THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 21ST FEBRUARY, 2008**

Present:	**Robert Irvine**	**Chairman**
	Michael Alldis	
	Jan Andrews	
	Eric Begbie	
	Walter Cole	
	Robert Croft	
	Paul Culley	
	Lee Freeston	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Andrew Macfarlane	
	Peter Pursglove	
	Michael Sherman	
	John Thornley	
	Ray Walters	
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**
	Colin Shedden	**Director, Scotland**
In attendance	**Dr. P. Marshall**	**For Agenda Item B.4.**
	Tim Russell	**For Agenda Item B5**
Secretary:	**Amanda Forshaw**	**Minute Secretary**

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Simon Breasley, Carl Eriksson, Roger Pollen and Tom Wylie.

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that part of A.4 – "Matters Arising" in respect of a discussion at the January Meeting of Council together with agenda items B1, B5 and C5 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 24th January, 2008.

The Minutes were agreed to be a fair and accurate record of the proceedings.

A.5. To take Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 24th January, 2008.

Page 1 – Simon Hamlyn thanked Council for the condolences extended to himself and his family on the death of his mother.
Page 9 – It was clarified that Eric Begbie's term of office will cease at the end of the AGM on 14 June 2008.
Page 9 – It was noted that the Code of Practice regarding Gundogs is currently in draft format and should be finalised by the summer of 2008.
Page 9 – It was noted that the Chairman will provide the March meeting of Council with a comprehensive record of the confidential debate which took place under Any Other Business.

A.5.1 Oral Report on Proposed Communications Centre.

It was reported that agreement in principle had been given to the suggestion that the road bridge be widened and the wall and entrance modified to provide the required visibility splay. There would also be a need to move a lighting column and a telegraph pole to the north of the entrance and no immediate opposition had been encountered from either the lighting department or BT. Negotiations with Wrexham Council would be required in relation to the design and construction standard of the bridge and an expected requirement to contribute to future maintenance costs. Planning consent can be granted contingent on these works being done so an application would be submitted to the April 2008 planning committee meeting. The intention was to proceed with work on the Marford Mill site, particularly in relation to car parking facilities, prior to the AGM

Council approved the recommendation that the Chairman and staff team progress arrangements for initial work on the site. An update on costs will be presented to the March Meeting of Council.

Council gave approval to the initial works identified commencing with immediate effect.

A5.2. Confidential item

A5.3 To review action points from the meeting held on 24th January, 2008.

A5.3.1. WHT New Development Plan
To remain as an action point with an annual progress report to be presented to the October 2008 meeting of Council.

A5.3.2. Structure, Role and Function of Principal Officers, Council and

Committees
To remain as an action point for a future meeting of Council.

A5.3.3 BASC Forward Plan 2008 – 2012
Item on main agenda.

A5.3.4. Marksman System/Respect for Quarry
Following a visit to Marksman by senior staff, BASC has been offered the use of a Marksman system for the remainder of 2008 free of charge. The system will be set up for Council members to view and test on the day before the April meeting of Council.

Council thanked Dr Peter Marshall for his contribution in securing the loan of the system and Dr John Harradine on whose work on ballistics research the system was based and can be further developed.

A5.3.5. Relationship between courses, certification, accreditation and qualifications.
Item on main agenda.

A5.3.6 Data on Membership Retention
To remain an action point – Council to be updated as appropriate.

A5.3.7. VAT Appeal
The appeal will be heard on 23[1] April but BASC's witness statements have to be lodged by the end of February 2008. Copies of these will be made available for Council members.

A5.3.8. Possibility of Shooting & Conservation becoming a monthly publication
To remain an action point with a scoping paper being provided to the March 2008 Meeting of Council.

A5.3.9. Shoot Summit
Update provided to Council; to be discussed further at the March 2008 meeting of Council.

A5.3.10 Roles & Operations Manual
Item on main agenda

A5.3.11. Family Membership Category
Item on main agenda

B.1. To receive a paper on BASC Forward Plan.

[1] The date originally reported has been corrected.

Council received a draft summary document on the BASC Forward Plan 2008 – 2012 and were invited to submit any comments or queries in writing to the Chief Executive. It was noted that the Forward Plan is a developing document and it is proposed that Council will be updated on an annual basis at the October meeting.

Council approved the **BASC Forward Plan 2008 – 2012** *Summary Document as the basis for planning and action development by the Senior Management Team.*

B.2 **To receive a paper on amendments to the Roles & Operations Paper pertaining to attendance at Country and Advisory Committees**

Council considered amendments to the Roles & Operations Paper intended to define the basis on which Council members may attend meetings of Advisory or Country Committees of which they are not a member.

Council agreed that page 16, of the Roles & Operations Paper, version dated 18th October, 2007, be amended to include the following two statements:-

(v) Where a Council member is not an elected member of a Country or Advisory Committee they may attend a meeting of that Committee as an observer after providing the Chairman of that Committee with 72 hours notice of their intention to attend.

