

CONFIDENTIAL

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE INN AT WHITEWELL ON
THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2016**

Present:	Peter Glenser John Thornley OBE Sally-Anne Cockerill John Dryden Duncan Greaves Ian Grindy Mike Hardy Martyn Jones Robin Marshall-Ball Oliver McCullough Cara Richardson Sarah Turner Professor Ann Mortimer	Chairman Vice-Chairman
Ex-Officio:	Christopher Graffius Angela Davies Steve Bloomfield Dr Colin Shedden	Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communications Director of Business Management Director, England Director, Scotland
Minute Secretary:	Jayne Danby	

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

Apologies had been received from Tommy Mayne.

A.2 Declarations of interest

Duncan Greaves declared an interest in item B3 as he has been involved in the preparation of an investment bid for a trailer for the shooting line.

A.3 To confirm confidential items

The Chairman confirmed the confidential items on the agenda as items B.2, B.3.1, B.3.2, C4, the minutes of the closed meeting and game fair under AOB.

A.4 To identify suggested items of any other business

The Game Fair and severe weather were identified as other items of business.

A.5 Minutes of the 20 October 2016 Council meeting

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



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A.6 Matters arising from earlier Council meeting

There were no matters arising from the previous Council meeting that are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

A.7 Action points outstanding from earlier Council meeting

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

- Action point 11 is on the agenda.
- Action point 4 is resolved and can go forward to October next year as a recurring action.

B.1 Health and Safety

The Director of Business Management presented the monthly health and safety report, covering the period 01 October to 31 October 2016.

No reports of any incidents.

B.2 Update on the Investigation *Confidential*****

B.3.1 2017 Budget approval *Confidential*****

The Director of Business Management presented the final proposed budget for 2017 as discussed at yesterday's Executive and Finance Committee meeting for approval.

The Executive and Finance Committee have prioritised the many investment bids and Council has previously ratified priority one bids.

Council approved the budget in principle (subject to the final adjustments).

B.3.2 Association reserve strategy *Confidential*****

The Director of Business Management presented the Reserve Policy and Strategy for 2017.

The Association's balance sheet is very healthy meaning the Association is in an extremely positive position.

B.4 Grouse shooting

Council reviewed the report and the eight recommendations outlined in the report (prepared by Kate Ives) on Raptors, Uplands and Peatlands.



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Council agreed to look into developing a scheme which would reward and reinforce good practice such as reporting raptor persecution, and supporting the hen harrier recovery plan. The scheme would be in conjunction with the GWCT, the Moorland Association, the NGO and other organisations.

Council agreed that staff members with expertise in this area should be involved in the development of the scheme. It was suggested that Duncan Thomas, Tim Russell and Colin Shedden should be involved.

Council agreed that the Acting Chief Executive would take the proposal forward and report back to Council.

B.5 Constitutional review – recommendations from Council

The Director of Business Management reminded Council that they had approved funds for a constitutional review at the September meeting.

It was agreed at the October meeting of Council to circulate the current constitution and that each Council members would review and highlight any areas that they specifically want the constitutional lawyer to review. These items in addition to the overarching review would then be raised with the constitutional lawyer at the initial scoping meeting.

Council raised the following items for review:

- That all meeting notifications should be sent to members by writing – this currently happens by email and needs to be amended in constitution.
- Review if the election of new members to Council should be announced at the AGM or before. This is because potential Council members find it expensive and embarrassing to attend the AGM to find out if they have been elected or not. Also as there is a Council meeting straight after the AGM the elected candidate should be there to attend the Council meeting that follows the AGM.

B.6 Council National seats – review

The Acting Chief Executive presented a paper containing extracts from the constitution on how national seats came into being along with arguments for and against national seats. Council agreed to keep national seats unchanged.

B.7 Crufts

Council was asked to encourage attendance at Crufts. It was discussed and noted that gundogs as a potential area of development for the Association.

