

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING and CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2010

Present:

Robert Irvine Chairman
Robert Crofts
Paul Culley
John Dryden
Lee Freeston
Peter Glenser
Martyn Howat
Sir Roger Jones
Michael Sherman
John Thornley
Alisdair Troup
Ray Walters

Ex-Officio Members	Philippa Bursey Glynn Cook Christopher Graffius Simon Hamlyn Colin Shedden John Swift	Director of Business Management Director, Wales Director of Communications Director of Operations Director, Scotland Chief Executive Officer
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In attendance	Connor O’Gorman Martin Walker Matt Ellis Dr. John Harradine Jamie Stewart	Agenda Item B.2 Agenda Item B.4 Agenda Item B.5 Agenda Item B.5 Agenda Item B.6
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Minute Secretary **Amanda Forshaw**

A.1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Alan Balfour, Simon Breasley, Helen Cormack, David De Gernier, Neil Griffiths, Mike Robinson, Mike Smith and Claire Zambuni

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was decided that Agenda Item C.5 should be regarded as confidential.

A.3. Declaration of Interests



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Philippa Bursey, Glynn Cook, Christopher Graffius, Simon Hamlyn and Colin Shedden declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item B.3.

A.4. To confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th July 2010

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

A.5. To take matters arising from earlier Council meetings.

Page 2, Item A.5.2. – Duke of Edinburgh building official opening – Council was provided with an update on the arrangements proposed for the official opening of the Duke of Edinburgh building.

A.5.1. VAT Tribunal appeal

Council were informed that HMRC have decided not to appeal the decision of the VAT tribunal. The Association has already received some refunds relating to 2006 and further claims have been submitted in relation to 2006/7.

A.5.2. Wildfowling and Flight Ponds Codes of Practice

It was noted that Codes of Practice have now been approved and are being printed for circulation in October 2010.

A.5.3. Progress Report in respect of land purchase by BASC

Independent advice in the form of a report prepared by Smith Gore, Land Agents & Chartered Surveyors, has been received and will be circulated to Council members for consideration at the October meeting of Council.

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

A.6.1. Objects

A review of the Objects of the organisation will be presented to the November meeting of Council.

A.6.2 Use of teleconferencing and video conferencing to reduce costs and enhance communications.

A review of the available options and their applicability will be conducted and presented to Council in November 2010.



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A.6.3. Phased Direct Debits

A report on a preferred phased payment option will be presented to the November 2010 meeting of Council with the 2011 budget.

A.6.4. Gamekeeping student members

A review of the effectiveness of the membership category for student gamekeepers will be presented by Tom Blades to the November 2010 Meeting of Council.

A.6.5. 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.6.6. Review of Council Committees

An oral progress update was given on the main agenda and a review on the functioning of Council's Committees will be presented to the November 2010 Meeting of Council.

A.6.7. Succession planning for key positions

Item on the main agenda.

B.1. To confirm the membership of Country and Advisory Committees.

B.1.1 Conservation & Land Management Advisory Committee

Membership of the Conservation & Land Management Committee was approved as presented.

B.1.2. Deer Advisory Committee

Membership of the Deer Advisory Committee was approved as presented.

B.1.3. Firearms and Air Weapons Advisory Committee

It was agreed that the name of the committee be changed to the



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Firearms Advisory Committee.

Membership of the Firearms Advisory Committee was approved as presented.

B.1.4. Gamekeepers' Advisory Committee

Membership of the Gamekeepers' Advisory Committee was approved as presented.

B.1.5. Gameshooting Advisory Committee

Membership of the Gameshooting Advisory Committee was approved as presented.

B.1.6. Gundog Advisory Committee

Membership of the Gundog Advisory Committee was approved as presented.

B.1.7. Northern Ireland Committee

Membership of the Northern Ireland Committee was approved as presented.

B.1.8. Research Advisory Committee

Membership of the Research Advisory Committee was approved as presented.

B.1.9. Scottish Committee

Noted that Alisdair Troup to be included as a BASC Council member.

Subject to the above amendment the membership of the Scottish Committee was approved as presented.

B.1.10 Shooting Standards Advisory Committee



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Noted that Michael Alldis and Paul Culley be included in the membership.

Subject to the above amendment the membership of the Shooting Standards Advisory Committee was approved as presented.

B.1.11 Welsh Committee

Membership of the Welsh Committee was approved as presented.

B.1.12 Wildfowling Liaison Committee

Membership of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee was approved as presented.

