

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM
ON THURSDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2014**

Present: Alan Jarrett, Chairman
Alan Balfour
Lee Freeston
Duncan Greaves
Neil Griffiths
Ian Grindy
Mike Hardy
Martyn Howat
Sir Roger Jones
Mike Sherman
David Stinson
John Thornley

Ex-Officio Members	Richard Ali Gary Ashton Steve Bloomfield Philippa Bursey Stephen Curtis Christopher Graffius Tommy Mayne Colin Shedden	Chief Executive Director, Wales Director, England Director of Business Management Director, HR and Operations Director of Communications Director, Northern Ireland Director, Scotland
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In attendance	Conor O’Gorman Kate Ives Sandra Loton-Jones Tim Russell	Agenda Item B5 Agenda Items B8, B9 Agenda Item B7 Agenda Item B16
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Minute Secretary Linda O’Neil

Note: the order in which certain items on the agenda were discussed was changed but for the purposes of the minutes they are recorded in the order in which they appeared on the agenda.

A1 To receive apologies for absence and to note absentees

Apologies for absence had been received from Steve Bloomfield, Paul Culley, Peter Glenser, John Graham and Alisdair Troup.

A2 To confirm confidential items

It was agreed that items B7, B8, B10, B11, B12, B13, B14 and C5 should be regarded as confidential.



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A3 To identify suggested items of any other business

One further item of Any Other Business was identified: grouse shooting.

A4 Declarations of Interest

Mike Sherman would be accepting an invitation to shoot from the French Hunting Association of Aude and there would be no financial implications incurred by BASC.

A5 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th July 2014

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

A6 Matters arising from earlier Council meetings

There were no matters arising.

A7 Action points outstanding from earlier Council meetings

The completion dates for all action points were noted.

B1 Health & Safety

Three minor incidents had been reported at Marford Mill and one at the Lowther Game Fair. The importance was emphasised of Council members reporting to the senior management if ever they become aware of any error of omission or commission in relation to Health and Safety. The report was noted.

B2 Council Champions' Reports

B2.1 Communications: John Thornley presented an oral report and circulated copies of it. Time constraints aside, he felt the programme had been successful.

B2.2 Conservation: David Stinson presented an oral report. It had been a useful initiative however he felt continued work with Tim Russell was needed to ensure that they were both clear as to the requirements. He had not encountered conflict with any advisory committee.

B2.3 Firearms: John Graham was not in attendance so no report was presented.

B2.4 Marketing and Business Development: a written report has been circulated indicating that the programme had not been a success due to a lack of clarity. It was felt that this might change with the changed staff team.



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- B2.5 Research: Sir Roger Jones reported that a number of universities would be keen to work with BASC to undertake research.
- B2.6 Sporting Services: Duncan Greaves had circulated a written report that recognised the improvements that had been seen as a result of Gary Ashton's appointment. Council felt that the changes made to the advisory committees had not had sufficient time to become established and therefore did not accept the recommendation that what had been the Shooting Standards advisory committee should be reinstated.

As an aide memoire, it was suggested that the original Council Champions plan from the September 2013 Council meeting should be re-circulated.

B3 Appointment of Council Champions

- B3.1 Business Intelligence (formerly Research): Sir Roger Jones will continue in the role.
- B3.2 Communications: John Thornley will continue in the role.
- B3.3 Conservation: David Stinson will continue in the role.
- B3.4 Firearms: John Graham will hand the role over to Peter Glenser.
- B3.5 Marketing and Business Development: Alisdair Troup will continue in the role.
- B3.6 Sporting Services: Duncan Greaves will continue in the role.

B4 Country and Advisory Committee Members

Having regard to the process which requires Council to formally approve advisory committee members in the context of the suggestion that brief pen-pictures of each proposed committee member might usefully be circulated with the membership lists, the meeting considered the reliance Council places on the recommendations of advisory committee chairmen. It was agreed that Council would continue to formally approve committee memberships and that the circulation of pen-pictures would not be obligatory.

- B4.1 The England Committee: Martyn Howat reported that the committee plans to meet twice a year but needs to be given meaningful work to keep its members engaged. The membership as listed was approved.
- B4.2 The Northern Ireland Committee: David Stinson reported one new member and noted that he was seeking other members to more fully reflect the make-up of the Northern Ireland shooting community. The membership as listed was approved



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- B4.3 The Scottish Committee: The membership as listed was approved.
- B4.4 The Welsh Committee: The membership as listed was approved
- B4.5 The Deer Stalking Committee: Mike Sherman reported one new member and noted that two members had stood down. The membership as listed was approved.
- B4.6 The Gameshooting and Gamekeeping Committee: Ian Grindy reported that he was still working to get the right membership; subject to the inclusion of Robert Crofts, that which was listed was approved but Council noted that change might be recommended in the future.
- B4.7 The Wildfowling Liaison Committee: Lee Freeston reported that he was still seeking to secure a committee membership that fully represents the wildfowling community throughout the UK. It is a large committee because of the number of local groups to liaise with. The membership as listed was approved.

B5 Country and Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Review

It was suggested that the requirement under 5b for committee membership for Council members to be limited to terms of five years be removed; it was noted that this is enshrined in the Constitution so any change would have to be made by the members in general meeting.

Having regard to the lifting of the Chatham House rule in relation to Council it was suggested that this should be removed in respect of advisory committees. It was agreed that the rule should continue to apply to advisory committees; however, there would be no breach if names are used in those minutes that are not intended to reach the public domain. The Wildfowling Liaison Committee minutes are published so they would have to be anonymised.

Clarification of clause 8b was sought; it was decided that the word “and” should be inserted between “Chief Executive” and “to the country directors.”