Council asked the Acting Chief Executive to compose a scoping paper on how the Association currently supports and should support gundogs in the future. It was agreed that the paper should



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be presented at January Council meeting and should be prepared in conjunction with John Dryden.

B.8 Brexit and shooting

The Director for Scotland presented a paper outlining the potential implications that Brexit could have for shooting and conservation.

Council considered the paper and dismissed the idea of a new staff resource at present but could be in favour of an extended liaison group with input from all shooting disciplines and devolved countries once the scope of the deal is known.

Council agreed to keep a watching brief.

B.9 Annual review of declaration of interests register

The Acting Chief Executive presented the declaration of interests register.

Council members were reminded that they should notify changes to their declaration of interest throughout the year in accordance with best practice and the current declaration of interest policy.

Council requested that the register of declarations presented to Council is reformatted to make it easier to follow. The Director of Business Management agreed to take this forward.

B.10 Game fair update

The Acting Chief Executive updated Council on the offer from the Game Fair to give BASC members complimentary entry to the fair at Hatfield in 2017.

The Association will also submit separate proposals to have a large presence in other areas, including the food courts and theatres.

Council agreed to the proposal in principle and agreed that The Director of Business Management, the Acting Chief Executive and the Director of England should take forward the negotiations.

C.1.1 Executive and Finance Committee minutes 19 October 2016

Council noted and approved the minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee meeting held on 19 October 2016.

C.1.2 Scotland Committee minutes

The Chairman of the Scotland Committee, presented the minutes of the Scottish Committee meeting on 8 September 2016. It was noted that David Stuart was a guest at the meeting and is



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now on the committee. Discussions with Police Scotland are ongoing and future meetings have been timetabled.

It was noted that only a small proportion of airgun owners in Scotland have applied for Air Weapon Certificates. Members are not covered by insurance if they are prosecuted for not having an air weapon certificate.

C.2 Chairman's report

The Chairman delivered his report orally.

He attended the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers' Nomination Dinner with the Acting Chief Executive.

A meeting was held at Marford Mill, (with the Acting Chief Executive and Professor Ann Mortimer also in attendance) with representatives from wildfowling clubs. Concerns were expressed about relations with Natural England along with complaints about how BASC are handling issues. Issues are ongoing and require close monitoring.

C.3 Acting Chief Executive and Director of Communication's report

The Acting Chief Executive and Director of Communication's report was presented and accepted as presented. It was noted that:

- BASC are supporting a PhD which may affect the consenting process with Natural England. Outcome to be reported back to Council.
- Becky Ashton, who has extensive social media experience with the BBC, has joined the press team as an interim appointment.
- Data protection issues around sending direct emails with political and social details to our members are being investigated. Party political campaigning is prohibited.

C.4 Director of Business Management's report *Confidential*****

The Director of Business Management's report was accepted as presented.

C.5 Operations report and reports from country directors

The operations report had been circulated to Council and was accepted as presented.



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In Northern Ireland there is a proposal to move to online licensing for firearms, which is problematic for members who are not computer literate. The Northern Ireland Director is meeting PSNI representatives and there may be a case for judicial review on the grounds of age discrimination.

NI Legal officer, Raymond Gilmore, is confident the Association can take forward a judicial review. However there would be costs for the pre-action protocol, these would rise if the Association has to go ahead with the judicial review. It was noted that some money may be claimed back if the judgement is in the Associations favour.

John Thornley proposed that Council approve the costs. The proposal was seconded by Duncan Greaves and Council voted in favour unanimously.

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

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

D.1 Any other business by leave of the Chairman

The Director of Scotland reported day five of severe weather in Scotland. On day seven, voluntary restraint is called for which would affect the shooting of snipe, grouse and duck. However, it is predicted that milder weather may be on the way and a voluntary restraint is unlikely if the forecast is correct. The Director of Scotland agreed to keep the Council updated.

D.2 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 26 January at Marford Mill commencing at 9.30hrs.

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

