

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ROSSETT HALL HOTEL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM ON THURSDAY 16 JULY, 2009

Present:	Robert Irvine Michael Alldis Alan Balfour Robert Crofts Helen Cormack John Dryden Lee Freeston Peter Glenser Peter Pursglove Michael Sherman Michael Smith John Thornley Ray Walters	Chairman
Ex-Officio Members	John Swift Philippa Bursey Christopher Graffius Simon Hamlyn Colin Shedden	Chief Executive Director of Business Management Director of Communications Director of Operations Director, Scotland
In attendance	Tom Blades Conor O’Gorman Tim Russell	Agenda item B.4 Agenda item B.9 Agenda item B.8
Minute Secretary	Philippa Bursey	

A1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Simon Breasley, Mike Robinson, Glynn Cook and Roger Pollen; Paul Culley was also unable to attend.

A2 To confirm confidential items

It was noted that agenda items B11 and C6 should be regarded as confidential.

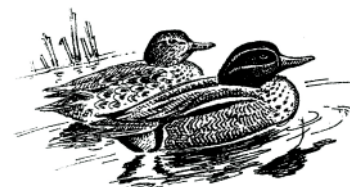
A3 Declaration of interests

Robert Irvine declared his interest in item B11.

A4 To confirm the minutes of previous meetings

A4.1 Council meeting held on 21 May 2009

The minutes of the meeting having been circulated were approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ROSSETT HALL HOTEL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM ON THURSDAY 16 JULY, 2009

A4.2 Council meeting held on 13 June 2009

The minutes of the meeting having been circulated were approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

A5 To take action points

There were no action points arising from the minutes themselves.

A5.1 WHT progress report and development plan

To remain as an action point; the report is to be presented to Council in October 2009.

A5.2 Review of BASC's objects

To remain as an action point; a report is to be presented to Council in February 2010.

A5.3 Chairmanship of BASC

To remain as an action point; a report is to be presented for Council's consideration in September 2009.

A5.4 Devolution

To remain as an action point; it was agreed that the Chief Executive should convene a further meeting of the working group to consider this matter so an update can be provided later in 2009.

The Chief Executive to convene a further meeting of the working group.

A5.5 BASC extranet - policy section

BASC's policies to be posted to a dedicated section of the Extranet by September 2009.

A5.6 Travel costs for Council and committee meetings

To remain as an action point; a report is to be presented for Council's consideration in September 2009. Opportunities to use teleconferencing would be considered separately once the Communications Centre had been completed.

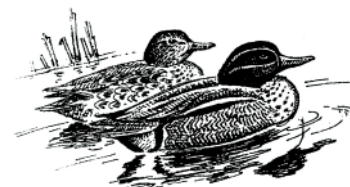
A new action point to be appended to the list.

B1 To appoint the members of the Executive and Finance Committee

The list of proposed members, all of whom were willing to sit, had been circulated. The membership of the committee was approved as listed.

B2 To appoint the members of the Disciplinary Appeals Committee

The list of proposed members, all of whom were willing to sit, had been circulated. The membership of the committee was approved as listed.



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ROSSETT HALL HOTEL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM ON THURSDAY 16 JULY, 2009

B3 Council meeting programme for 2010

B3.1 Council meetings for 2010

The proposed date for the July 2010 meeting coincided with the set-up day for the CLA Game Fair; to hold the meeting a week earlier would give insufficient time for the proper completion of the month-end routines therefore it was suggested that the meeting be held on Thursday, 29 July. The management team would reconsider the proposed date and revert to Council.

Since no one could recall the reason for having different dates for the issue of reports and minutes, it was the management's intention that, where practically possible, all paperwork would be issued ten days in advance of the meeting.

A new date to be proposed for the Council meeting to be convened in July 2010.

[Key words: action point, governance]

B3.2 Date and venue of the 2010 Annual General Meeting

It was agreed that the 2010 Annual General Meeting should be held in Scotland; the Scottish team, working with the Office Manager, would host the meeting and organise a "special" event to be held on the preceding evening.

