

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 2014

Present:	Martyn Howat	Chairman
	Alan Balfour	
	Paul Culley	
	Lee Freeston	
	John Graham	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Neil Griffiths	
	Alan Jarrett	
	Mike Sherman	
	Mike Smith	
	David Stinson	
	John Thornley	

Ex-Officio	Richard Ali	Chief Executive
Members:	Steve Bloomfield	Director, English Regions
	Philippa Bursey	Director of Business Management
	Stephen Curtis	Director, HR and Operations
	Christopher Graffius	Director of Communications
	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 Mike Hardy, Sir Roger Jones, Tommy Mayne, Meurig Rees and Alisdair Troup. Peter Glenser did not attend the meeting.

A.2. To confirm confidential items

It was agreed that Items B2, B6, C6 and E1 be treated as confidential.

A.3 To identify suggested items of any other business

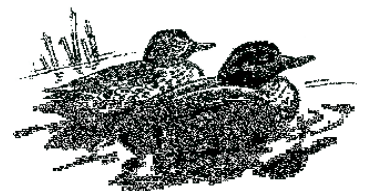
The Director of Business Management wished to make an announcement for E&F Committee members. Paul Culley wished to raise the question of wildfowling restrictions on the Crook of Baldoon. Mike Smith announced that he would not be standing for re-election to Council.

A.4 Declarations of Interest

Alan Jarrett, Lee Freeston and Richard Ali declared an interest in Item C6.

A.5 Minutes of the 21 November 2013 Council meeting

The minutes were approved.



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A.6 Matters arising from earlier Council meetings

There were no matters arising.

A.7 Action points outstanding from earlier Council meetings

Action point 9 to be reported to the March meeting and the name changed to Alan Jarrett.

B.1 Monthly health and safety report

There had been one near miss in November and the cause of the problem dealt with.

B.2 Membership update (oral)

(Confidential)

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on membership trends over the past five years, analysing categories of membership and differences between countries and regions. A task group on marketing and recruitment will be established to report back to Council in July 2014.

B.3 Risk management register

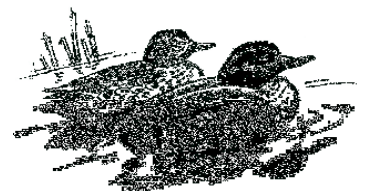
The risk register had been updated by the Association's senior management team and reviewed and approved by the E&F Committee at its November meeting. Key risks which have been added were an increase in Insurance Premium Tax and BASC's corporate structure not meeting the requirements for mutual trading status. The scoring methodology had also been altered to remove zeroes from calculations. Council approved the updated risk management register with minor updates to reflect mitigation activities.

B.4 Virtual server implementation

The Director of Business Management informed Council on progress with the IT change. The project had come in under budget. There are still some architectural issues to be resolved but overall the new system is working well.

B.5 Legal structure – trading subsidiary

Council approved the incorporation of a wholly owned subsidiary company limited by shares, the exact name to be left to officers to decide, but it should have a clear indication of its link to the Association.



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B.6 BASC processing the WeBS data

(Confidential)

Matt Ellis gave a presentation to Council. Council agreed to BASC seeking to pursue a trial to assist Natural England analysing WeBS count data. The terms of reference remained to be drawn up.

B.7 Use and availability of tungsten shot

Matt Ellis presented Council with the results of a members' survey on the use and availability of tungsten shot. The Chief Executive agreed to look into the cost of tungsten-based shot and the possibility of the Association assisting members in the sourcing of such shot, and to report back to the March Council meeting. In the meantime the information previously provided on how to source tungsten shot would be re-circulated to members.

B.8 Forward plan (Council oversight)

Council agreed the scrutiny and monitoring forward plan, with the addition of a report on countries and regions to be brought to the October Council meeting.

B.9 Governance – England country committee

Council approved the establishment of an England Committee and appointed Martyn Howat as shadow Chairman to oversee the identification of committee members.

B.10 General Licences (Scotland) (oral update)

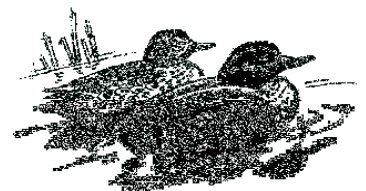
Colin Shedden updated Council on the Scottish Government's recent changes to general licences. The Association objected to the short consultation period before the introduction of the changes, and may seek legal advice if necessary, should the general licence be withdrawn in any area.

C.1

C.1.1 Executive and Finance Committee meeting minutes 19 September 2013 (approval)

The minutes were amended to read "Mr Colin Burne having been convicted and sentenced at Carlisle Magistrates' Court on 8 July 2013 for three offences of killing buzzards, the Committee decided on a level 4 punishment and he was expelled for life from the Association."

The minutes were approved.



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C1.2 Executive and Finance Committee meeting minutes 21 November 2013 (noting)

The minutes were noted.

C1.3 Welsh Committee minutes 17 November 2013

The Chief Executive asked for point 9(d) to be amended by the removal of the final sentence. The minutes were approved.

C1.4 Northern Ireland Committee minutes 25 September 2013

The minutes were approved. Alan Jarrett encouraged Lough Erne Wildfowlers to apply to WHT for funding for a conservation project they wished to undertake.

C.2 Chairman's report

Council received an update of the Chairman's activities from 11 November 2013 to 13 January 2014.

C.3 Chief Executive's report

The Chief Executive presented his report to Council. He mentioned that as a result of the WHCT funding of a joint Russian – Lithuanian conservation project the Russian Ambassador had expressed an interest in visiting a wildfowling club in Kent.

C.4 Director of Communications' report

The Director of Communications presented his report and drew attention to the Association's website for the forthcoming European elections, which will shortly go live.

C.5 Director of HR and Operations' report

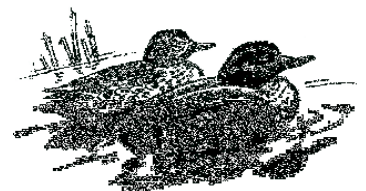
The Director of HR and Operations presented his report.

C.6 Director of Business Management's report (confidential)

The Director of Business Management presented her report and asked Council to consider the level of BASC's donation to the Wildlife Habitat Charitable Trust. Council agreed to donate £30,000-35,000 in accordance with the commitment to matched funding, once the WHT year-end figures have been confirmed.

C.7 To consider requests for advice from Country and Advisory Committees

Wildlife Liaison Committee to be made aware of the Association's intention to approach Natural England regarding WeBS count trials and to advise Council as necessary.



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D.1 Any other business by leave of the Chairman

Arrangements are under way for a review of the Chairman and Council's performance. A questionnaire will be sent out to Council members shortly.

The Director of Business Management advised Executive and Finance Committee members that there would be meeting with the Baker Tilly auditor on 19th March prior to Council considering approval of the 2013 financial statements on the following day.

Paul Culley enquired about wildfowling restrictions on the Crook of Baldoon. Colin Shedden reported that there has been no change to the byelaws as yet, although there is a proposal to restrict wildfowling and other recreational activities in the area near the RSPB centre in the future.

D.2 Date of next meeting – 20 February 2014

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 20 February 2014, to be held at the Birmingham Proof House.

E.1 Confidential item

A confidential matter was discussed.

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Chairman

Date

