THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2007.

Present:	**Robert Irvine**	**Chairman**
	Ray Walters	**Vice Chairman**
	Mike Alldis	
	Jan Andrews	
	Eric Begbie	
	Simon Breasley	
	Robert Crofts	
	Paul Culley	
	Carl Eriksson	
	Lee Freeston	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Peter Pursglove	
	Mike Sherman	
	John Thornley	
Ex-Officio Members	**John Swift**	**Chief Executive**
	Philippa Bursey	**Director of Business**
Management		
	Glynn Cook	**Director, Wales**
	Christopher Graffius	**Director of Communications**
	Simon Hamlyn	**Director of Operations**
	Roger Pollen	**Director, Northern Ireland**
	Colin Shedden	**Director, Scotland**
Secretary:	**Amanda Forshaw**	**Minute Secretary**

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Walter Cole, Andy Macfarlane and Tom Wylie.

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that items A.5.2; B.1; B.6 and C.6 should be regarded as confidential.

A.3. Declaration of Interests

Peter Pursglove declared an interest in Agenda Item B.4

A.4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th July, 2007

Page 5, Item B.4 – An addendum was agreed to the final sentence as follows:-

'Whilst it was a true record of what was said, the correct procedure to be followed is that the matter should be considered in the first instance by the Executive & Finance Committee, thereafter should it be deemed necessary a presentation to Council'.

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

A.5. To take Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 19th July, 2007

a) Page 3 – Item A5.3. The Chief Executive apologised that arrangements had not been made for copies of an extract from Council Minutes of March 1999, when the decision was taken to seek accreditation of PAS, to be circulated to members prior to the meeting. Copies were circulated at the meeting.

b) Page 8 – Item C.2.3. It was noted that enquiries have been made with the association's insurers regarding the possibility of transporting the BASC Shotgun Coach Award to the USA. The insurers had advised that a tenuous liability exposure already exists. Some debate ensured around the pros and cons of developing this further.

It was agreed that Council would not explore further the possibility of transporting the BASC Shotgun Coach Award to the USA.

It was further agreed that the Director of Operations, Director of Business Management and staff of the Shooting Standards Department are tasked with considering possible liability exposure in other areas and looking at necessary arrangements to ensure that BASC liabilities are covered.

c) Page 9 – Item C.4 – It was noted that the launch of the Gamekeepers' Welfare Network, which had been due to take place at the Midland Game Fair, was being deferred pending further discussions on the way to resolve some outstanding issues.

A5.1 To receive an oral update on the proposed Communications Centre

It was reported that advice regarding the outcome of the Planning Application had not yet been received and as a consequence it was considered unlikely that approval could be granted before November at the earliest. The Architect had also advised of changes in requirements in relation to the Flood Risk Assessment and the location of the compensatory storage area. It was noted that a felling licence would be required. These factors were now impacting upon the project timetable and it was agreed that further consideration be given to the progression of the project.

It was agreed that a detailed report outlining recommendations be presented to the October meeting of Council.

A.5.2. To receive an oral update on VAT appeal.

It was reported that the HMRC Statement of Case which was due to be issued on 17th September had yet to be received. Once this was available, the VAT expert at Baker Tilly, in conjunction with Counsel, would consider the merits of proceeding with an appeal.

It was agreed that a detailed report be presented to the October meeting of Council.

A.5.3 To note the BASC response to DEFRA's coastal access consultation.

Council noted the excellent work by Connor O'Gorman in formulating the response to DEFRA's coastal access consultation.

It was agreed that a note of appreciation be recorded by Council for all the work carried out by Dr. Connor O'Gorman in compiling the response to this consultation.

A.5.4 To review action points from the meeting held on 19th July, 2007-09-25

A5.4.1. WHT New Development Plan
To remain an action point with a paper to be brought to the October 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.4.2 Regenerating Ownership, Partnership & Commitment
To remain an action point with a paper being brought to a future meeting of Council.

A5.4.3 Structure, role and function of principal officers, Council and Committees
To remain as an action point with a paper to be brought to the October 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.4.4. Strategy for Shooting 2008 – 2012
To remain as an action point with a paper to be brought to the January or February 2008 meeting of Council.

A5.4.5. Respect for Quarry DVD
Item on main agenda.

A5.4.6. Membership Retention
Item on main agenda.

A5.4.7 Quality Assurance and Complaints Procedure
To remain as an action point with a paper to be brought to the December 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.4.8 Relationship between courses, certification, accreditation and qualifications.
Item on main agenda.

A5.4.9. New post for shooting and land procurement
Item on main agenda.

