**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING and CONSERVATION**

# CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ROSSETT HALL HOTEL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 2009

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| **Present:** | **Robert Irvine Chairman** | |
| | **Michael Alldis** | |
| | **Alan Balfour** | |
| | **Simon Breasley** | |
| | **Helen Cormack** | |
| | **Paul Culley** | |
| | **John Dryden** | |
| | **Lee Freeston** | |
| | **Peter Glenser** | |
| | **Peter Pursglove** | |
| | **Michael Sherman** | |
| | **John Thornley** | |
| **Ex-Officio Members** | **John Swift** | **Chief Executive Officer** |
| | **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** |
| **In attendance** | **Tim Russell** | **Agenda Item B.1.** |
| | **Conor O'Gorman** | **Agenda Item B.3** |
| **Minute Secretary** | **Amanda Forshaw** | |

## A.1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Robert Crofts, Mike Robinson, Mike Smith and Ray Walters.

## A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was noted that Agenda Item C5 along with a matter for discussion under Agenda Item C.3 should be regarded as confidential.

## A.3. Declaration of Interests

Lee Freeston declared an interest in respect of Agenda Items B1 and C.1.3; Robert Irvine declared an interest in Agenda Item B.2.

**A.4. To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th September, 2009.**

Prior to considering the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September, 2009, apologies were given for the delay in the distribution of documents for the current meeting; Council was assured that efforts will be made to ensure that all documents are issued within the agreed ten day timeframe.

Page 4, B.1. – Travel related costs for those attending BASC Council meetings and events - It was agreed to remove the word "unanimously" from the final line and replace with "majority".
Page 4, B.3. – Competence testing and DCS – action point to be included that Director, Scotland, will provide Council with regular updates on progress.
Page 7. B.8.9. – final sentence to be amended to reflect that the request had been specific to the East of Scotland Association for Wildfowling and Conservation being represented on the Scottish Committee.

Subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the meeting having been circulated were approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

**A.5. To take matters arising from the meeting held on 17th September, 2009**

There were no matters arising.

**A.6 To take the tabled action points from earlier Council Meetings.**

A.6.1. WHT Progress and Development Plan

For discussion on main agenda.

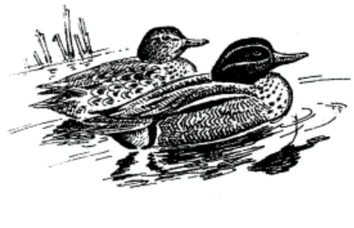
A.6.2 Objects

To present a review of the Objects of the organisation to Council to the February 2010 Meeting of Council for consideration following the outcome of the Government review of the status of public benefit organisations, along with a review of the BASC vision and mission statements.

It was noted that this matter could not be properly addressed until the outcome of the VAT tribunal was known and therefore the review would almost certainly not be available in February 2010.

A.6.3 Structure, Role and Function of Principal Officers, Council and Committees – Policy & Practice

For discussion on main agenda.



A.6.4. Devolution

The working group (comprised of the Chief Executive, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chairmen of the country committees, the Country Directors, and Senior Management Team) would be meeting in November 2009 to continue consideration of the effects of devolution; and the Chief Executive will make a progress report to a future meeting of Council.

A.6.5. Use of teleconferencing and video conferencing to reduce costs and enhance communications.

A further review of the available options and their applicability to be conducted once the Communications Centre has been completed.

A.6.6. Phased Direct Debits

To secure further statistics on the possible effect on member recruitment and retention of offering a phased payment option and to reflect these in costed proposals to be presented with the 2010 budget.

A.6.7. Gamekeeping student members

To provide a review of the effectiveness of the special membership category for student gamekeepers to the October 2010 Meeting of Council.

**B.1. To receive a progress report and Business Plan for WHT for their forthcoming 3 – 5 year period.**

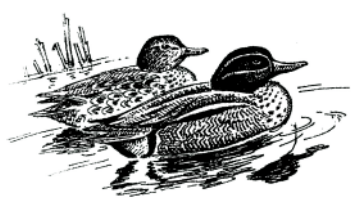
Council received a paper presented by Lee Freeston and Tim Russell on behalf of the WHT Trustees outlining progress over the past twelve months and plans for the forthcoming 3 – 5 year period.