B.2. To receive an update on a review of the functioning of Council's committees

The review is at stage 2 in the process (gathering feedback). Review findings and proposals will be presented to the November 2010 Meeting of Council.

B.3. To receive a proposal for the establishment of a sub-group to manage the appointment of a new Chief Executive.

The Chairman presented a paper outlining the proposals for the establishment of a sub-group to manage the appointment of a new Chief Executive, along with a proposed timetable for the process.

Council agreed to the establishment of a Selection Committee as proposed, and that the Selection Committee should work in accordance with the proposed timetable.

Council noted that the Selection Committee will provide papers, in accordance with the prescribed timetable, for approval on the issues of :-

- (a) costs incurred;*
- (b) the job/person specification for the Chief Executive Officer post; and*
- (c) a suitable candidate for appointment.*

B4. To receive a presentation on the changing membership revenue function and application software.



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Philippa Bursey and Martin Walker gave a presentation on the changing membership revenue function and application software. Council members expressed their appreciation for the complex and important work undertaken by this Department.

B.5 To receive a presentation on the European Food Safety Authority's opinion on lead in game meat.

Matt Ellis, Research Officer, provided Council with an update on recently published reports relating to lead in game meat.

It was noted that the reports referred to therein will form key documents for the Lead Ammunition Group's risk assessment process for this country. Council expressed their appreciation to Matt for the clarity of his presentation on a complex subject matter

B.6 To receive a presentation on regional development/rural sports tourism in the South West.

Jamie Stewart, BASC's Director, South West England gave a presentation on how BASC has positioned itself with the South West Regional Development Agency to access a 3 year £1.6 million fund to promote rural sports tourism in the south west, through the RDPE.

Council noted the successes achieved and the positive relationships which have been established over time with a number of the Regional Development Agencies and their partners.

C.1. To receive the Minutes of Advisory Committees

C.1.1. To note the Minutes of the Executive & Finance Committee Meeting held on 20th May 2010

The Minutes of the Executive & Finance Committee meeting were approved.

C2. To receive the Chairman's Activities Report

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

C.3. To receive the Chief Executive's Report



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The Chief Executive provided an oral report to Council. It was noted that the next meeting of the Lead Ammunition Group will take place on 29th September 2010.

Membership recruitment and renewals are being carefully monitored and recent market research indicates that the attitude amongst the membership is very positive at present.

C4. To receive the Director of Communications' Report

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

The Director advised that high quality equipment has now been installed in the video editing suite and invited Council members to visit the suite to view the equipment and chat with staff about plans for how it can best be utilised for the benefit of the Association.

Council congratulated the Director and his staff team on the production of an excellent edition of Shooting & Conservation magazine, and thanks were also extended to the Press Team for their support to the London Social Committee in respect of the recent fundraising event at Holland & Holland.

C5. To approve the Director of Business Management's Summary Report

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

C.7. To take the Director of Operations' Report

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

Thanks were expressed to Steve Bloomfield and his team for the excellent organisation of BASC's presence at the Midland Game Fair and also to those Council Members who assisted at the event.

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

(1) The issue of the proposals by Natural England to withdraw from the management of a number of its national Nature Reserves was raised as a potential threat to BASC and its members.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive will present a report on this issue to a future meeting of Council.



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(2) Concern was expressed that a number of Police Constabularies have taken a decision to withdraw from staffing the position of Wildlife Liaison Officer, and the potential threat to BASC and its membership should other organisations or agencies take responsibility for this role.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive will give an up-date on this issue to the October meeting of Council.

(3) The first meeting of the Snaring Group had taken place in Northern Ireland and thanks were extended to BASC Scotland for their support and assistance.

(4) Concern was expressed regarding the article in a recent edition of Shooting Times on the topic of passage of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill through the Northern Ireland Parliament.

It was agreed that the Communications Team will assist in drafting a letter from Tommy Mayne, Northern Ireland Office, to Shooting Times which credits the organisations that were omitted from the article.

(5) Council members considered a proposal presented by the Director of Communications for the recruitment of a Camera Operator/Video Editor.

Council approved the recruitment of a Camera Operator/Video Editor to maintain and operate the specialist video creation and editing equipment obtained for the video editing suite in the Duke of Edinburgh building.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held at 09.30 hrs. on Thursday 21st October 2010 at Marford Mill.

There will be a pre-meeting of elected members only at 09.00hrs.

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