A5.4.10. Consultation Flow Chart
Item on main agenda.

A5.4.11 Role and Operations Paper
To remain as an action point with a paper to be brought to the October 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.4.12 Audit Timetable
To remain as an action point with a paper to be brought to the October 2007 meeting of Council.

A5.4.13 English Council Representation
To remain as an action point with a report being brought to the November 2007 meeting of Council.

B.1. To receive a development paper on Respect for Quarry DVD

Council received a paper which highlighted a number of new added value elements to the project and substantial cost savings. The proposed DVD would be an eco-friendly product, of high quality, with a technically competent programme. Other benefits would include downloadable content in full or in part; mini films; more material available for the photographic library and the opportunity to offer the contents to interested TV companies.

The general consensus was that this project was ready to move forward, however it was noted that the Senior Management Team had yet to fully consider whether this was the best way of spending the money in terms of the Respect for Quarry programme.

It was agreed a decision on whether to progress the matter any further be postponed until the Chief Executive and Director of Operations bring a paper on these new issues to the October meeting of Council.

B.2 **To receive an oral review of the data on membership retention**

Council received an oral update and tabled paper on the work being undertaken on membership retention and consideration of a possible increase in the upper age limit for Young Shots.

It was noted that a number of inter-linked projects have been initiated to look at member retention across all categories, including an internal retention group headed by David Illsley, external Consultants, the Ownership, Partnership and Commitment Group of Council elected members, trial telephone initiatives and the membership satisfaction survey.

B.3 **To receive an oral report on recent developments regarding airguns in Scotland.**

Council were informed of a suggestion that BASC should consider introducing a voluntary registration scheme for airguns in Scotland.

Considerable debate therein ensued around the pros and cons of helping in such an initiative. Note was taken that a similar debate held in the recent Scottish Committee meeting had lead to strongly voiced opinions supporting both sides of the argument.

Council expressed their concerns about participation in such a scheme and noted that:

1) *any voluntary registration scheme may lead on to mandatory legislation,*
2) *the best defence of airguns in Scotland would be to support firearms legislation being retained by Westminster.*

B.4. To receive an oral report in respect of PAS and the wider policy concerning standards, training and qualifications.

Council were advised that the NGO have indicated some concerns regarding course costs and whether accreditation for PAS would eventually lead to mandatory testing. Further discussions are planned between BASC and NGO to attempt to address these issues. In addition, Dr. Peter Marshall will be arranging to meet with LANTRA representatives and further consideration will be given to the Proficiency Award Scheme by the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee following which the matter will be brought back to Council for decision.

It was agreed that the matter be brought back to a further meeting of Council for a decision.

B.5. To receive a report regarding establishing a Wildfowling Department.

Council received a report providing an up-date on the progress of the newly formed Wildfowling Department. It was noted that there are no budget implications at present, but should they arise they will be considered at the November 2007 meeting of Council.

B.6 To receive a paper in respect of a new staff post for shooting land procurement

It was noted that the Senior Management Team have given detailed consideration to the possible creation of this new staff post and felt that the main function should cover working with clubs and other members to assist them to take up opportunities to increase and strengthen their land holding for shooting.

The draft job description was currently being written and once developed a bid for funding would be included in the budget presented to the November 2007 Meeting of Council.

It was agreed that the proposal for an additional staff post be included in the budget process.

B.7 To agree a procedure by which formal consultations will be handled.

Council were presented with a report and flow chart which outlined a more disciplined procedure by which formal consultations would be handled, consulted upon, decided and communicated.

Council agreed to accept the recommended procedure for formal consultations.

B.8 <u>To approve membership of Advisory Committees.</u>

B8.1. <u>Conservation and Land Management Advisory Committee</u>

The membership of the Conservation and Land Management Advisory Committee was approved.

B8.2. <u>Deer Advisory Committee</u>

JohnThornley is to be added to the membership list.

Subject to the above amendment the membership of the Deer Advisory Committee was approved.

B8.3. <u>Firearms and Air Weapons Advisory Committee</u>

Vice-Chairman to be amended to read "Mike Evans"

Subject to the above amendment the membership of the Firearms and Air Weapons Advisory Committee was approved.

B8.4. <u>Gamekeepers' Advisory Committee</u>

Robert Crofts to be identified as Vice Chairman.

Subject to the above amendment the membership of the Gamekeepers Advisory Committee was approved

B8.5. <u>Game Shooting Advisory Committee</u>

John Thornley is to be added to the membership list.
The Hon. G.E. Lopes – designation to be amended to read "MRICS".

Subject to the above amendments the membership of the Game Shooting Advisory Committee was approved.

