THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 28th JULY 2011

Present:	**Robert Irvine, Chairman**	
	Mike Sherman, Vice Chairman	
	Alan Balfour	
	Robert Crofts	
	Paul Culley	
	John Dryden	
	Lee Freeston	
	David de Gernier	
	Neil Griffiths	
	John Thornley OBE	
	Alisdair Troup	
	Ray Walters	
Ex-Officio Members:	**John Swift**	**Chief Executive**
	Philippa Bursey	**Director of Business Management**
	Glynn Cook	**Director, Wales**
	Christopher Graffius	**Director of Communications**
	Tommy Mayne	**Director, Northern Ireland**
	Colin Shedden	**Director, Scotland**
In attendance	Peter Marshall	Item B.9
	Conor O'Gorman	Item B.3
Minute Secretary	Diane McKenzie	

A.1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies have been received from Helen Cormack, Peter Glenser, Martyn Howat, Sir Roger Jones, Mike Smith, and Claire Zambuni.

A.2. To confirm Confidential agenda items

It was agreed that item C6 - Director of Business Management's Report together with certain personnel related matters on which the Chief Executive reported orally should be treated as confidential.

A.3. Declaration of interests

The Chairman declared an interest in respect of item B10 – To decide the Chairman's Honorarium.

A.4. To confirm the minutes of the following meetings:

A4.1 Council meeting held on 26th May 2011

It was noted that an amendment was needed on page 1; "David Garner Williams" should read "Richard Garner Williams".

Subject to the above amendment the Minutes were confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A4.2 Council meeting held on 11th June 2011

Minutes were confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A4.2.1 Election process in absentia

It was agreed that the Role and Operations paper should be revised to reflect that for Council office holders and all committees "Candidates can stand for election in absentia provided they have clearly confirmed their willingness to stand and that facilities exist to allow them to participate as necessary in the election process".

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

A5.1 To consider Council's views and concerns over the Humber licence issue

Council discussed the proposed wording and agreed that the following statement should be used as necessary:-

"At May Council it was agreed that the views and concerns over the Humber licence issue be conveyed to ABP. This to be progressed in the near future and it is recommended that these are the observations:

BASC Council seeks to continue wildfowling for everyone on the Upper Humber and therefore will work for a system that:

- Is fair and inclusive
- Can demonstrate it is being run properly and provides confidence to all interested parties
- Meets the conservation requirements of the estuary"

As no response to the Chief Executive's letter to ABP had been received, ***it was agreed*** that the Chief Executive should follow up and convey the views and observations of Council to ABP.

A5.2 To receive an update on the Humber issue

John Thornley reported on the steps taken in promoting settlement of the dispute between the wildfowling clubs on the Upper Humber. He felt there was little more that elected Council members could contribute to resolving the issue but noted that agreement had been reached in relation to the Upper Humber Wildfowling Committee, the Chairmanship and Secretariat of which would be provided by BASC, though a meeting date has yet to be set.

The legal dispute between the clubs on the south bank had not been concluded though it was understood that an out of court settlement had been proposed.

Only oral assurances has thus far been received that the licence was in the process of being issued in the name of the Upper Humber Wildfowling Committee trustees.

Council accepted the recommendation that John Thornley and Martyn Howat should withdraw from further direct involvement. Thanks were extended to JT for the time and work he had put into this matter.

A.6. To take the Action Points outstanding from earlier Council meetings

A6.1 Objects

A meeting with Farrer & Company, Solicitors, in London was in the course of being arranged[1].

A6.2 Use of teleconferencing and video conferencing to reduce costs and enhance communications

This matter remains under review and a report will be made to Council at an appropriate time.

A6.3 Key Function Indicators

Agenda item B6.

A6.4 National Nature Reserves

Agenda Item B8.

A6.5 WHT Progress Report and Development Plan

A report will be provided to Council by WHT Trustees in October 2011.

A6.6 Land purchase by BASC

[1] A conference call will be held on 11 August 2011

The review is due to be undertaken in 2016, in the meantime the position would continue to be monitored.

