

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2012

Present: Robert Irvine, Chairman
Mike Sherman, Vice Chairman
Helen Cormack
Paul Culley
John Dryden
Lee Freeston
Peter Glenser
Neil Griffiths
Martyn Howat
Sir Roger Jones
John Thornley OBE

Ex-Officio Members:	Philippa Bursey	Director of Business Management
	Christopher Graffius	Director of Communications
	Meurig Rees	Director, Wales
	Colin Shedden	Director, Scotland

In attendance	Alan McCormick	Item B3
	John Harradine	Items B5 and B6
	Kate Ives	Items B5 and B6
	Peter Marshall	Items B1, B5 and B6

Minute Secretary Diane McKenzie-Hodkinson

A.1. Apologies for Absence

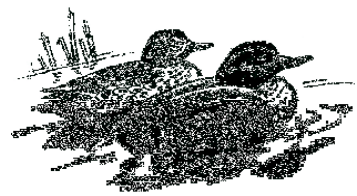
Apologies were received from Alan Balfour, David de Gernier, Tommy Mayne, Mike Smith, John Swift, Alisdair Troup, Ray Walters and Claire Zambuni.

A.2. To confirm Confidential agenda items

It was agreed that items B3 – a presentation from the Head of Deer Management on ‘Bovine TB and badger control’, B6 – a presentation from the Director Scotland on ‘the voluntary collection of bag data in Scotland’, Item C4 – Director of Business Management’s Report and D1.2 – Crown land in Scotland, be treated as confidential.

A.3 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.



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A.4 To confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 January 2012 (incorporating amendments agreed by the Chairman)

Lee Freeston requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that, having declared an interest in item B.3 (donation to the Wildlife Habitat Charitable Trust), he had not participated in the related discussions.

The minutes omitted to reflect Paul Culley's declaration of interest in item C3.1 (update on the Dyfi); he, together with Michael Sherman and Martyn Howat, also requested that the minutes be revised to reflect that they did not participate in related discussions.

It was agreed that the wording for D.1 (Any Other Business) be amended to include the statement that: 'Council discussed the implications of the possible sale of the buildings and land. It was agreed that BASC had no interest in pursuing this matter'.

Subject to the above amendments the minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A.5 To take Matters Arising from the meeting held on 26 January 2012

It was agreed that a form of words would be prepared by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman and to record and clarify the reason for the short timescale and absence of papers in relation to Item D.1 (foreclosure sale of Rossett Mill).

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

A.6.1 Objects

Legal opinion is being sought.

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

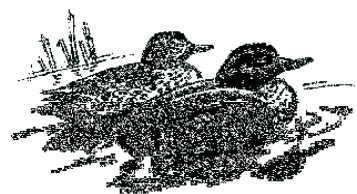
The Director of Business Management reported that some progress is being made.

A.6.3 Key Function Indicators

A report will be provided in July 2012.

A.6.4 WHT Progress Report and Development Plan

A report will be presented in October 2012.



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A.6.5 Canada Geese

It was reported that publication of the Bird Atlas may be delayed until 2013; given this and noting the wider-ranging issues underlying that would be brought back to Council at the appropriate time, it was agreed that this item should be taken off the action point list.

A.6.6 Sport and Recreation Alliance's Voluntary Code of Good Governance for the Sport and Recreation Sector

Circumstances had prevented a meeting between those members of the Executive and Finance Committee who had been tasked with this project, accordingly the presentation of a paper to Council would be deferred until May 2012.

A.6.7 Advisory Committees' Annual Reports

An annual report from each of the Advisory Committees will be presented to the May Council meeting. It was confirmed the reports will contain information on all activities undertaken by the committees, on how the system is working and on plans for the next year. Conor O'Gorman had emailed the committees providing them with information on the required report content and format.

A.6.8 Legacy money

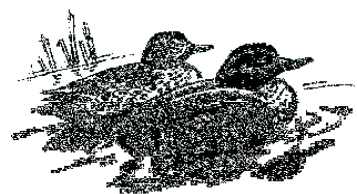
A report will be provided to the July Council meeting.

A.6.9 BASC Auditor

The Director of Business Management confirmed that a 'beauty parade' of potential auditors would take place in readiness of the 2012 AGM.

A.6.10 Risk Management Register

The Risk Management Register had been adopted and will now be monitored by the Executive & Finance Committee prior to being brought back to Council for an annual review in January 2013.



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B.1 To decide a change of policy for the Woodpigeon Shooting Code of Practice

Christopher Graffius presented a paper and asked Council to approve a change of policy for the Woodpigeon Shooting Code of Practice. This had been discussed with appropriate members of staff and on the Committees Forum.

It had been recommended and requested that the word 'must' be replaced with 'should'.

It was agreed the amended wording be used as recommended.

B.2 To decide matters concerning the Annual General Meeting and the Council ballot

B.2.1 To approve the Agenda

The outline Agenda for the AGM to take place on Saturday 9th June 2012 at Holt Lodge, Wrexham, was laid before Council for approval.

It was noted that no member motions had been received and that, due to legal complexity in certain areas, time would not permit the bringing of any constitutional changes to the AGM.

Subject to the inclusion of the re-election of the President, the Agenda was approved as presented.

B.2.2 To invite suggestions for consideration for Honours and Awards

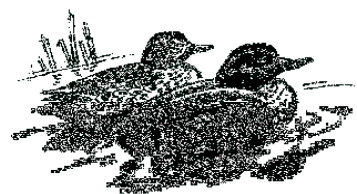
Council members were asked to give consideration to any persons whom might merit an award for presentation at the AGM or, in the interest of sensible cost-saving, at an appropriate regional show or event. The criteria for awards would be emailed to Council members.