B8.6 <u>Gundog Advisory Committee</u>

The membership of the Gundog Advisory Committee was approved.

B8.7 <u>Northern Ireland Committee</u>

The membership of the Northern Ireland Committee was approved.

B8.8. <u>Research Advisory Committee</u>

RI to check re. Mike Alldis.

B8.9. <u>Scottish Committee</u>

The membership of the Scottish Committee was approved.

B8.10 <u>Shooting Standards Advisory Committee</u>

Andy Tubb is no longer corresponding – to be removed from membership list.
Paul Evans is to be added to the membership list (corresponding).

Subject to the above amendments the membership of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee was approved.

B8.11 <u>Welsh Committee</u>

Carl Eriksson is to be added to the membership list.

Subject to the above amendment the membership of the Welsh Committee was approved.

B8.12 <u>Wildfowling Liaison Committee</u>

The membership of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee was approved.

C.1. <u>To approve the Minutes of the Advisory Committees</u>

C2.1 <u>Gamekeepers' Advisory Committee – 30.08.07.</u>

Page 6 – final sentence (in italics) should read '*As Gamekeepers, to be recognised, respected and understood by the public for the substantial way we* *manage game and wildlife and to ensure the future of gamekeeping in an ever changing countryside".*

There were no recommendations to Council
Council noted an invitation from the RSPCA to give a presentation on their annual inspectors' course.

Subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the Gamekeepers' Advisory Committee were accepted as presented.

C3. To take the Chairman's report

The Chairman presented his report to Council. It was noted that Ken Arkley (Secretary of the Hull & East Riding Wildfowlers Association) had been provided with suggested dates to meet with the Chairman, other BASC staff and/or Council Members.

The Chairman's Report was accepted as presented.

C.4 To take the Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented an oral report to Council. The Chief Executive paid tribute to Alan McCormick, Deer Officer, who has done an excellent job in ensuring that BASC staff are kept updated on the current Foot & Mouth problems.

It was noted that the cancellation of the CLA Game Fair had caused a great deal of anxiety amongst BASC trade members. It had now been confirmed that stallholders would be reimbursed in part by the CLA.

Congratulations were offered to Dr. Peter Marshall who had been appointed to the post of Director of Shooting Standards.

It was noted that meetings had taken place with Adrian Gain, the newly appointed Chief Executive of the CLA, and with Richard Brunstrom, North Wales Police Chief Constable.

The Chief Executive and Chairman attended a meeting of the Shoot Summit on 12th September, 2007, and the Chairman and Chief Executive are scheduled to meet with Teresa Dent of the Game Conservancy Trust

(to be renamed "The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust" as from 1st October, 2007) after the Labour Party Conference.

Finally, it was with great sadness that the Chief Executive announced the death this week of Pauline Hodkinson who had been a longstanding staff member of BASC.

The Chief Executive's report was accepted as presented.

C.5. <u>To take the Director of Communications' Report</u>

It was noted that confirmation had been given at the Liberal Democrats' Party Conference on 18th September that there would be a statement in their manifesto supporting legal, responsible and safe shooting sports. It was hoped to be able to work more closely with them in producing an appropriate shooting policy.

The Director of Communications' Report was accepted as presented.

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

It was noted that staff within the membership department were busy at present.

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

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

Thanks were expressed to staff and Council members who had attended the Midland Game Fair. Thanks were expressed to Carl Cox for his hard work and commitment and it was noted that he would be leaving BASC in the next couple of months. Arrangements are in hand for the recruitment of his successor. Thanks were also expressed to Dr. Peter Marshall who has recently been appointed to the post of Director of Shooting Standards, and Charlie May, Research Officer, who is moving to London, for their work within the Research Department.

The Director of Operations' report was accepted as presented.

D1 <u>To take Any Other Business by Leave of the Chairman.</u>

The importance of careful proof reading and editing of articles was raised with examples of errors published in recent publications and DVD's.

It was suggested that consideration be given to the resources and manpower necessary to ensure that the high standards of response and information dissemination regarding the Foot & Mouth outbreaks is maintained.

It was noted that a decision has been taken not to change the age limit for young people to shoot in Northern Ireland. It is planned to allow 12 year olds and upwards to shoot clays under supervision.

Council was advised that John Cubby has sustained severe burns in an accident and is seriously ill in hospital.

It was noted that the Langholm Restoration Project had been launched.

The joint initiative with the Post Office in Scotland regarding sales of Game Licences is going well with over 700 licences sold.

Progress is continuing with the production of a Centenary Whisky.

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

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be on 18th October 2007 at 9.30 am.

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

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