A6.7 Canada Geese

A further report was due to be made to Council in September 2011, though better information would be available when the bird atlas had been published in 2012.

A6.8 BASC's Reserves policy

This matter had been referred to the Executive and Finance Committee which would report at an appropriate time.

B.1. To appoint the members of the Executive and Finance committee

A list had been circulated of proposed members who had each confirmed their willingness to sit. It was agreed that the Director of Business Management should be included as an ex-officio member of the committee.

Subject to this change, membership of the committee ***was approved*** as listed.

B.2. To appoint the members of the Disciplinary Appeals committee

A list had been circulated of proposed members, namely Mark Eldridge, John Graham and Graham Crompton Howe. Each proposed member had confirmed their willingness to sit.

Membership of the committee ***was approved*** as listed.

B.3. To approve the template for the Terms of Reference for the new advisory committees

Conor O'Gorman joined the meeting.

It was agreed that the text of the Chatham House Rule should be incorporated in the document. It was further agreed that clause 6B should be amended to read:

"The Chatham House Rule will be observed and will apply to all communications, minutes, reports and any other form of relevant communication".

The wording in 7A is to be amended to read "No financial support will **be** provided… ". The word "be" had been omitted.

Subject to these amendments, the template for the Terms of Reference for the new advisory committees was approved.

B.4. Appointment of the Chairs of the Country and Advisory Committees

Under the constitution, two members of Council are required to sit on each committee; one sits as the committee Chairman however, there is no provision or requirement for the second Council member to be Vice-Chairman.

In May, the Chairman of Council had written to all advisory committee members seeking expressions of interest in membership of the new committees; the chairman of each of the new committees will invite members from those who have indicated such an interest; others with relevant expertise may also be invited to participate.

Council members were encouraged to participate on the committees should they so wish. Relevant staff should be included on an advisory basis.

A dedicated committee website will go live in time for the September Council meeting. All staff and committee members will have unrestricted access to this as the business of the committees is expected to overlap.

Conor O'Gorman will contact and update everyone who applied for committee membership.

B4.1.1 Scottish Committee

Alan Balfour was re-elected as Chairman of the Scottish Committee.

B4.1.2 Welsh Committee

Michael Sherman was re-elected as Chairman of the Welsh Committee.

B4.1.3 Northern Ireland Committee

Robert Irvine was re-elected as Chairman of the Northern Ireland Committee.

B4.2.1 Wildfowling Committee

Prior to the election taking place several members raised the issue of the name of the committee. Following discussion and a vote ***it was resolved that*** the re-formed Wildfowling Committee shall be titled the Wildfowling Liaison Committee.

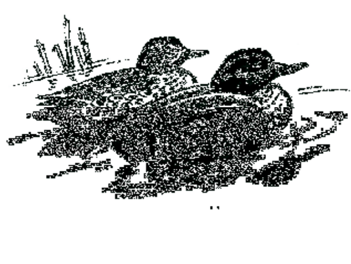
Lee Freeston was re-elected as Chairman of the Wildfowling Liaison Committee.

B4.2.2 Game Shooting and Gamekeeping Committee

Robert Crofts was elected as Chairman of the Game Shooting and Gamekeeping Committee.

B.4.2.3 Deer Stalking Committee

John Thornley was elected as Chairman of the Deer Stalking Committee.



B.5 B5.1 <u>To decide the date of the AGM in 2012</u>

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting in 2012 will be held on Saturday 9th June.

Further consideration would be given to the venue.

B5.2 <u>To decide the date of the programme for Council meetings in 2012</u>

The suggested Council meeting programme for 2012, previously circulated, ***was accepted*** as presented.

B.6. **<u>To receive the annual report on Key Function Indicators</u>**

The Chief Executive presented a report on Key Function Indicators which provided Council with a review of the state of sporting shooting in Britain and BASC's performance against each of its strategic objectives.

The Chief Executive extended his thanks to all who had contributed to the document, and requested acceptance of the conclusions.

It was agreed the report and its conclusions were accepted.

