

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM ON THURSDAY 27TH JANUARY 2011

Present:

Robert Irvine Chairman
Alan Balfour
Simon Breasley
Paul Culley
John Dryden
Lee Freeston
David De Gernier
Peter Glenser
Martyn Howat
Michael Sherman
John Thornley
Alisdair Troup

Ex-Officio Members	Philippa Bursey Glynn Cook Christopher Graffius Colin Shedden John Swift	Director of Business Management Director, Wales Director of Communications Director, Scotland Chief Executive Officer
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In attendance	Conor O’Gorman Tim Russell Paul Williamson	Agenda Item B.1 Agenda Item B.2 Agenda Item B.2
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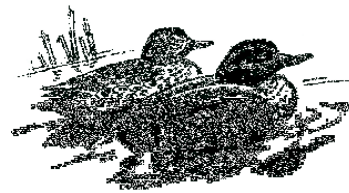
Minute Secretary **Amanda Forshaw**

A.1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Robert Crofts, Helen Cormack, Neil Griffiths, Simon Hamlyn, Sir Roger Jones, Tommy Mayne, Mike Robinson, Mike Smith, Ray Walters and Claire Zambuni

A.2 To confirm Confidential agenda items.

It was decided that Agenda Items A.5.2, B.1, C.1.1 and C.5 should be regarded as confidential.



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A.3. Declaration of Interests

Glynn Cook, Paul Culley, Martyn Howat and Michael Sherman each declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item A.5.2.

Lee Freeston declared an interest in respect of the issue in relation to the BASC donation to WHCT raised under Agenda Item C.5

A.4. To confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th November 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 the Council meeting held on 18th November, 2010.

A.5.1. Progress Report on the Wildlife & Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill

Council was provided with an oral update on the progress of the Wildlife & Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill.

A.5.2. Dyfi Estuary Wildfowling support

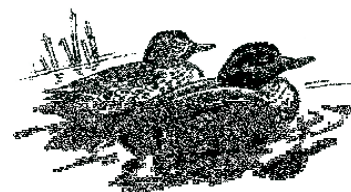
The Chief Executive notified Council that he had agreed financial support for legal costs to enable four BASC affiliated wildfowling clubs to contest at the Land Registry an RSPB claim of adverse possession affecting their wildfowling on the Dyfi. He stressed that while BASC is not “a legal aid body” his decision was founded on the fact that the permit scheme under which the clubs enjoyed wildfowling had been established by the Association and continues to operate under BASC’s auspices.

Council approved the Chief Executive’s decision and further agreed that a wildfowling or shooting permit scheme may benefit from financial support from BASC for legal costs if it clearly operates under the auspices of the Association. However, this support does not breach the principal of BASC not being a “legal aid body” and every case must be judged on its merits.

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

A.6.1. Objects

It was agreed that the Executive & Finance Committee be tasked with reviewing the options regarding the legal status of the Association and making recommendations to a future meeting of Council.



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

The suitability of the commercial version of Skype was being assessed; this would enhance communication between BASC's own offices. Systems that allow video conferences to be undertaken with other organisations were also being considered.

A.6.3. Phased Direct Debits

Item on main agenda.

A.6.4. Review of Council's Committees

Item on main agenda.

A.6.5. Key Function Indicators

To receive an annual report on key function indicators in July 2011.

A.6.6. National Nature Reserves

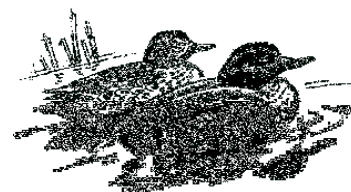
A report on Natural England's policies for possible disposal of National Nature Reserves to be presented to a future meeting of Council.

A.6.7. WHT

WHT Trustees to provide Council with a brief progress report in October 2011.

A.6.8 Land Purchase by BASC

Item on main agenda



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A.6.9 Wildlife Liaison Officer Posts within Police Constabularies

A letter has been sent to the Chairs of ACPO and Police Wildlife Crime Committees, copied to Chief Officers of Police and Police Authorities, expressing appreciation of the work of these officers in the past and stressing the importance of continuing to address wildlife crime.

Feedback from responses to be presented to the February meeting of Council.

B.1. The functioning of Council's committees

Council received a paper outlining the background and rationale behind the recommendations previously presented arising from a review of the functioning of its committees.

