THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING and CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ROSSETT HALL HOTEL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 2010

Present:	**Robert Irvine Chairman**	
	Michael Alldis	
	Simon Breasley	
	Helen Cormack	
	Robert Crofts	
	Paul Culley	
	Lee Freeston	
	Peter Glenser	
	Peter Pursglove	
	Michael Sherman	
	John Thornley	
	Ray Walters	
Ex-Officio Members	**John Swift**	**Chief Executive**
	Philippa Bursey	**Director of Business Management**
	Christopher Graffius	**Director of Communications**
	Simon Hamlyn	**Director of Operations**
	Roger Pollen	**Director, Northern Ireland**
	Colin Shedden	**Director, Scotland**
In attendance	**Tom Blades**	**Agenda Item B.2.**
	Bill Harriman	**Agenda Item B.3**
Minute Secretary	**Amanda Forshaw**	

A.1. Apologies for Absence

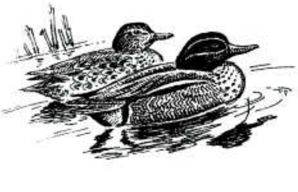
Apologies for absence had been received from Alan Balfour, John Dryden, Mike Robinson, Mike Smith, and Glynn Cook. It was noted that Mike Smith has been suffering from a protracted period of ill health and it was agreed that 'Get Well' wishes be forwarded to him on behalf of the whole of Council.

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was decided that Agenda Items B.3 and C.5 be regarded as confidential.

A.3. Declaration of Interests

Lee Freeston, Simon Hamlyn and John Swift declared interest in the proposed BASC donation to the WHCT to be considered under Agenda Item C.5



A.4. To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 19th November, 2009.

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

A.5. To take matters arising from the meeting held on 19th November, 2009

Council received an update on the development of the new Communications Centre which should be ready for occupation early in February. An informal hand over by the contractor to BASC will take place in March. A completion report will be presented to the April meeting of Council. The Patron has expressed enthusiasm to make a visit during 2010 for a formal opening.

It was recalled that Robert Irvine and Michael Sherman had been contracted to manage the project in their professional capacities and a full report of payments made will be provided to the February meeting of Council. Warm appreciation was expressed for their contribution which had resulted in significant savings on the contract price and removed a considerable burden from staff.

Council expressed their appreciation of the work undertaken by the Director of Business Management, and it was also agreed that a letter of commendation be sent to Pochins regarding the excellent service provided by their Site Manager, Steve Pooler.

A.5.1. Shooting rights over common land in North Norfolk

Council received an oral report from the Chief Executive regarding shooting over common land and the Commons Act 2006, including its phased implementation which will commence in 2010. The 2006 Act codifies ancient commons law and practice so that common land can be preserved and the rights of common properly integrated with rural support, conservation and public benefit in ways that do not unduly restrict commoners' rights.

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

A.6.1. Objects

To present a review of the Objects of the organisation to Council following the outcome of the VAT Tribunal and following the outcome of the Government review of the status of public benefit organisations.

A.6.2 Devolution

The Chief Executive will make a formal proposal to the March meeting of Council on behalf of the devolution working party confirming the terms of Council's relationship with its Country committees on policy and strategy, the Chief Executive's line management responsibilities for the country directors and the bilateral relationships that operate between head office teams and the countries and English regions.

A.6.3. 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.6.4. 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 2011 budget.

A.6.5. Gamekeeping student members

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

A.6.6. Competence testing

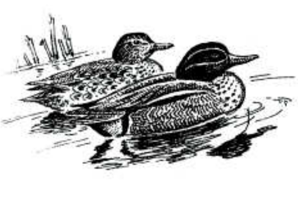
Director, Scotland provided Council with an update on progress and on the forthcoming merger between DCS and SNH.

A.6.7. WHT Progress Report and Development Plan

WHT Trustees to provide a progress report and Business Plan for the forthcoming 3 – 5 year period to the October 2010 Meeting of Council.

A.6.8. Key Function Indicators

The Chief Executive to provide an interim report on progress of Key Function Indicators in May 2010, with an annual report in November 2010.



A.6.9. Co-option of Member to Council

For discussion on main agenda.

A.6.10 Shooting Rights in North Norfolk

For discussion on main agenda.

A.6.11. Council Chairman

To decide in principle at the April Meeting of Council the Chairman for the next year.

