THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 2007.

Present:	**Robert Irvine**	**Chairman**
	Eric Begbie	
	Paul Culley	
	Lee Freeston	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Andy Macfarlane	
	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**
	Colin Shedden	**Director, Scotland**
Secretary:	**Amanda Forshaw**	**Minute Secretary**

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Jan Andrews, Simon Breasley, Walter Cole, Robert Crofts, Carl Eriksson, Simon Hamlyn, Roger Pollen, Peter Pursglove, Ray Walters, Tom Wylie and Mike Alldis.

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that items B.1 and C.5 should be regarded as confidential.

A.3. Declaration of Interests

Lee Freeston and John Swift declared an interest in Agenda Item B.2
Philippa Bursey, Glynn Cook, Christopher Graffius, Colin Shedden and John Swift declared an interest in Agenda Item B.5

A.4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th September, 2007.

Page 1, Item A.1 – spelling of surname to be corrected – Andy Macfarlane.
Page 5, Item B.3 – Line 1 typo – should read "SNP" and not "SMP".
Page 11, Item D.1 – fifth paragraph typo – should read "Langholm" and not "Langham"

Subject to the above amendments it was agreed to accept the Minutes as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 2007.

A.5. To take Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 20th September, 2007

There were no Matters Arising.

A5.1 To receive an Oral Update on the Proposed Communications Centre

It was reported that changes have recently been made to the guidelines so the measuring point for the visibility splay onto the public highway has been moved such that a 90 metre clear line of sight can now be achieved without the need for BASC to secure legal control over neighbouring land. This means that it will not be necessary to build a new road and only 52 cubic metres of compensatory water storage at the highest point of the site will be required, instead of some 279 cubic metres. An amended Flood Risk Assessment is now being drawn up so a revised application for planning consent can be submitted to the November meeting of the Planning Committee.

It is hoped that construction can commence in the spring of 2008, with completion by the end of the year.

It was agreed that a note of appreciation be recorded by Council for the work carried out to date by the Director of Business Management on the planning for the proposed new Communications Centre.

A.5.2. To receive an oral report in respect of the "Respect for Quarry DVD" and related opportunities

Council were informed that a meeting of the Senior Management Team took place on 27th September, 2007, to consider what part the Marksman Training System, which emerged in Britain at the Midland Game Fair, might play in the Respect for Quarry Programme. The Marksman Training System, which is Swedish, provides a highly sophisticated computer-modelled image of the complete shooting experience and a demonstration has been arranged for a small group of people at Marford Mill on Monday 22nd October, 2007. Following this, a further report will be presented to the November meeting of Council.

A.5.3 To review action points from the meeting held on 20th September, 2007.

A5.4.1. WHT New Development Plan
Item on main agenda

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 November 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 and DVD project
Progress report to be presented to the November 2007 meeting of Council

A5.4.6. Quality Assurance and Complaints Procedure
To remain as an action point with a paper to be provided to the December 2007 meeting of Council

A5.4.7 Relationship between courses, certification, accreditation and qualifications.
To be merged with action point 12.

A5.4.8. Roles & Operations paper
Item on main agenda

A5.4.9. Audit Timetable
Item on main agenda

A5.4.10 English Council Representative
Response from legal advisors awaited. To remain as an action point with a paper to be provided to the November 2007 meeting of Council

A5.4.11 Membership Retention
Item on main agenda

A5.4.12 PAS and the wider policy concerning standards, training and qualifications
To be merged with Action Point 7

A.5.13 Establishing a Wildfowling Department budget implications
To be considered at November 2007 meeting of Council

A.5.14 New Staff Post for shooting land procurement budget implications
To be considered at November 2007 meeting of Council

B.1. To decide whether to pursue a VAT appeal

It was reported that a response has been received from Baker Tilly regarding Counsel's rate of costs. Counsel had been instructed to provide a detailed opinion so an informed decision could be made as to whether or not BASC should proceed with an appeal.

B.2 To receive a report on the Wildlife Habitat Trusts

Council received a paper providing an overview of the WHT and progress made since April 2006.