The need for clause 8d was questioned as the identified relationship between Country and Thematic committees appeared confused. The meeting agreed that no hierarchy of committees existed and in all circumstances Council would decide what course of action should be followed; accordingly it was decided that only the first sentence of clause 8c should be retained.

The incorrect spelling of the word “principles” in 5k was noted.

Conor O’Gorman will amend the terms of reference.



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B6 Country and Advisory Committee Work plans

B6.1 England Committee: there had been no further progress.

B6.2 Northern Ireland Committee: it is still working on its plans and trying to improve the image of BASC as a conservation group as well as a shooting group.

B6.3 Scottish Committee: it was reported to be "ticking along".

B6.4 Welsh Committee: progress had been slow until the new director was appointed; now that things are moving. Mike Sherman will write to all the champions as the plans develop.

B6.5 Deer Stalking Committee: the new people are settling in and Mike Sherman and John Thornley are putting good plans together; they will write to all the champions in November.

B6.6 Gameshooting and Gamekeeping Committee: the committee has not yet met.

B6.7 Wildfowling Liaison Committee: the first meeting is to be held in October.

B7 Commercial Strategy

(Confidential)

Sandra Loton-Jones gave a presentation on the commercial strategy. The strategy, budget and next steps were all approved.

B8 Membership Survey 2014

(Confidential)

Kate Ives presented the results of the on-line element of the 2014 membership survey.

B9 Staff Survey 2014

Kate Ives presented the results, which showed a slight drop in the response rate but were indicative of an improved management culture. Kate undertook to check whether there was any difference in the response rate between countries and regions and head office.

B10 Strategy and Operational Plan Review

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B11 Corporate Structure Update

(Confidential)

Philippa Bursey gave an oral update.

B12 Budget Update

(Confidential)

B13 Land Acquisition Working Group Update

(Confidential)

B14 Wales Update

(Confidential)

B15 Council Meeting Dates and Venues 2015

A draft timetable which reflected Council's wish to reduce the number of meetings by two had been circulated; it was noted that a meeting of the Executive and Finance Committee would still be needed in February. Noting the earlier date for the July Council meeting, the timetable was approved as presented

The intention was to hold the January meeting in London and the AGM in Scotland, however, Council recognised that it might be appropriate to be flexible and hold an earlier meeting in Scotland.

Recognising that the Executive and Finance committee is delegated to undertake work that might otherwise be undertaken by Council, the payment of attendance allowance to those Council members who attend the "stand-alone" February meeting of E&F was approved.

B16 Review of Wildlife Legislation

Tim Russell presented a report on the Law Commission's review of wildlife legislation. It was noted that the proposal to include a vicarious liability offence had been dropped. It was stated that the main reason for this review is to align our law with that of the EU. Some confusion around the issue of the environment in Wales was noted.

Sight of BASC's response to the original consultation was requested.



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The meeting felt that clarification was needed regarding what species can be shot with or without a licence and concern was also expressed in relation to the definition of poaching and the requirement for trespass to be retained.

Given the point that had been reached in the parliamentary cycle, there will not be time for the current government to deal with this bill, the matter will be raised again in the future at which time there will be new opportunities for BASC to lobby. Council was reminded of the need to be alert to amendments which may be tabled.

A review of the proposals will be included on the Wildfowling conference agenda for March 2015. Recognising that BASC needs to work closely with other shooting organisations and the Law Commission; next steps in this matter will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

C1 Minutes and Reports

C1.1 Executive & Finance Committee minutes 22 May 2014: approved.

C1.2 Executive & Finance Committee minutes 23 July 2014: approved.

C1.3 Northern Ireland Committee minutes 6 May 2014: Richard Ali will write to SACS for clarification of their position re hares.

C2 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.

C3 Chief Executive's Report

Richard Ali read out a letter received regarding an issue involving a BASC staff member; it had been brought to a satisfactory conclusion and he thanked BASC and its Council for their support. Thanks were also expressed to Simon Clarke.

C4 Director of Communication's Report

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

C5 Director of Business Management's Report

(Confidential)

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



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C6 Director of HR & Operation's Report

The Director of HR and Operations presented his report to Council. It was noted that greylag geese and mallard were not to be added to the general licences for crop protection and public health.

C7 To Consider Requests for Advice from Country and Advisory Committees

No area requiring the advice of a committee was identified.

D1 Any Other Business

D1.1 Wildfowling consent appeals: Tim Russell outlined the situation at two sites where conditions to wildfowling consents may be appealed to the Secretary of State. BASC would be represented at a meeting with Natural England in October at which it was hoped one of these cases could be resolved.

D1.2 Devolution of firearms law to Scotland: Colin Shedden presented a paper that considered BASC's options in response to any further devolution of firearms law in the event that a "no" vote in the Scottish referendum. The matter had been raised to alert Council to the need to consider the matter once the referendum result was known.

BASC's stance could be viewed differently by those in the shooting community and those with responsibility for firearms legislation; however, the important matters to be considered would be public safety and any laws that serve to restrict the free movement of guns and shooters across internal UK borders.

D1.3 The degree to which grouse shooting is coming under attack was highlighted. The conservation dividend from good moorland management was demonstrably great.

The Moorland Association appreciates ongoing support from BASC on grouse moor management. Council noted that delivery by moorland owners must underpin commitments made.

It was noted that DEFRA will have to give a response on the publication of the Hen Harrier Joint Recovery Plan as a petition calling for this had gained over 10,000 signatories. This high number was due to the involvement of BASC's members.

D2 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Council will be held at Marford Mill on Thursday, 23rd October 2014, commencing at 08.30hrs.



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Signed Date
Chairman

