need to be seen as a robust process and that there was further work to do. The policy framework would be considered by the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee and then brought back to Council. The Director of Shooting Standards was encouraged to continue with the audit.

Council then discussed a letter received from Mr Ellis Grey and it was noted that it will be considered by the Wildfowling Liaison Committee.

It was noted that the PAS course was currently being considered for adoption by Lantra.

It was agreed that if Lantra indicated their intention to approve the course, that this should be brought back to Council for further discussion and agreement.

B.6 <u>To receive a paper on the Disciplinary Appeals Committee</u>

Council noted the content of the paper and agreed that John Graham and Graham Crompton-Howe be asked to participate in the above committee. It was agreed that a panel of members should be appointed to the committee to allow flexibility of representation in future.

C.1 <u>To approve the minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee</u>

<u>C.1.1 1 April 2007</u>

The minutes of the meeting were noted by Council.

<u>C.1.2 19 April 2007</u>

An amendment to the minutes on page 2, section 2.3 was agreed – to remove all the words after the word '*….taken.*'

The minutes of the meeting were noted by Council.

C.2 <u>To take the Minutes of the Advisory Committees</u>

C.2.1 <u>To take the minutes of the Gundog Advisory Committee – 14 March 2007</u>

There were two recommendations relating to the policy statement on the use of electronic collars. There was some opposition to the proposed wording. It was agreed that Council members' concerns should be taken back to the Gundog Advisory Committee for further discussion. The Director of Communications was asked to help facilitate the discussions.

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

C.2.2 <u>To take the minutes of the Gameshooting Advisory Committee – 11 April 2007</u>

As the minutes had been circulated late, it was agreed that these minutes would be considered at the July meeting of Council.

C.3. <u>To receive the Chairman's Activities Report</u>

It was agreed that the Chairman's annual report to Council could be circulated to all staff.

The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

C.4. <u>To receive the Chief Executive's Report</u>

The Chief Executive reminded Council of the forthcoming barbeque and asked Council members to confirm their attendance.

The Chief Executive informed Council that no progress had yet been evident regarding seeking settlement of the Hull and East Riding WA and Holderness and Humber WA's dispute with Natural England over their wildfowling within the Humber SSSI/NATURA 2000 area. Meanwhile Phil Pugh as Chairman of the Upper Humber Wildfowling Committee had been holding back on concluding arrangements for all the Upper Humber clubs until the former dispute had been resolved. Time was now running out and Phil Pugh would have little option but to proceed with concluding arrangements for the Upper Humber. It was agreed that BASC's offer to assist the two clubs with Natural England under the auspices of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee still remained open. If that proved unproductive and it became evident to WLC that Natural England were uncooperative and wrong and that a formal appeal was in the last resort an appropriate course of action, then BASC Council would be in a position to assist with this too.

Simon Breasley maintained that the fault lay with Natural England and that their insistence on a formal procedure was unreasonable. It was noted the Chairman of the WLC asked Simon Breasley on two occasions how BASC could help the two clubs.

Council noted that the Chief Executive intended to speak with Natural England himself concerning the overall situation and ensure there was no misunderstanding. The matter breaks down into three parts – developing NE's policy for wildfowling, concluding arrangements on the Upper Humber and resolving the two clubs' dispute. The first part was of considerable importance. The Upper Humber had to be concluded or the wildfowling there would fall outside the law come 1 September. The two clubs should take up Natural England's offer to get around the table even though certain formalities would have to met.

It was agreed that a progress report should be given at the July meeting of Council.

The Chief Executive's report was accepted as presented.

C.5. <u>To receive the Director of Communications' report</u>

It was noted that the Code of Practice for Airguns was being updated in conjunction with ACPO to comply with recent legislative changes.

The Director of Communications' report was accepted as presented.

C.6. <u>To take the Director of Business Management's Report</u>

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

C.7 <u>To take the Director of Operations' Report</u>

Congratulations were offered to Alan McCormick for the work he had recently concluded with Gordon Ramsay.

It was noted that Sainsbury's were keen to continue to work with BASC to promote game and that they had also indicated their willingness to assist with BASC's centenary celebrations at the CLA Game fair in 2008.

It was reported that a new game fair was to be held at Shugborough, four weeks before the BASC Gamekeepers' Fair at Catton Park. Consideration would be given to increasing the marketing budget for the Catton event.

The Director of Operations' Report was accepted as presented.

D.1 <u>Any Other Business by Leave of the Chairman.</u>

It was noted that in a radio interview Michelle Roux had cited game cookery as his favourite and that he had also praised the quality of British game.

Concern was expressed regarding those people who borrow shotguns to shoot game not realising that unless the land occupier is present it is illegal so to do . It was agreed that BASC should issue a statement regarding this practice and that legal opinion should be sought beforehand. It was agreed that a draft statement will be brought to the July meeting of Council.

It was reported that contact details for the Wildfowling department were still missing from *Shooting & Conservation*. The Director of Communications agreed to speak with Jeffrey Olstead and Tim Russell.

It was agreed that the one incorrect reference to the Wildlife Habitat Charitable Trust within the financial statements should be noted at the AGM. The Chairman agreed to do this.

Thanks were given to all those involved in the organisation and running of the recent punt gunners meeting.

Thanks were given to all those involved in the organisation and running of the recent game fair at Ballywalter.

D.2. <u>Date of Next Meeting</u>

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Saturday, 9 June 2007, after the AGM.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1.50 pm.

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