B.1. To consider a proposal to co-opt a member of BASC to Council

Council considered a proposal to co-opt Claire Zambuni as a member of Council for the period up to the 2010 AGM. Claire has communications, fundraising and social networking expertise of great benefit to the Council and BASC.

It was agreed that Claire Zambuni be co-opted to Council to serve until the AGM in June 2010.

B.2. To receive a presentation on the "progress and issues concerning game and gamekeeping".

Council received an oral presentation by Tom Blades, Head of Game and Gamekeeping on the progress and issues concerning game and gamekeeping.

Council expressed its appreciation and support.

B.3. To receive a presentation on shotgun certificates and firearms licence fees.

Council received an oral presentation by Bill Harriman on shotgun certificates and firearms licensing fees.

Council noted with concern that Home Office may soon bring forward proposals to dramatically increase fees and stressed the need to mount a vigorous campaign to ensure that responsible shooters are not foisted with paying for licensing excess and inefficiency.

Council expressed its appreciation and support.

B.4. <u>To receive a paper on 'Re-election to Council – The Ten Year Rule'</u>

Council received a paper presented by Ray Walters proposing a change to Rule 5(a)(ii) of the Constitution that would remove the 'Ten Year Rule' for election to Council.

The proposal was rejected.

C.1. <u>To receive the Minutes of Advisory Committees</u>

C.1.1. <u>To note the Minutes of the Research Advisory Committee Meeting held on 18th November, 2009</u>

The Minutes of the Research Advisory Committee meeting were noted.

C.1.2. <u>To note the Minutes of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee Meeting held on 20th November, 2009.</u>

There was one recommendation to Council:-

'That BASC develops a Social Networking Policy to enhance its ability to better communicate and educate its members. The policy should also specify how BASC will interact with these sites for consistency of message.'

Council noted the recommendation.

The Minutes of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee meeting were noted.

C.1.3. <u>To note the Minutes of the Scottish Committee Meeting held on 10th December, 2009</u>

There were no recommendations to Council.

The Minutes of the Scottish Committee Meeting were noted.

C.1.4. <u>To note the Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee Meeting held on 16th October, 2009.</u>

There were no recommendations to Council

The Minutes of the Northern Ireland Committee Meeting 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. To take the Chief Executive's Report

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

The Chief Executive provided a brief update on the state of play regarding lead in ammunition. Council noted that Defra is considering options for convening a high level meeting to consider the issues of lead in ammunition and how they might be addressed. BASC has registered an interest in being involved in the meeting.

Council recognised the sensitivities that surround lead and acknowledged the huge responsibility that BASC has in managing any process of change. BASC should continue to inform its membership and those who shoot while re-assuring them that BASC will continue to take a measured and considered approach; and endeavour to ensure that consideration of any restriction of the continued use of lead in ammunition is supported by sound evidence, proportionate to the risks involved, that alternatives to lead meet required standards and that users are fully informed and supportive.

Council was made aware of the good progress being made to ensure that all shooting organisations are addressing these issues cooperatively.,

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

The Director of Communications' report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented. Council noted that a report on the handling of issues resulting from the recent period of severe weather will be presented to Council later in the year.

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

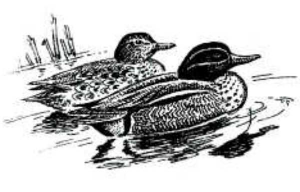
The Director of Business Management's report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

Council considered the matter of reduced-rate subscriptions for those members in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance or equivalent benefits and gave discretion to the Director of Business Management to decide cases of doubt.

Council confirmed that reduced subscription rates for those members in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance or equivalent benefits should continue for the 2010/11 subscription year.

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

The Director of Operations' report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented. Council noted that the Countryside Council for Wales have 'ring fenced' funding of £25,000 towards the Green Shoots



Project in Wales for 2010/2011. Final confirmation of whether success with this funding bid has been achieved is due very soon.

D.1 <u>To take Any Other Business by leave of the Chairman</u>

There were no items for discussion under Any Other Business.

D.2. <u>Date of Next Meeting</u>

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held at 09.30hrs on Thursday 18th February, 2010, and the venue will provisionally be Marford Mill. There will be a pre-meeting of elected members only at 09.00hrs.

Secretarial note: The meeting will be held at Rossett Hall Hotel and the pre-meeting of elected members will commence at 8.45hrs.

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