

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2014

Present: **Martyn Howat, Chairman**

Alan Balfour
Paul Culley
Lee Freeston
John Graham
Duncan Greaves
Neil Griffiths
Mike Hardy
Alan Jarrett
Sir Roger Jones
Mike Sherman
Mike Smith
David Stinson

Ex-Officio
Members

Richard Ali
Steve Bloomfield
Philippa Burse
Stephen Curtis
Colin Shedden

Chief Executive
Director, English Regions
Director of Business Management
Director, HR and Operations
Director, Scotland

Minute Secretary Amanda Forshaw

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

Apologies for absence had been received from Peter Glenser, Christopher Graffius, Tommy Mayne, John Thornley, and Alisdair Troup.

A.2 To confirm confidential items

It was agreed that items B5, B6, B7, B8, B12, B14 and C5 should be regarded as confidential. It was also agreed that additional items E1 and E2 which do not appear on the agenda for the meeting, should be regarded as confidential.

A.3 To identify suggested items of any other business

Four items of Any Other Business were identified: (1) Resignation of Chair of Gameshooting and Gamekeeping Committee (2) Presentation to Council by Steve Woodhall (3) Hunting Club of Xanthi, Northern Greece and (4) The Mersey Gateway



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CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2014

A.4. Declarations of Interest

Lee Freeston declared an interest in respect of Agenda Item B.7.

A.5. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th February 2014

The minutes of the meeting, having been circulated, were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

A.6. Matters arising from earlier Council meetings

There were no matters arising.

A.7. Action points outstanding from earlier Council Meetings.

All action points set for the March meeting had been included on the main agenda.

B.1. Health & Safety

It was noted that there had been no accidents or near misses reported in February 2014.

B.2. Health and Safety Management System

The Director of Business Management presented a paper which set out the draft Health & Safety Management System.

Council considered and approved the draft Health & Safety Management System.

B.3. Financial Statements year ended 31st December 2013

Council approved and adopted the financial statements for year ending 31st December 2013.

It was agreed appropriate that the Letter of Representation should be signed by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Executive and Finance Committee.

It was agreed that the financial statements would be signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman on behalf of Council.



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2014

B.4 SRA Voluntary Code of Good Governance

The Chief Executive presented a paper outlining proposed further actions to align the governance of BASC with the Sport and Recreation Alliance's Code of Good Governance.

Council agreed to the recommendation that the session on strategic finance scheduled for April 2014 be supplemented by a session on the legal obligations and risks for Council members, including fiduciary duty and employment law.

Mindful of diversity, Council debated the recommendation that consideration be given to co-opting a woman to Council when there is no female representation in order to ensure that its composition adequately reflects society and BASC's membership. Council agreed that female members with the right balance of skills and experience to meet the needs of the organisation should be encouraged to stand for election to Council.

Council will formally consider its size in October of each year. Frequency and location of meetings is a matter for consideration under Agenda Item B.9 on the main agenda.

B.5 Corporate Structure

(Confidential)

The Director of Business Management provided an oral update on the possible restructuring of the Industrial & Provident Society. It was noted that the view of the Registrar of Friendly Societies has been sought and a response awaited. Feedback will be presented to a future meeting of Council.

B.6 Strategic Indicators

(Confidential)

The Chief Executive presented a paper to Council outlining the benchmarks for each strategic indicator and the model used to present the current position and long / short term trends.

The benchmark scorecard was noted by Council and an updated scorecard will be reviewed at the September meeting of Council.



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2014

B.7 Land Purchase

(Confidential)

Alan Jarrett presented an update paper prepared by the Land Purchase Working Group.

Council agreed that the Land Purchase Working Group, in discussion with BASC's Chief Executive determine the most appropriate vehicle for land holding and report back to Council in April 2014.

Council agreed that the Land Purchase Working Group, in discussion with the Chief Executive, produce a draft BASC Land Acquisition Strategy and report back to Council in April 2014.

Council agreed that the Land Purchase Working Group draw up draft terms of reference in relation to the proposed study to be undertaken by an independent professional consultant on how BASC achieves its medium-term vision. The draft terms of reference to be presented to the May meeting of Council.

B.8 Honours and Awards

(Confidential)

Council had been presented with a paper detailing nominations of suitable recipients for Honours, Awards and Special Presentations at the 2014 AGM.

Honorary Life Membership

Council agreed that when Honorary Life Membership is awarded to a member who is in an existing joint membership, the partner should also be entitled to free membership.

