THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM,
ON THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2013

Present:	**Martyn Howat**	**Chairman**
	Alan Balfour	
	Paul Culley	
	Lee Freeston	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Mike Hardy	
	Alan Jarrett	
	Sir Roger Jones	
	Mike Sherman	
	Mike Smith	
	David Stinson	
	John Thornley	
	Alisdair Troup	
Ex-Officio Members:	**Richard Ali**	**Chief Executive**
	Steve Bloomfield	**Director, English Regions**
	Meurig Rees	**Director, Wales**
	Colin Shedden	**Director, Scotland**

Minute Secretary: Amanda Taylor

A.1. To receive apologies for absence and to note absentees

Apologies for absence had been received from Philippa Bursey, Peter Glenser, Christopher Graffius, Neil Griffiths, John Graham and Tommy Mayne.

A.2. To confirm confidential items

It was agreed that Items B2, B5, B6, B8, B9 C5 and D1 be treated as confidential. It was agreed to move Item B6 down the agenda so that it was discussed immediately before Item B9.

A.3 To identify suggested items of any other business

Paul Culley wished to raise membership of the Gamekeeping Committee. John Thornley wished to mention the Law Commission's recent interim statement on wildlife law reform.

A.4 Declarations of Interest

Alan Jarrett, Lee Freeston and Richard Ali declared an interest in Item B3.

A.5 Minutes of 19 September 2013 Council meeting

The minutes were approved.

A.6 Matters arising from earlier Council meetings

The Chairman confirmed that a certificate and letter had been sent to David de Gernier following his resignation from Council due to ill health. The Chairman has also spoken to the former Chief Executive, John Swift, about his remarks at the AGM. John Swift will be present at the November Council meeting.

A.6.1 Northern Ireland Committee membership addition

It was agreed to add Trevor McConville as a member of the Committee.

A.7 Action points outstanding from earlier Council meetings

Action points 3, 6, 8, and 9 are on the agenda.

B.1 Health and Safety

B.1.1 Monthly health and safety report

In the absence of the Director of Business Management, Richard Ali reported that there had been no accidents or near misses in the month of September.

B.1.2 Annual health and safety report

There had been no reportable accidents under the RIDDOR regulation during the past year. The management system for health and safety is currently under review and a report will be presented for Council's approval in March 2014. Security at regional offices and events such as game fairs was raised; both items would be included in the review.

B.2 Declaration of Interests Register

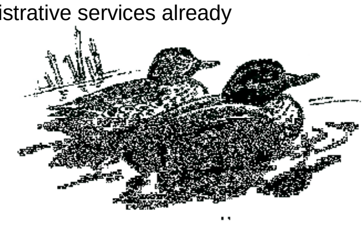
(Confidential)

The contents of the register were noted by Council.

B.3 WHT

Tim Russell presented a report on the Wildlife Habitat Trusts. Council agreed to continue BASC support, applying the existing funding policy on an annual basis[1].

[1] In May 2001 Council agreed that BASC would make a donation to the Wildlife Habitat Trust of an amount (not exceeding £50,000) to match the external income generated by the Trust, provided the Association makes sufficient surplus to allow this and taking into account future funding requirements. The donation would be in addition to the administrative services already provided to the Trust by BASC.



B.4 <u>Audit of Council skills</u>

Alan Jarrett thanked the members of the working group for their participation and presented a preliminary paper. Council members were asked to fill in a table of skills. The table will be re-circulated with some minor amendments, to be returned to Alan Balfour for analysis of gaps, and further discussion at the next Council meeting.

B.5 <u>Governance (attendance allowance, size of Council and two-year chairmanship)</u>

(Confidential)

Council agreed the motions for the AGM.

B.6 <u>Operational Plan</u> (See below)

B.7 <u>Election process - sanctions</u>

Richard Ali presented a paper giving examples of transgressions committed during the election process, with suggested penalties. Council approved the levels of sanction. These will be passed to DAC for guidance.

B.8 <u>Reserves</u>

(Confidential)

Council agreed the reserves figure as recommended by the Executive and Finance Committee.

B.6 <u>Operational plan</u>

(Confidential)

Following a presentation by the Chief Executive, Council agreed the operational plan to implement the Association's strategy for the coming year, covering operational priorities, strategic initiatives and business performance milestones.

B.9 Budget

(Confidential)

Council congratulated the Chief Executive on a comprehensive slide presentation on the suggested budget for 2014. Following debate, Council asked for some remodelling to be done, to be presented at the November meeting.,

C.1.1 Executive and Finance Committee minutes 25 July 2013 (approval)

The minutes were approved.

C1.2 Executive and Finance Committee minutes 19 September 2013 (noting)

The minutes were noted.

C.2 Chairman's report

The Chairman presented his report. He informed Council that the President, Lord Home, whom he had recently met, was very happy with the direction being taken by the Association and had offered to host a lunch/dinner on behalf of BASC. He announced that BASC had been approached with a view to participating in the Langholm project and a proposal was expected to be put before Council soon.

C.3 Chief Executive's report

The Chief Executive presented his report on his activities since the last meeting. He had attended three political party conferences with the Chairman. He reported that the Home Office working group on firearms licensing had had one meeting, at which the Association had been represented by Christopher Graffius and Bill Harriman. A proposal for a ten-year licence would be submitted using the Red Tape Challenge process. BASC had been invited by the Welsh Government to contribute to the consultation on access proposals.

C.4 Director of Communications' report

In the absence of the Director of Communications, Richard Ali presented his report. He highlighted that BASC had had a presence at the recent party conferences; Conor O'Gorman has continued to take the lead in areas such as RSPCA access to firearms licensing information, and Scottish airgun licensing; a recent Taste of Game dinner organised with the London Social Committee had raised £2,300, which would be used for Young Shots; good progress was being made on membership recruitment and retention.

C.5 Director of Business Management's report

(Confidential)

In the absence of the Director of Business Management, the report was presented by Richard Ali.

C.6 To consider requests for advice from Country and Advisory Committees

The Chairman asked Council if they had any requests for Country and Advisory Committees. It was agreed that each Committee would be supplied with the part of the Operational Plan relevant to their area for feedback.

D.1 Council Confidentiality (oral)

The Chairman pointed out that until the minutes of the meeting had been approved at the following meeting of Council, members should be discreet about what they publish on internet forums, etc.

E.1 Any other business by leave of the Chairman

John Thornley said the consultation process on the review of wildlife law had now closed and an interim statement had just been issued by the Law Commission. He agreed to circulate a paper on the proposals.

It was agreed that Michael Holliday would be a member of the Gamekeeping Committee.

E.2 Date of next meeting – 21 November 2013

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 21 November 2013.

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Chairman

Date ……………………………………………………….