THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY, 21 MARCH 2013

Present:	Michael Sherman	Vice-Chairman - Chairman of the meeting
	Alan Balfour	
	Paul Culley	
	Lee Freeston	
	Neil Griffiths	
	Mike Hardy	
	Robert Irvine	
	Alan Jarrett	
	Sir Roger Jones	
	Mike Smith	
	John Thornley	
	Alisdair Troup	
Ex-Officio Members:	John Swift	Chief Executive
	Richard Ali	Chief Executive Designate
	Philippa Bursey	Director of Business Management
	Steve Bloomfield	Director, English Regions
	Tommy Mayne	Director, Northern Ireland
	Colin Shedden	Director, Scotland
In attendance:	Conor O'Gorman	Item B5
Minute Secretary:	Amanda Taylor	

A.1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from John Dryden, David de Gernier, Peter Glenser, Christopher Graffius, Martyn Howat, Meurig Rees and Claire Zambuni.

In the absence of Martyn Howat, the Vice-Chairman, Michael Sherman, chaired the meeting.

A.2. To confirm Confidential Agenda Items

It was agreed that Items C.5 be treated as confidential.

A.3 To identify suggested items of Any Other Business

Items for 'Any Other Business' to be discussed under Agenda Item D.1 were noted.

A.4 Declarations of Interest

See item D1.

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A.5 To confirm the minutes of Council meeting 21 February 2013

It was agreed that the words “staff member” be inserted before “Jane Harris”. The minutes, as amended, were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

A.6 To take matters arising from earlier Council meetings.

Alan Balfour and Colin Shedden reported that progress had been made on the question of the introduction by the Forestry Commission Scotland of a requirement for stalking leaseholders to use non-lead ammunition by 2015. Following a meeting with Colin Lavin, it had been accepted that further, more objective tests were necessary and stakeholder input would be invited before any policy change was implemented.

A.7 To take the Action Points outstanding from earlier Council meetings

A.7.1 Objects

To be dealt with under B3.

A.7.2 Key Function Indicators

An annual report will be presented in July 2013. To be discussed with Richard Ali.

A.7.3 WHT Progress Report and Development Plan

A report will be presented in October 2013.

A.7.4 Sport and Recreation Alliance’s Voluntary Code of Good Governance for the Sport and Recreation Sector

To be dealt with under B3.

A.7.5 Advisory Committees’ Annual Reports

A report will be presented by Conor O’Gorman to the May 2013 Council meeting, along with a report from each Advisory & Country Committee Chairman.

A.7.6 Risk Management Register

To be monitored by E&F and reported on at the November 2013 E&F meeting and brought back to the January 2014 Council meeting.

A.7.7 Land purchase

To be brought back to the April 2013 Council meeting.

A.7.8 Chairman election process

To be dealt with under item B3.

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A.7.9 Council meeting attendance figures

To be dealt with at item B3.

B.1 To approve the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2012

The Director of Business Management was commended by Council on an excellent set of financial statements and along with her team was complimented on their efficient co-operation with the auditors.

The financial statements and the signature by the Chief Executive of the letter of representation addressed to the auditors were both approved.

B.2 To receive a summary of plaudits and complaints

The Chief Executive presented a summary of complaints and plaudits. He explained that, on a quarterly basis, plaudits and complaints are formally reviewed by the senior team. With regard to complaints, staff successfully deal with many thousands of queries from members and the number of substantive complaints is very low in comparison with the high volume of inquiries and requests for help received.

Those sending in plaudits are thanked in writing and details of such plaudits are posted on the Extranet which is accessible by staff colleagues and Council members.

B.3 To receive a report on the Governance Workshop held at Llyndir Hall Hotel on 26 & 27 February 2013

The Chief Executive reported on the Governance Workshop noting that a worksheet had been compiled showing proposals for consideration by Council on a range of items bearing on governance, many of which were to be brought to the April meeting. It was agreed that, as the agenda for that meeting would be very heavy, role and operations and code of good governance matters should be separated with some of them being deferred until May.

The one substantive issue that needed immediate consideration was the procedure for electing the Chairman of Council. **It was agreed**: ***that those intending to stand for election as Chairman, Vice Chairman or Chairman of E&F should declare their candidacy at the April Council meeting and that the candidature of anyone proposed at the meeting following the AGM in June at which the election takes place would only be considered in very exceptional circumstances.*** The Chief Executive will write to advise those who are standing for election to Council.

Referring to the Council Action Point Table - item1: the Director of Business Management is to seek further legal advice; item 4: Paul Williamson has available an update, and item 9: will come to Council at the July meeting.

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B.4 To consider the reports of the British Bowhunters Association, identifying issues for consideration

The Chief Executive presented a brief paper outlining questions for consideration arising out of the presentation made to Council in February 2013 by representatives of the British Bowhunters Association. **It was agreed** : to postpone further debate until the Deer Committee and Gameshooting and Gamekeeping Committee had considered the matter at their meetings in April, when the respective committee chairmen, John Thornley and Paul Culley, would report back to Council.

B.5 To receive a presentation by Policy Development Manager: "The Policy Function within BASC"

The Policy Development Manager reported to Council on the development of BASC's responses to consultations and gave examples of where BASC had been successful in campaigning against potentially detrimental legislation, co-operating with other organisations, and galvanising support from members through the use of tools such as social networking sites and email. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have clearer timetables for feedback from Council members on responses to consultations.

It was suggested that Council consider at the April meeting, the possible implications for European white-fronts in the rest of the UK. This discussion would be in parallel with the Welsh Governments proposal on white-fronted geese in Wales.

Post meeting note: The Chief Executive will provide an update on Greenland white-fronted geese for the April meeting of Council.

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

C.1.1 Northern Ireland Committee held 6 January 2013

The minutes were approved by Council.

C.2 To receive the Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was accepted as presented.

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C.3 To receive the Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented his report.

It was agreed that as BASC Chief Executive, Richard Ali would take over as the ex-officio trustee of the three Wildlife Habitat Trusts[1]. It was also noted that he would henceforward be the representative of the employer, "BASC Limited", on the Information and Consultation Forum.

The imminent launch of the Code of Practice for Brown Hares, developed by the Association, was noted; it was important that it be in issue for the Spring.

C.4 To receive the Director of Communications' Report

The Director of Communications' Report was accepted as presented.

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

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

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

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had written to ministers regarding the restrictions being introduced on the use of certain rodenticides commonly used in shoot management; there was to be a stakeholder meeting at which BASC will be represented by Glynn Evans and Paul Culley[2].

An item was raised in relation to the council ballot, where upon Michael Sherman declared an interest and left the room after handing over the position of Chair to Alan Balfour. In addition both Lee Freeston and John Thornley declared an interest and left the room.
The matter had previously been referred to the Scrutineer who had made a decision; it was therefore decided that there was nothing further for Council to discuss. All three returned to the room and Michael Sherman resumed the Chair.

Other matters put forward for Any Other Business had been covered elsewhere in the meeting.

On behalf of Council the Chairman of the meeting proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Chief Executive.

[1] Wildlife Habitat Trust, Wildlife Habitat (Conservation Stamp) Trust, Wildlife Habitat Charitable Trust
[2] Post meeting note: At the 18 April Council meeting it was noted Paul Culley would also be attending

D.2 Date of next meeting 18 April 2013

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will take place on Thursday 18 April 2013.

…………………………………………………………….
Chairman

Date ……………………………………………………….