***Council agreed to adopt the recommendation of the paper that the financial support BASC provides be continued by applying the existing Council funding policy on an annual rolling basis. The Trust to be requested to bear in mind that loans should be made available to smaller clubs as well as larger ones.***

[Key words: WHT, Wildlife Habitat Trust]

**B.2. To receive a paper for consideration with regard to the possibility of an employed Chairman for a three year term.**

Council received a paper presented by the Chairman and Chief Executive regarding the possibility of (1) an employed Chairman (2)



a chairman being appointed on the basis that he or she serve for a (renewable) three year term and (3) the Council might actively identify specific high level non-executive skills and encourage suitable members to put their names forward for the ballot.

***Council agreed to continue with the current arrangement whereby the Chairman is elected by Council from their number to serve for a term of one year.***

[Key words: Chairman, decision, governance]

**B.3. A discussion of policy issues arising from the renewal of general licences for the control of avian pests**

Council received a paper and oral presentation by Connor O'Gorman regarding the Welsh Assembly Government consultation on changes to the general licence pertaining to pest birds.

The consultation proposes to add Canada Goose to the general licence for the purposes of preserving public health and safety, preserving air safety and agricultural purposes. It also proposes to introduce a requirement that cage traps be marked with a unique code, to be provided by the local Wildlife Crime Officer, which allows the owner to be identified by the police.

***Council agreed that BASC should oppose both proposals.***

[Key words: general licence, Wales, avian, pest, Canada, goose, geese, cage, trap, code, decision]

**C.1. To receive the Minutes of Advisory Committees**

**C.1.1. To note the Minutes of the Scottish Committee Meeting held on 24th September, 2009**

Council noted that the Scottish Committee was considering how best to maximise the appeal of next year's AGM in Scotland.

The Minutes of the Scottish Committee were noted.

**C.1.2. To note the Minutes of the Welsh Committee Meeting held on 27th September, 2009.**

Council accepted the recommendation to Council in respect of the Committee's responses to the Welsh Assembly Government Consultation on general licences subject to advice from Dr. Conor O'Gorman.

The Minutes of the Welsh Committee were noted.

**C.1.3. <u>To note the Minutes of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee Meeting held on 15$^{th}$ August, 2009.</u>**

There were two recommendations to Council:-

1. That a paper to be presented to Council by the Chairman of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee outlining the concept of a new land holding body within BASC.

***Council noted the recommendation recognising that, if accepted, certain of the proposals would necessitate significant change to BASC's policy.***

[Key words: land, purchase, trust]

2. That Council restore the Wildfowling team budget to what it was before Dr. Conor O'Gorman left the department.

***Council noted the recommendation; the matter was being taken into account in the budget preparation process.***

The Minutes of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee were noted.

**C.2 <u>To take the Chairman's Activities Report</u>**

The Chairman's activity report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

**C3. <u>To take the Chief Executive's Report</u>**

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

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

The Director of Communications' report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

**C.5. <u>To take the Director of Business Management's Report</u>**

The Director of Business Management's report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

***Council acceded to a request that the date of the meeting in January 2010 be changed to Thursday, 21$^{st}$ as the VAT Tribunal hearing had been listed for Thursday 28$^{th}$. Because the Business Management Report to be presented in January 2010 would include the first draft year-end accounts for which extra preparation time is granted, it was agreed that this report would not be circulated until 13$^{th}$ January 2010.***

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**ON THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 2009**

**C.6. To take the Director of Operations' Report**

The Director of Operations' report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented. The Director took the opportunity to thank those involved with the Midland Game Fair.

**D.1 To take Any Other Business by leave of the Chairman**

Council Members were requested to notify the Association of the intended publication of any criticism of the Association in order that the Association may have a considered response to any approaches regarding such publications.

**D.2. Date of Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 19th November, 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**