It was decided that the Annual General Meeting would be held in Scotland on Saturday, 12 June 2010.

B4 To receive a paper on Student Gamekeeper membership

A paper that had been circulated prior to the meeting was presented by the Head of Gamekeeping and Game Shooting and the Director for Scotland.

It was decided that a Student Gamekeeper membership category should be introduced and that the subscription rate should equate with that payable by Young Shots.

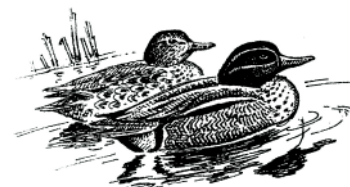
This was seen as a strategy for the long term and that to be successful contact with the colleges and interaction with their gamekeeping students should be maintained.

The success of the initiative should be reviewed on an annual basis.

[Key words: decision, membership, governance, gamekeepers]

B5 To receive a paper on membership and the period of grace

A paper that had been circulated prior to the meeting was presented by the Director of Business Management; it sought to explain the implications of Clause 3(f)(ii) in BASC's Constitution which states that "a member whose subscription is in arrears for three months shall automatically cease to be a member....."



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ROSSETT HALL HOTEL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM ON THURSDAY 16 JULY, 2009

Being enshrined in the Constitution this “period of grace”, which a number of Council members felt to be excessive, can only be changed by the members in a general meeting.

It was decided that until a change is made, the paper would form the basis of the rules that apply in determining the rights of members in respect of both insurance and governance matters.

[Key words: decision, governance, rule change, membership, period of grace]

B6 To receive a report on phased direct debit

A paper that had been circulated prior to the meeting was presented by the Director of Business Management; it sought to explore the implications of introducing a phased payment option.

Noting the difficulties of researching the impact that phased direct debits could have both in attracting into membership people who have never been BASC members and in retaining members, it was agreed that further work in these areas was needed; the opportunity to externally “factor” such debts should also be considered.

Being an important, commercial decision it was decided that preparatory work should continue but the matter should be explored further and brought to Council for consideration with the budget in November 2009.

[Key words: decision, governance, membership, phased direct debit]

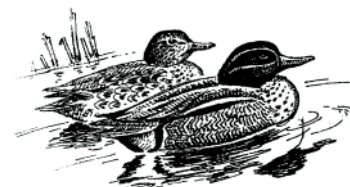
B7 To decide the core budget parameters for 2010

The Director of Business Management gave a presentation that explained BASC’s budgetary cycle and reserving policy, gave consideration to the possible restructuring of BASC’s subscriptions and gave a first indication of the likely outturn for the year 2009. This was followed by an interactive presentation that allowed different parameters to be fed into the preliminary budget model for 2010.

The uncertain economic climate, the loss of interest earnings, the cost of running the Communications Centre, the reversion to a standard VAT rate of 17.5% and the need for BASC to be alert to “creep” were noted.

It was decided that the management team should consider a budget that incorporates no more than £2 by way of a subscription increase while working towards a “break-even” result.

[Key words: decision, governance, budget]



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ROSSETT HALL HOTEL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM ON THURSDAY 16 JULY, 2009

B8 To receive an update on the raptor policy

A paper that had been circulated prior to the meeting was presented by the Director of Conservation and the Director for Scotland.

The need for the revised raptor-control licensing regime in Scotland to be reflected in BASC's policy was noted.

Council accepted the recommendations in the report that BASC should:

- *Support the Langholm project and further trials of diversionary feeding*
- *Encourage moorland owners to engage with ceiling scheme trials.*
- *Work with Natural England in the south west to ensure that discussions about hen harrier introduction take shooting interests into account.*
- *Continue its work on raptors under the existing policy*

It was decided that if possible a meeting with the Moorland Association be arranged at the CLA Game Fair and the Director of Conservation should make the necessary changes to BASC's raptor policy and get the revised document issued and posted on the website.

[Key words: decision, species policy, raptors]

B9 To receive an update on policy decisions taken by Council

A review had been undertaken of the Council meeting minutes that were available in electronic form on the extranet. While a word search facility could be used, the minutes had not been drawn up in a manner that fully facilitated this.