B.2.3 To approve the arrangements for conducting the Council ballot

The Director of Business Management explained the ballot process. Five nominations had been received for the three vacancies: Michael Hardy, John Graham, Martyn Parfitt, John Thornley and Alan Jarrett.

The March/ April edition of *Shooting and Conservation* would include the election supplement and the on-line voting facility would open on 1st March; the closing date is 6th June.

The candidates have been invited to attend the May Council Meeting.



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B.3 To receive a presentation from the Head of Deer Management on 'Bovine TB and badger control'

Alan McCormick gave an updated presentation on Bovine TB and Badger Control.

BASC members can be expected to be involved but as a commercial activity they will not be covered by BASC's members' insurance.

It was agreed Alan will provide an update as the matter progresses.

Council thanked Alan for his presentation.

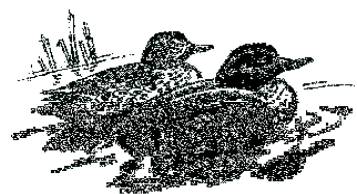
B.4 To receive a presentation from the Director of Communications on 'Taste of Game'

The Director of Communications updated Council on BASC's programme for the promotion of game to eat, re-branded as 'BASC Taste of Game' to clearly identify the link between the programme and the association

Extending the 'Taste of Game Week/Fortnight' into the 'Taste of Game Season' had been well received as it expanded opportunities to promote game as a healthy, nutritious and natural food.

The aim for 2012 is to bring more supermarkets on board, Waitrose and Sainsbury's have shown an interest, and Booths will be involved during 2012. It was also noted that Morrisons had done a feature on venison in various forms.

Diane McKenzie-Hodkinson's considerable contribution to the promotion of 'Game to eat' was noted with thanks.



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B.5 To receive a presentation from the Director of Research on 'the status of Greenland White-fronted Geese'

Dr John Harradine gave a presentation on the decline of Greenland White-fronted Geese.

The African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) manages migratory waterfowl populations, and as they have declined over the last few years the Greenland White-fronted Geese moved from Column B in the AEWA Action Plan (hunting is permitted in certain circumstances provided its sustainable) to Column A (requires full protection).

A meeting was recently held at which Defra, the Wildfowl Trust, RSPB, BASC and others looked at a programme of voluntary initiatives for the protection of Greenland White-fronts. The Welsh Committee and North Wales Joint Council meetings in March will be briefed on the situation to secure their cooperation in this.

Council thanked John for his presentation and for his sterling work.

B.6 To receive a presentation from the Director Scotland on 'the voluntary collection of bag data in Scotland'

The Director Scotland gave a presentation on the voluntary collection of bag data in Scotland.

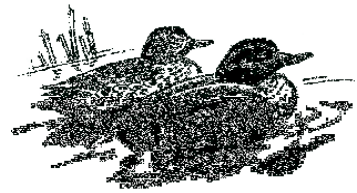
Government officials have invited Dr Shedden to chair a working group to look at a voluntary bag reporting system for wild birds. Other organisations to be represented include RSPB (Scotland), Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (corresponding), SNH, BTO, Scottish Ornithologist Club, Scottish Land and Estates (ex Scottish Land Owners Federation), SGA, SCA, GWCT, SACS and the NFU. BASC will be represented by Matt Ellis. The Group will meet 3 or 4 times over the next 6 months to develop recommendations for a voluntary system of bag reporting and to provide advice to the Minister.

Council thanked the Director Scotland for his presentation.

C.1 To receive the minutes of Council's Committees

C.1.1 To approve the minutes of the Executive & Finance Committee meeting held 24 November 2011

The Minute of the Executive & Finance Committee of 24 November 2011 were approved.



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C.1.2 To note the minutes of the Executive & Finance Committee meeting held 26 January 2012

The Minutes of the Executive & Finance Committee of 26 January 2012 were noted.

C.2 To receive the Chairman's Activities Report

The Chairman reported that he will be giving an update on the Chief Executive recruitment process in his March report to Council.

The Chairman's Activities Report was accepted as presented.

C.3 To receive the Director of Communication's Report

Noting that formal systems were in place to maintain contact with clubs and syndicates as they near the date of their AGM, the effect of stiff price competition on the retention of such members was considered.

The approach of the National Trust to shooting was also considered; at a senior level the trust is supportive of the sport and, in close consultation with BASC, had produced a set of guidelines for the management of shooting on their land; difficulties at a local level were thought to reflect relationships with and the attitude of individual property managers. Sir Roger Jones as Chairman of the National Trust for Wales offered to source information to assist with any other queries.

The Director of Communication's Report was accepted as presented.

C.4 To approve the Director of Business Management's Summary Report

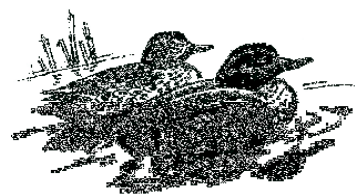
The Director of Business Management's Report was accepted as presented.

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

D1.1 Phillip and Jean Pugh retirement

Phillip Pugh, BASC Director Northern Region and Jean Pugh, Personal Assistant, would be retiring at the end of the month after nearly 25 years working for BASC.

Council asked that the Chairman write on its behalf to thank Phillip and Jean for all they had contributed to the Association and to send them very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.



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D1.2 Crown land - Scotland

The Director of Scotland was asked to provide Council with an update on the Crook of Baldoon where, according to reports in the shooting press, land is being lost for wildfowling because of problems with the RSPB. BASC Scotland staff are advising and assisting the clubs involved.

Council recognised that the issue was being well managed by BASC but asked the Director of Scotland to keep them updated on progress.

D.2 Date of Next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will take place on Thursday, 22 March 2012, commencing 9.00 a.m.

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Chairman

Date

