

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL, 2008

Present:	Robert Irvine Michael Alldis Jan Andrews Eric Begbie Simon Breasley Walter Cole Paul Culley Lee Freeston Duncan Greaves Michael Sherman John Thornley Tom Wylie	Chairman
Ex-Officio Members	John Swift Philippa Bursey Glynn Cook Christopher Graffius Simon Hamlyn Roger Pollen Colin Shedden	Chief Executive Officer Director of Business Management Director, Wales Director of Communications Director of Operations Director, Northern Ireland Director, Scotland
In attendance	Mike Robinson Tim Russell John Harradine Alex Hutton	Candidate for election to Council at 2008 AGM Agenda Item on A.6.7 Agenda Items A6.7 and B3 Agenda Item B2.
Minute Secretary:	Amanda Forshaw	

A1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Robert Crofts, Carl Eriksson, Andrew Macfarlane, Peter Pursglove and Ray Walters.

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Mike Robinson, candidate for election to Council at the 2008 AGM.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL, 2008

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that Agenda Items A.6.7, B1 (report on Complaints only); B2; C3 (item within report re complaint) and C.5 should be regarded as confidential.

A.3. Declaration of Interests

Lee Freeston, Duncan Greaves, Simon Hamlyn and Robert Irvine declared an interest in Agenda Item B.2.

A.4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th March, 2008.

It was agreed to accept the Minutes as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings.

A.5. To take Matters Arising from the Council Meeting held on 13th March, 2008.

Page 3 – Communications Centre

It was reported that, subject to conditions, planning permission for the Communications Centre had been granted on 7th April, 2008. The main conditions, none of which were unexpected, relate to the movement of the telephone and lighting poles, the proposed work to the bridge and consequent widening of the footpath, the re-arrangement of the entrance and the requirement for compensatory water storage. A design team is to be appointed and invitations to tender for the building work will be drawn up. Tenders have been received for work on the extension of the car park and one contractor is able to complete the work within budget and before the AGM. The fundraising programme has commenced and will run throughout the design and tender phase and beyond.

| A.5.1 Confidential item

A6. To take action points

A.6.1. WHT Development Plan

To remain as an action point with an annual progress report to be presented to the October 2008 meeting of Council.

A.6.2. Structure, Role and Function of Principal Officers, Council and Committees

To remain as an action point, with a report to be presented to the May 2008 meeting of Council.

A.6.3. Complaints and Plaudits

Item on main agenda.

A.6.4. VAT Appeal

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL, 2008

The appeal was listed for 23rd April, 2008 but due to the nature of BASC's case and the amount of documentation to be presented in support, the matter may need to be re-listed for a second day.

A.6.5. Possibility of Shooting & Conservation becoming a monthly publication.

Detailed options paper to be presented to the May 2008 meeting of Council.

A.6.6. Shoot Summit

Oral update provided by Chief Executive under Agenda Item A5.1.

A.6.7. BASC Raptor Policy (confidential item)

Council received an oral presentation by the Director of Conservation & Land Management outlining the conclusions of discussions at a meeting on 9th April attended by representatives of all the appropriate Advisory Committees regarding the issue of raptors and their persecution. Council was informed that the debate had been wide-ranging and the views strong, but warned that much of was based on hearsay.

Council was given an outline of the issues facing Scotland and the moorlands of England and Wales in terms of the raptor species present, their populations, their persecution and the impact on shooting. It was noted that due to the relative sizes of the moors there were differences of approach between Scotland and England. The engagement of interested parties with government conservation agencies and the RSPB and the increasing move towards sustainable eco-system management were noted; this could provide a good structure for agreeing numbers of different species but could also result in a requirement to reduce grouse to accommodate hen harriers.

It was concluded that the persecution of raptors generally is a concern but the hen harrier position is acute; while recognising the difficulties in delivery, the Scottish approach aimed at achieving an agreement between conservation and shooting interests should be considered for England and Wales. It was suggested that consideration should be given to further research into the effects of increased buzzard populations in Scotland and possibly goshawk in Great Britain generally.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL, 2008

BASC needs to remain involved in the dialogue between shooting and conservation interests to try and move process forward; the existing BASC raptor policy is still appropriate though it needs to be supported by a delivery plan with substantive action points.

It was agreed that a working group, chaired by Mike Sherman, should be drawn from those who participated in the 9th April meeting, to present a report to the September 2008 Meeting of Council with regard to raptor policy, delivery, action points, etc.

A.6.8. Access to e.mail

To be facilitated as soon as this can be achieved securely.

A.6.9. BASC Forward Plan

The Chairman requested the Chief Executive to provide Council with an interim review of the policy out-turn from the BASC Forward Plan at the May 2008 Meeting of Council.

B.1. To receive a Report on Complaints and Plaudits

Council was presented with a detailed review of the complaints and plaudits received by the Chief Executive's office during the period April 2007 to March 2008. It was noted that complaints and plaudits are reviewed by the senior management team on a quarterly basis and lessons to be learned are brought out into the open and discussed by all concerned.

Council extended its congratulations to those members of staff who had earned plaudits and it was agreed that staff working in country and regional offices should be reminded of the procedures in place and of the need for information to be communicated to Head Office.

Council also wished to place on record its' thanks to Sheila Potter for all her work receiving and collating the information contained within the report.

B.2 To consider Honours, Awards and Presentations at the AGM 2008

Vice President

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL, 2008

John Graham

John Graham's current membership of the Welsh Committee should be added to the list of positions held.