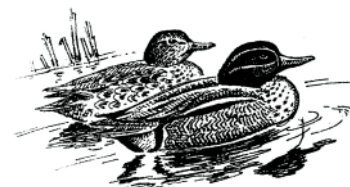
It was decided that a protocol should be established for the insertion in future sets of minutes of keywords that would allow effective searches to be undertaken; Council did not believe it necessary for this to be done retrospectively.

Conor O'Gorman was congratulated for the exacting analysis he had undertaken to compile a most useful presentation.

[Key words: decision, governance, policy]

B10 To review BASC's centenary year

A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting by the Director of Operations. While it was noted that merchandise and book sales had been disappointing and that lessons could be learned about optimising fundraising, Council agreed that the Centenary had been marked by a suitably good choice of events and activities and accepted the recommendation that a centenary archive should be created and represented by a small, permanent display in the new Communications Centre. Council thanked all who had been involved, including those in the regions and in affiliated clubs.



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ROSSETT HALL HOTEL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM ON THURSDAY 16 JULY, 2009

Council recommended that personal letters of thanks should be sent by the Chairman to Diane McKenzie and Nick Glazebrook for their very particular contributions.

[Key words: decision, action point, governance, centenary]

B11 To decide the Chairman's honorarium

The Chairman together with ex-officio members of Council withdrew from the meeting and the Vice-Chairman assumed the Chairmanship for this item.

It was decided that the Chairman's Honorarium should be increased by 3%, being the cost of living increase awarded to staff members at the end of 2008.

[Key words: decision, governance, chairman's honorarium]

C1 To receive the Minutes of the Advisory Committees

C1.1 To note the minutes of the Scottish Committee meeting - 14 May 2009

Item 7 (page 7) on the Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill consultation was highlighted. Noting that Council would not be meeting before responses to this consultation have to be submitted, the Director for Scotland sought authority to finalise and submit BASC's response, which had already been published in draft form to encourage others to respond. Given the implications for the whole of the UK, members both within and without Scotland were encouraged to involve themselves in the process and to liaise directly with the Director for Scotland.

The Director for Scotland was authorised to finalise and submit BASC's response to the Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill consultation.

C1.2 To note the minutes of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee meeting - 13 May 2009

There were no recommendations to Council and the minutes were noted as presented.

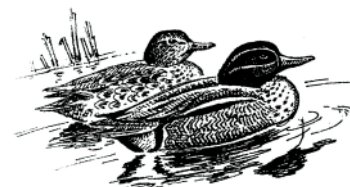
C1.3 To note the minutes of the Welsh Committee meeting - 26 April 2009

The committee chairman clarified that the file note on the meeting of the devolution working group had been circulated as the attachment specified in item 6 (page 4) of the Welsh Committee meeting minutes.

There were no recommendations to Council and the minutes were noted as presented.

C1.4 To note the minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee meeting - 23 April 2009

There were no recommendations to Council and the minutes were noted as presented.



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ROSSETT HALL HOTEL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM ON THURSDAY 16 JULY, 2009

C2 To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 13 June 2009

The minutes of the meeting having been circulated were approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and their signature by the President was recommended.

C3 To receive the Chairman's Activities Report.

The Chairman's monthly report had been circulated and was accepted as presented.

C4 To receive the Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's Report had been circulated and was accepted as presented.

C5 To take the Director of Communications' Report

The Director of Communications' Report had been circulated and was accepted as presented.

C6 To take the Director of Business Management's report – CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

The Business Management report had been circulated. It was noted that the figure for new members differed from that in the Director of Communications' report though both purported to have been drawn from the same source.

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

C7 To take the Director of Operations' Report

The Director of Operations report had been circulated and was accepted as presented.

D1 To take Any Other Business by leave of the Chairman

There were no items taken.

D2 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Thursday, 17 September 2009 commencing at 09.30hrs. It would be preceded at 09.00hrs by a meeting of the elected members only. The venue would again be the Rossett Hall Hotel.

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