(vi) An observer must respect the confidentialities of the meeting and may only contribute to the meeting of a Country or Advisory Committee with the permission of the Chairman.

B.3 **To receive a paper on the introduction of a Family Membership Category.**

Council received a paper regarding the introduction of a Family Membership Category.

It was agreed that:-

(1) *As soon as possible after 1st March 2008 a Family Membership category is introduced.*
(2) *A similar category is introduced for the families of working gamekeepers.*
(3) *Both of these family membership categories should comprise two adults who are or who act in the capacity of parents together with all of their children under the age of 18 who live at the same address.*
(4) *The subscription chargeable should equate to the rate for the appropriate joint adult membership plus 1¾ junior subscriptions, as necessary rounded to the nearest pound above.*

B4. **To receive a paper on the revised PAS scheme** (Dr. P. Marshall in attendance)

Council received a paper outlining the options in respect of the revised PAS Scheme, and thanked Dr. Peter Marshall for his excellent work on this.

It was agreed that BASC will pursue accreditation by QCA for a modified PAS, to be taken forward by the Director of Shooting Standards in line with his paper.

B5. **To consider review of the BASC Raptor Policy in the light of recent events**
(Tim Russell in attendance)

The Chief Executive apprised the Council of a number of issues connected with widespread allegations of illegal raptor persecution and that these have the potential to damage responsible shooting sports as a whole and the long term sustainability of those aspects of shooting where increasing raptor numbers are perceived to be prejudicial. He emphasised the complexity of the issues and recommended that Council initiate an in depth conversation, both internally and in due course externally, based on BASC's existing raptor policy document, with the aim of establishing the truth, raising awareness and ensuring that responsible shooting conducts itself exclusively within the law – and moreover is seen to be doing so.

It was agreed that:-

(1) A group under the leadership of the Director of Conservation and Wildlife Management, including representatives from the relevant advisory and Country Committees, should be established to assess the present situation and to determine whether the current BASC Raptor Policy is adequate.
(2) The BASC logo should not be appended to the forthcoming RSPB publication on birds of prey.
(3) A progress report is to be presented to the May 2008 meeting of Council.

B6. **To discuss the AGM 2008**

B.6.1 **To approve arrangements of conducting the Council ballot**
Council was informed that a ballot supplement containing statements from all the candidates standing for election, those retiring or leaving and those seeking re-election will be included in the *Shooting & Conservation* magazine due to be circulated to members on 1st March.
The supplement will also be sent out, on 3rd March, to those members who do not receive the magazine. The detailed AGM Agenda and the Financial Statements will be included in the May edition of the magazine.

B.6.2 **To approve the AGM agenda**

It was noted that there would be more than one motion for debate and also that there were some other minor typographical errors in the draft laid before the meeting.

The document would be revised to correct these errors

B.6.3 <u>To note the motion for debate proposed by Philippa Bursey</u>

Philippa Bursey advised the meeting of Simon Breasley's suggested amendments to the motion she had proposed in her capacity as a BASC member.

Council noted the suggested amendments and that the motion will be included on the agenda for the AGM.

C1. <u>To take the Minutes of Advisory Committees.</u>

C1.1 <u>Executive & Finance Committee Minutes 24th January, 2008</u>

The Minutes of the Executive & Finance Committee were approved by Council.

C1.2 <u>Northern Ireland Committee Minutes.</u>

It was recommended to Council that the strategy for consulting the membership on the review of the Wildlife Order be supported. Any need for additional funds arising from the strategy will be costed in detail and brought before the Council as soon as known.

It was noted that this is an operational issue.

The Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee were accepted.

C2. <u>To take the Chairman's report</u>

The Chairman presented his report to Council. It was noted that the Chairman will provide monthly updates within his report on the progress of the proposed Communications Centre.

The Chairman's Report was accepted as presented.

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

The Chief Executive presented his report to Council

The Chief Executive's Report was accepted as presented.

C.4. <u>To take the Director of Communications' Report</u>

The Director of Communications presented his report to Council.

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

C6. To take the Director of Operations' Report

The Director of Operations presented his report to Council.

The Director of Operations' Report was accepted as presented.

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

It was noted that Jill Jones of Baker Tilly, Auditors, would be joining Council for lunch prior to her closed session at the E & F Committee meeting.

It was noted that the Director of Communications will provide information at the March 2008 meeting of Council regarding Intranet access for Council members.

The Director of Business Management will make enquiries regarding the possibility of enabling email access by Council members visiting Marford Mill.

It was noted that Defra has produced a statement and action plan in relation to Wild Boar. Part of the action plan is to set up a Good Practice Guidance Group. Alan McCormick will be attending the first meeting of the group on 4th March, 2008.

Colin Shedden welcomed the announcement made in Scotland in relation to the snaring consultation but noted that particularly with regard to the changes to general licences the Environment Minister is both giving and taking.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be on 13th March, 2008 at 9.30 am.

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

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