B.9 Options for Peripatetic Council Meetings

The Chief Executive presented a paper to Council confirming the costs of holding Council meetings at, and away from BASC Head Office and providing a range of options for consideration by Council.

Council agreed to hold one peripatetic meeting per annum. Council also agreed in principle to a reduction in the frequency of Council meetings, which would be further reviewed in the autumn of 2014.

B.10 Healthcare Cash Plan

The Director of Business Management presented a paper to Council detailing proposals to extend healthcare benefits to all employees regardless of grade or length of service, by introducing a Simplyhealth cash plan.



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2014

Council agreed that BASC should provide basic cover for all employees and that, in addition, for members of the PMI scheme, it should meet the cost of the extra benefit that would pay PMI claim excesses. If the cash plan is retained, employee assistance should be retained for those who are not in the PMI scheme.

B.11 Tungsten Shot Update on Retail Options

Matt Ellis provided Council with an oral update on the availability and cost of loose tungsten-based shot.

Having considered the cost and stocking implications, Council agreed that BASC should only seek to advise members of the products that were available in the market.

B.12 Consumption of Game Meat (Confidential)

Matt Ellis provided Council with an oral update on the survey of BASC and CA members regarding the number of people consuming game, the frequency of this, the number of children consuming game, approaches to game meat handling and any risks attached to the consumption of game meat.

B.13 Plaudits and Complaints

The Chief Executive presented a summary of complaints and plaudits. It was noted that over the last twelve months a total of 34 plaudits were received and 4 complaints were investigated and resolved.

B.14 Policy Options – Non-Lead Compliance (Confidential)

The Chief Executive presented a paper outlining options in respect of the BASC position in relation to LAG issues.

C.1. Executive & Finance Committee minutes 20th February 2014

The minutes were approved.

C.2. Chairman's Report

Council received an update on the Chairman's activities from 10th February to 9th March 2014.

It was noted that a review of the organisation's consultancy agreement with John Swift will be undertaken in April and feedback will be presented to the May Council Meeting.

C.3. Chief Executive's Report



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2014

The Chief Executive presented a report of his activities and key areas of work since the February 2014 Council Meeting.

The Chief Executive also provided an oral update on various aspects of BASC's work in relation to firearms licensing. Council members agreed that in relation to the likely involvement of the medical profession in the licensing process, the model being trialled in Wiltshire would be the most effective and should be supported by BASC.

C4. Director of Communications' Report

The Director of Communications' report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

C5. Director of Business Management's Report

The Director of Business Management's report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

C.6 Director of HR & Operations Report

The Director of HR and Operations presented his report to Council.

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

Tim Russell and Connor O'Gorman provided an update to Council on general licences and the current Natural England consultation document, which contains a number of proposals, the only contentious ones being those relating to the control of greylag geese and mallards.

Council agreed that placing greylag geese on a general licence for the protection of crops should be supported by BASC in its response to the consultation.

Council agreed that the placing of greylag geese and mallard on a general licence for the protection of public health should also be supported. However, in relation to both licences, there should be a review process to ensure that migratory populations are not adversely affected as a consequence.

Appropriate wordings for BASC's consultation response to be developed and circulated to Council members.

D.1 Other Issues

(1) It was noted that Paul Culley has resigned as Chairman of the Gameshooting and Gamekeeping Committee. It was agreed that John Thornley would chair it until the AGM and the review of committees in September 2014. Thanks were extended to Paul for his dedication and hard work during his period as Chairman.



THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM, ON THURSDAY 20TH
MARCH 2014**

(2) Former BASC staff member Steve Woodhall, who left the organisation to work in Canada, has returned to the UK and recently provided the Scottish gamekeepers with an excellent insight into the work he had been doing and the shooting environment he encountered. It was agreed that he be invited to give a similar talk to Council members in the near future.

(3) The organisation has received a communication from The Hunting Club of Xanthi in Northern Greece. They are seeking to build a relationship with BASC to exchange know-how and ideas on the protection of the environment, game and potentially other activities. They are requesting an exchange visit. It was agreed that the Chairman will respond seeking more detailed information along with an outline programme, before bringing the matter back to Council.

(4) Council noted that concerns had been raised with regard to the representation of wildfowling interests in relation to the Mersey Gateway development and it was agreed that a report be presented to the April meeting of Council.

D.2. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Council will be held at 08.30 hrs. on Thursday 24th April 2014 at Marford Mill.

E1 & E2 Confidential Matters

Two confidential matters were discussed.

Signed.....Date.....
Chairman