Council thanked the trustees for their paper and agreed that BASC will continue to provide support to the Wildlife Habitat Trusts for 2008 and 2009 by applying the existing Council funding policy. It was also agreed that a progress report will be presented to Council on an annual basis highlighting the WHT levels of activity. This report should include a mini balance sheet and an executive summary detailing how the trusts have performed over the preceding year and a projection of anticipated performance in the year ahead.

B.3 To approve an amended version of the Role & Operations paper.

Council received an amended version of the Role & Operations paper revised in October 2007.

The amendments were agreed and any future amendments will be presented to Council as they arise.

B.4. To approve a paper on the Audit timetable.

Council considered a paper that clarified responsibility for the various actions and highlighted the key actions to be taken by Baker Tilly Accountants and BASC in order to ensure that the financial reporting timetable is met.

Subject to the correction of the January and February meeting dates, Council approved the 2007 Audit timetable.

B.5 To receive an update on the Group Personal Pension Plan.

Council received a report providing an up-date on the progress of the BASC Group Personal Pension Plan. It was noted that the Scottish Equitable administration has proved to be good and the availability of individual advice has been appreciated by staff.

B.6 To receive an update on Membership Retention

Council were advised that research is to commence before Christmas on lapsed members and members who are about to lapse. This work will be undertaken by Hall Associates, an independent specialist in the field. The object of the research is to identify the reasons for members lapsing so that work on improving retention can be planned for 2008. Council will receive regular up-dates on progress.

B.7 To receive a proposal to adopt a policy on Wildfowling.

Council were presented with a paper proposing a policy on wildfowling. It was agreed that such a policy was necessary to reassure wildfowlers that BASC remains totally committed to defending their sport.

Council agreed to adopt an amended policy on wildfowling as follows:-
"BASC will do everything within its power to promote and protect the sport of wildfowling. It will encourage and facilitate entry to the sport, support and extend the club structure and represent the sport at all levels. BASC will furthermore oppose at all levels any restriction being placed upon wildfowling that is not, in the opinion of both the Council and its Wildfowling Liaison Committee, capable of being shown by clear evidence to be necessary for the future of wildfowling in the UK and the wildfowl and wildlife habitat on which wildfowling depends. "

C.1. To approve the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

C1.1 Deer Advisory Committee – 23.07.07.

There were no recommendations to Council.

The Minutes of the Deer Advisory Committee were accepted.

C1.2 Northern Ireland Committee – 13.09.07.

There were no recommendations.
It was noted that the Director of Communications and Judith Howell will be visiting to meet with local politicians in December as a networking exercise.

The Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee were accepted.

C1.3. Scottish Committees – 03.09.07. and 29.09.07

There were no recommendations.

The Minutes of the Scottish Committees were accepted.

C.1.4 Welsh Committee – 09.09.07.

There were no recommendations.
It was noted that a letter of thanks will be sent to Helen Rees, the Dyfed-Powys Police Firearms Officer, in appreciation of her advice and support.

The Minutes of the Welsh Committee were accepted.

C2. To take the Chairman's report

The Chairman presented his report to Council.

The Chairman's Report was accepted as presented.

C.3 To take the Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented his report to Council.

The Chief Executive reported on a recent meeting with Richard Brunstrom, Chief Constable of North Wales Police.

The Chief Executive's Report was accepted as presented.

C.4. To take the Director of Communications' Report

The Director of Communications presented his report to Council.

It was noted that the Director of Communications had raised the issue of battery cages at meetings with a number of AM's at the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff. Other matters discussed were support for shooting tourism in Wales and tail docking. AM's were generally supportive on the issues raised and useful contacts were made.

The Director of Communication's Report was accepted as presented.

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

The Director of Business Management presented her report to Council.

The Business Management Report was accepted as presented.

C.6 To receive the Director of Operations' Report

The Director of Operations' report was accepted as presented.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 2007.

D1 To take Any Other Business by Leave of the Chairman.

It was noted that the Wildfowling Liaison Committee Minutes were deferred for consideration at the November meeting of Council.

Council members were reminded that Carl Cox is leaving the organisation in November and were advised to contact Diane McKenzie if they wish to make a contribution towards his leaving gift.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

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

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

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