Council noted the contribution to the review made by Conor O'Gorman.

Council agreed to adopt the proposals and tasked the existing review group¹ together with the Chief Executive and Chairman to develop practical, deliverable recommendations for consideration at Council's May meeting. It was Council's view that changes should be implemented with effect from the meeting immediately following the Annual General Meeting in June and thereafter the working of the new arrangements should be reviewed at suitable intervals.

It was further agreed that the Chief Executive prepare a summary for general distribution.

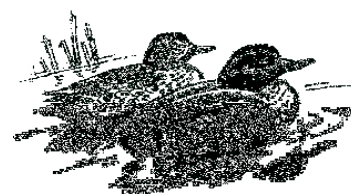
B.2. Research into the extent to which land for shooting is being lost and gained from all causes.

In connection with a possible project to research the extent to which land for shooting is being lost and gained, the Chief Executive presented a scoping document that encompassed the findings of STEEP² reports on changes in the land available for wildfowling, gameshooting and deer stalking; the report also considered the likely cost of undertaking the suggested research.

Having given due consideration to the Chief Executive's paper it was agreed that Lee Freeston and Martyn Howat should work with Tim Russell to obtain an understanding of the current gain or loss of land for shooting and develop a detailed proposal for consideration at the March meeting of Council regarding the possible commissioning of an external research project.

¹ John Thornley, Michael Sherman and Conor O'Gorman

² Social, Technical, Economic, Environmental and Political



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B3. Legal issues surrounding the terms and conditions of membership and the implementation of phased direct debits.

The Director of Business Management provided Council with a report on membership terms and conditions and their applicability especially to those who would be making phased subscription payments.

Council extended thanks to the Director of Business Management for the comprehensive report presented.

The report, which represented Council's instructions to the Chief Executive and staff in matters relating to the rights of members, was approved in its entirety.

B.4 Recommendation for the appointment at the AGM of the Auditor for the ensuing year, pursuant to Rule 10.

Council agreed to recommend to the 2011 AGM that Baker Tilly be re-appointed as Auditors for the Association.

B.5 Recommendation concerning the re-election of the Earl of Home as President for a further term of three years from 2011

Council agreed that if Lord Home is willing for his name to be put forward, his re-election as President for a further term of three years would be recommended to the 2011 AGM.

C.1. To receive the Minutes of Advisory Committees

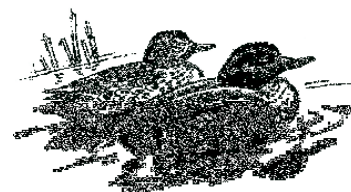
C.1.1. To approve the minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee meeting held on 29th July 2010

The Minutes of the Executive & Finance Committee were approved.

C.1.2. To note the minutes of the Scottish Committee meeting held on 20th January 2011

There were no recommendations to Council.

It was noted that the Committee had agreed that, as a BASC Country Committee, it would be inappropriate to make official comment on bow hunting, as it is outwith its competence, and deferred the matter to BASC Council.



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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

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated to Council detailing his activities over the past month.

It was noted that work is currently in progress on a review of the Association's Management Plan following the severe weather experienced in late 2010.

Council extended its appreciation to those staff engaged in the severe weather situation over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

C4. To receive the Director of Communications' Report

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

C5. To receive 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 agreed that in the financial statements for 2010 provision be made for a donation to the Wildlife Habitat Charitable Trust in the sum of £25,000.

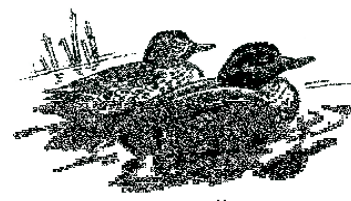
C.6. To take the Director of Operations' Report

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

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

(1) It was noted that on 1st February 2011 the Scotland Bill Committee in the Scottish Parliament will be reviewing the Scotland Bill in relation to the devolution of powers pertaining to air weapons. The Director BASC Scotland and a representative of the Chief Officers of Police in Scotland will be in attendance.

(2) Council noted with sadness the tragic death of BASC member Michael Cartledge.



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D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held at 09.30 hrs on Thursday 24th February 2011 at Marford Mill. This will be preceded by a meeting of elected members only commencing at 09.00hrs.

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