Council agreed to propose John Graham as a Vice-President of the Association at the 2008 AGM.

Honorary Life Memberships

Stewart Ogden

Council agreed to propose Stewart Ogden for an Honorary Life Membership at the 2008 AGM.

David Stretton

Council agreed to propose David Stretton for an Honorary Life Membership at the 2008 AGM.

Ian Richardson Trophy

Russell Southward

Council considered the proposal and felt that the trophy was more appropriately awarded jointly to Russell Southward and his wife Edna.

Council agreed that the Ian Richardson Trophy be awarded to Russell and Edna Southward at the 2008 AGM.

Stanley Duncan Trophy

Noel Hulmston

Following presentations by Alex Hatton, North Wales Bio-diversity Officer, Council decided that the Stanley Duncan Trophy should be awarded to Noel Hulmston at the 2008 AGM.

Tim Sedgwick Trophy

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL, 2008

It was noted that Council had not identified nominees for this award for a number of years and it was agreed that serious consideration would be given to the selection of a suitable recipient in 2009.

Special Presentations

Adrian Whiting

Council agreed to make Special Presentations at the 2008 AGM to Adrian Whiting for his work on firearms licensing.

James Cropper

Council agreed to make a Special Presentation at the 2008 AGM to James Cropper for his contribution to BASC's fundraising programme.

Brian Hulse

Council agreed to make a Special Presentation at the 2008 AGM to Brian Hulse for his services to the Frodsham & District Wildfowlers' Club.

Mike Newman

Council agreed to make a Special Presentation at the 2008 AGM to Mike Newman for his services to the Heacham and North West Norfolk District Wildfowlers' Association and to the promotion of wildfowling among young people.

Elizabeth Hampton

Council agreed to make a Special Presentation at the 2008 AGM to Elizabeth Hampton for her services to the Hull and East Riding Wildfowlers' Association.

- B.3 To receive a report from the Director of Research on Current and Future Developments in respect of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and in particular with regard to the upcoming meeting of the parties this autumn and other plans and projects for the BASC research team.**

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL, 2008

Council received an oral presentation on the work of the Technical Committee of AEWA with regard to the upcoming Meeting of Parties which will take place in September 2008.

Council was introduced to two new members of the Research Team, Alison Lora, Senior Research Officer and Sam Barnes, Research Officer.

Future projects to be focussed on by the Research Team include:-

- An analysis of existing surveys
- Review of survey methodologies
- The environmental impact of shooting
- Legislation for Water Framework Directive
- Shooting Noise Levels
- Need to be able to guide Defra in not imposing undue restrictions on shooting around outbreaks of AI or FMD.
- Strategy for Respect for Quarry.
- Exploring the potential of the Marksman System.

C.1. To take the Minutes of Advisory Committees

C.1.1. To approve the Minutes of the Executive & Finance Committee held on 21st February, 2008.

The Minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee were approved as a true and accurate record.

C.1.2. To note the Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee held on 4th March, 2008.

Council extended their congratulations to Amanda McCallion on the birth of her daughter, Matilda Jane.

The Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee were noted.

C.1.3. To note the Minutes of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee held on 29th February, 2008.

Recommendation to be made to Council to allow Shooting Standards Department to have a dedicated page in the *Shooting & Conservation* magazine to allow the department to carry out their mission statement by advising members of available training and courses.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL, 2008

The recommendation was noted by Council and it was agreed that the Director of Communications and the Director of Shooting Standards will meet to consider the recommendation and agree an appropriate way forward.

C.1.4. To note the Minutes of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee held on 8th March, 2008

There were no recommendations to Council. The Minutes of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee were noted.

C.1.5. To note the Minutes of the Deer Advisory Committee held on 23rd January, 2008.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, Council agreed to defer consideration of the Minutes of the Deer Advisory Committee Meeting until the May 2008 meeting of Council.

C.2. To take the Chairman's Activities Report.

The Chairman presented his report to Council. The Chairman's report was accepted as presented.

C.4 To take the Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented his report to Council.

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 a response to the recently published paper on Coastal Access had been prepared and will be presented to the May 2008 Meeting of Council.

Council was advised that a long-established BASC member who runs a construction company based in Lancashire had pledged a substantial donation towards the costs of the new Communications Centre, the amount was not known.

Council was reminded of the recent Brindle court case in Lancashire; a group of anti's were arrested and charged with aggravated trespass but the case failed because the defence successfully argued that there was no aggravated trespass because the shooting activity itself was not lawful as a result of the Shoot's lack of a health and safety policy and risk assessments. Appropriate advice regarding this issue has been published on the BASC website.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL, 2008

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

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. It was noted that the Director of Communications will be working with Nick Glazebrook to widen the range of potential donors towards the costs of the new Communications Centre.

The Lantra Industry Group has approved the accreditation of the Principles of Live Quarry Shooting Level 2. Council extended their appreciation to Dr Peter Marshall for his work on achieving this.

Thanks were extended to Council Members and staff who attended the Gamekeepers Fair over the weekend for their contribution to a very successful event; particular thanks were extended to Liz Lamb and Viv Hutton for their work in organising the event prior to Steve Bloomfield's arrival.

Finally, Council extended condolences to the family of Gethin Jones who had died the previous week; Gethin was the organiser of the Peover Game Fair.

The Director of Operations' Report was accepted as presented.

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

There were no matters raised.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be on 15th May, 2008 at 9.30 am.

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

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