B.7. **<u>To receive the core budget parameters and anticipated subscription rates for 2012</u>**

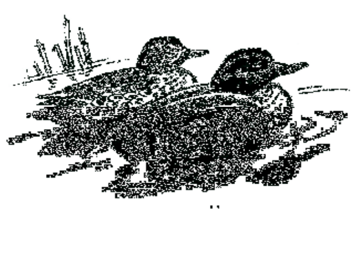
The Director of Business Management gave a presentation to explain the Association's budgetary cycle prior to using an interactive model to assist consideration of the core budget and subscriptions for 2012/13.

B.8. **<u>To receive an update on Natural England's policies especially with regard to the future management of National Nature Reserves</u>**

The Chief Executive updated Council on the consideration Natural England had been giving to the future management of the National Nature Reserves.

NE is no longer so focussed on selling their stock of NNR's but is seeking to drive cost out of their management. As controlled shooting is supported as a partner, there will be areas where BASC's clubs can help this to be achieved so Paul Williamson and Tim Russell are in discussion with NE over a wider range of issues.

There are similar processes taking place in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales under the auspices of their statutory conservation agencies.



B.9. To receive a report and paper from the Director Shooting Standards on Best Practice

Peter Marshall introduced his proposed project "Best Practice Guidance for Shooting Sports in the UK" under which best practice in shooting sports would be promoted through the publication of a series of discipline focussed guides, along the lines of those that have already been produced for deer management.

These guides would mainly be an online resource though printed copies would be available for purchase; they would be supported by video material. Reflecting current trends towards the holding of qualifications, the system would be based on National Occupational standards and would include a self assessment function.

Based on the Scottish experience, it was believed that in due course an income stream would be derived from best practice subscribers, but a cost would attach to both the development of the guides and to marketing.

Council was hugely supportive but inclined to the view that the project would prove rather larger than had been anticipated.

It was agreed that the project should be progressed but it was pointed out that although a budget bid for development funds might be submitted for consideration in November, there would be no opportunity to bid for additional human resources.

C.1. To receive the minutes of Advisory Committees

C1.1 To approve the minutes of the Executive and Finance committee meeting held on 20th April 2011

The Minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee 20th April 2011 were approved.

C1.2 To note the Minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee meeting held on 26 May

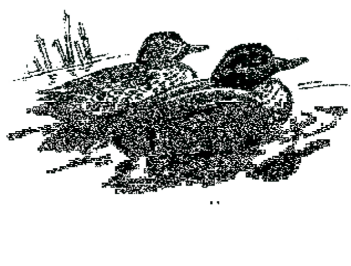
The Minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee 26th May 2011 were noted.

C.2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th June 2011 for signature by the President.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 11th June 2011 were approved for signature by the President.

C.3. To receive the Chairman's Activities Report

The Chairman's Activity Report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.



C.4. <u>To receive the Chief Executive's Report</u>

In speaking to his previously circulated report, the Chief Executive also provided Council with an oral update on a number of matters, mainly relating to personnel.

The Chief Executive reported on an investigation into matters arising from a meeting of the Upper Humber Wildfowling Committee on 7 March. The Council resolved that the Chief Executive's report on this matter must be treated in confidence. Council members could, if asked, confirm that due process had been followed, a thorough and detailed investigation carried out and disciplinary action was being taken.

The Chief Executive's report was accepted as presented.

C.5. <u>To receive the Director of Communication's Report</u>

Christopher Graffius confirmed there had been no enquiries following the massacre in Norway as it is seen as more terrorist than a sporting issue.

The Director of Communications report was accepted as presented.

C.6. <u>To approve the Director of Business Management's Report</u>

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

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

The Chief Executive of the Spanish hunters' association would be visiting BASC in October; Council members agreed to his attending their next meeting.

The matter of the amount of work being processed by the Firearms Department was noted by members.

D.2. <u>Date of next meeting</u>

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will take place on Thursday 22nd September 2011 commencing 9.30a.m. at Marford Mill; it would be preceded at 9.00a.m. by a meeting of elected members only.

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Chairman

Date …………………………………………………………