CONFIDENTIAL
THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL, ROSSETT, WREXHAM
ON TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2016**

Present:	Peter Glenser	Chairman
	Sally Ann Cockerill	
	John Dryden	
	Duncan Greaves	
	Ian Grindy	
	Mike Hardy	
	Oliver McCullough	
	John Thornley OBE	
	Sarah Turner	
Via Telephone Conference:	Mike Sherman	Vice-Chairman
	Professor Ann Mortimer	
Ex-Officio:	Christopher Graffius	Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communications
	Steve Bloomfield	Director, England
	Tommy Mayne	Director, Northern Ireland
	Colin Shedden	Director, Scotland
In Attendance:	Glyn Evans	Agenda item B.5
	Bill Harriman	Agenda item B.3
	Tim Russell	Agenda item B.2
Minutes Secretary:	Kate McCann	Independent Minutes Secretary Wirral Concierge Company

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

Apologies had been received from Angela Davies and Martyn Jones.

A.2 To confirm confidential items

The Chairman confirmed the confidential items on the agenda as items B.5, C.1.1, C.1.2 and C.5.

A.3 To identify suggested items of any other business

Council wished to consider the suspension of the Chief Executive and to consider some threatening correspondence received by a member of Council.

A.4 Declarations of interest

The Chairman raised a declaration of interest in item B.3
Four Council members declared an interest in item C.5 (Confidential Item)

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The Chairman asked the Council to deal with the issue of threatening correspondence to a Council member. A person or people calling themselves the “BASC Action Group” (BAG) had been widely distributing threatening material and had written to the employer of a Council member demanding that they sack the member or force them to resign. The Council member had received correspondence which the Chairman read out.

Council was given a draft letter that the Chairman was proposing to send to an identified individual which will say that if he does not desist, delete offensive posts and reveal his sources we will apply for an order forcing him to comply.

A.5 Minutes of the 17 March 2016 Council meeting

The minutes of the meeting, having been circulated, were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings, with the exception of 2 amendments:

A.7 – Council stated that the consultation with advisory committee’s chairs was not part of an action point. It was agreed that the statement would not be removed but it was noted that this was not an action point, and the following will be added to precede the sentence: “The Chief Executive had instigated a consultation”.

B.9 – It was agreed that the following sentence “regarding the request of a paper outlining the Association’s governance be presented to Council” should be changed to “In future, Council should be involved in the review of policies as set out in the corporate governance code”.

A.6 Matters arising from earlier Council meetings

There were no matters arising from the previous Council meeting.

A.7 Action points outstanding from earlier Council meeting

The action points, which had been circulated before the meeting, were noted.

Action point 2 - The Council queried why this action point was not on June’s agenda. The Acting Chief Executive agreed that the item would be included on the July agenda.

B.1 Health and Safety

The Acting Chief Executive presented the report, covering the period 1 March to 29 April 2016.

It was noted that there was a bi-annual fire drill on 28 April 2016.

B.2 Conservation department update

(Tim Russell was present for this agenda item)

Tim Russell presented a conservation team update.

The Chairman wished to record Council's thanks to the conservation team.

B.3 Updates on medical fees in firearms licensing

(Bill Harriman was present for this agenda item)

Bill Harriman presented an update on medical fees in firearms licensing

BASC have negotiated with the (British Medical Association) BMA and the Home Office regarding the placing of an encoded marker on the medical records of firearms owners. There were problems with some GPs demanding a fee and Bill Harriman was working on a press release which will raise awareness and advise that the fee should not be paid.

Council asked to be kept up to date with any medical matters regarding this issue and BASC legal insurance policy.

Council asked about the availability of resources for the firearms team. Bill Harriman agreed to review staffing capacity in the team and how tasks are allocated. It was agreed that Bill will report back to Council in July.

B.4 IT Review

This item was adjourned to the next Council meeting

B.5 Shoot accreditation scheme***Confidential***

(Glyn Evans was present for this agenda item)

B.6 Council member training

The Director of Business Management had intended to present a paper at the meeting proposing training for Council, and this paper will now be brought to the July meeting.

Council agreed there is a need to look at governance and the role of Council in HR issues, part of that should include training. This will be discussed at the July meeting.

B.7 Vice-Chairman job description

The Acting Chief Executive presented the job description that had been drawn up by the Vice-Chairman and former Chairman and had previously been circulated to Council.

Council approved the job descriptions with the proviso that they are not definitive and can be reviewed if needed.

B8.1 Nominations for BASC Chairman (oral)

The Acting Chief Executive presented this item

Peter Glenser put his name forward to be nominated for BASC Chairman.

B8.2 Nominations for BASC Vice-Chairman 2016-2017 (oral)

The Acting Chief Executive presented this item

John Thornley put his name forward to be nominated for BASC Vice-Chairman.

B.9 Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

Council approved an amount toward AIHTS trap testing.

B.10 Codes of Practice

The Acting Chief Executive presented the redrafted and redesigned codes of practice for trapping pest birds and gundogs for comment and approval.

Council approved both documents

B.11 WLC membership / Humber update***Confidential***

Council was asked by John Dryden to approve inviting Craig Jenkinson, new secretary of Hull and East Riding Wildfowlers, and David Muldoon, Chair of Bridgewater Bay Wildfowlers, onto the Wildfowling Liaison Committee.

Council approved the invitations.

C1.1 Executive & Finance minutes 25 February and 16 March 2016 (Confidential)

Council noted and approved the minutes of the Executive & Finance Committee meeting held on 25 February 2016.

Council noted and approved the minutes of the Executive & Finance Committee meeting held on 16 March 2016.

C1.2 Scottish Committee minutes 3 March 2016

The Director of Scotland presented the minutes from the Scottish Committee.

There were no recommendations from the meeting held in March and two points of note regarding the introduction of sporting rates in Scotland from 2017, and the current issue around airgun licensing relating to a three week surrender period by the police.

A guide is being formulated on the formation of approved airgun clubs in Scotland.

Apologies were given as minutes for Northern Ireland Committee were not yet available although a meeting had taken place. A verbal update was provided on the situation at Lough Foyle.

C.2 Chairman's report – oral

The Chairman had gone round to speak with staff members at Marford Mill and to answer their questions on the current situation on the Friday following the Council meeting of 26 May.

Chambers O'Neill, a Manchester-based law firm, will start the investigation. Their investigation report will be reviewed by Sean Jones QC.

The Chairman stated the need for Council to review the ongoing suspension of the Chief Executive and has drafted a letter.

The Chairman and the Acting Chief Executive went to the Time Inc. Fair at Cornbury Park.
The Chairman asked for a message of thanks to go to the staff who were involved.

C.3 The Acting Chief Executive's report – oral

The Acting Chief Executive gave Council an oral update on the Association. It was noted that membership numbers are holding up well.

C.4 Director of Communication's report

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

The next edition of the magazine will be ready to go to print on the Monday after the AGM on 18 June.

C.5 Director of Business Management's report*Confidential*****

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

C.6 Director of Operations' report

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

Recruitment is ongoing to deal with any staffing gaps, and work continues as always.

It was noted that for the vacant position of Deer Officer, the interview panel needs to include someone with stalking and deer management expertise

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

There were no requests for advice from Country and Advisory Committees.

D.1 Any other business by leave of the Chairman

The Chairman and Council formally thanked the Vice-Chairman (as his term has come to an end) for all the work he had done for the Association over the past 10 years.

D.2 Date of next meeting

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 18 June 2016 at Mercure Chester Abbots Well Hotel, Chester commencing at 10.30hrs with a meeting of Council directly following the AGM.

Signed: …………………………….. Date: ………………………..
Chairman