

CONFIDENTIAL

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE LA MON HOTEL, CASTLEREAGH, NORTHERN IRELAND
ON THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2017 AT 9.30AM**

Present:	Peter Glenser John Thornley OBE John Dryden Duncan Greaves Ian Grindy Martyn Jones Robin Marshall-Ball Oliver McCullough Sarah Turner Eoghan Cameron Paul Shaw Peter Watson Claire Sadler	Chairman Vice-Chairman
Ex-Officio:	Christopher Graffius Angela Davies Steve Bloomfield Tommy Mayne	Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communications Director of Business Management Director of Operations Director Northern Ireland
Minute Secretary:	Jayne Danby	

Council expressed their thanks to Tommy Mayne and Oliver McCullough for hosting a very successful visit to Northern Ireland and members evening.

A. OPEN MEETING

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

Apologies had been received from Sally-Anne Cockerill, Dr Colin Shedden and Mike Hardy.

A.2 To confirm confidential items

The Chairman confirmed that all of the agenda items in Part B were confidential items.

A.3 To identify suggested items of any other business

The following were identified as additional items of business:

Schöffel gilets
Thornham Wildfowlers' Association and KWCA

A.4 Declarations of interest

All staff present and the Vice-Chairman declared an interest in item A10.



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A.5.1 Minutes of the 28 September 2017 Council meeting

The minutes were signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

A.5.2 Minutes of the 27 September 2017 Executive and Finance Committee meeting

The minutes of the 27 September 2017 Executive and Finance Committee meeting were considered.

The words 'for a hearing' are to be deleted from the last paragraph of B1 on page 2.

With this minor amendment, the minutes were signed as an accurate record of that meeting.

A.6 Matters arising from earlier Council meetings

At C2, it was confirmed that Ian Bell will attend a meeting on 6 November in Manchester with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communications, Director of Business Management, Director of Operations and the Head of HR. He will also be attending the January Council meeting at the Mill.

Regarding membership categories at A3, a review of membership categories is planned. It was noted that a target shooting club in Northern Ireland have asked whether a discounted membership category can be considered for them. The Director of Business Management agreed to pass this request to the project team.

At B3.3, it was noted that the Scottish Committee membership on the BASC website needs updating. The Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communications agreed to take this forward.

Regarding the Kent Wildfowlers at A6, official confirmation has not been received of Kent's disaffiliation, although the club secretary says it is likely if they can find a suitable insurance policy. All members of KWCA have been contacted informing them that their membership may end and inviting them to join as individual members.

B7 - Council members were reminded to return their declaration of interest forms, to Brendan as soon as possible. The report will be presented to Council in November.

A.7 Forward plan for Council

The forward plan for Council meetings through to October 2018 was reviewed and agreed.

A.8.1 Monthly Health and Safety report

The Director of Business Management presented the monthly health and safety report, covering the period 1 to 30 September 2017. The report was accepted by Council.



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A.8.2 Annual Health and Safety report

The Director of Business Management presented the annual health and safety report which was accepted by Council.

A.9 Review and agree Council size and the number of vacancies for 2018 Council elections

The Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communications presented the paper to Council. Thanking the Director of Business Management for compiling it for him.

Council noted that it currently has 14 elected members, of which, 1 member's term (national seat) will end at the next AGM.

Council agreed, in line with good governance, that the size of the Council for 2018/19 should be 16. Meaning that there will be 3 national vacancies for election at the next AGM.

A.10 Pensions Committee

The Director of Business Management presented an update on the Pensions Committee following its meeting on 26 September 2017.

Council approved the terms of reference as set out in the report and approved the re-procurement of a pensions' advisor by the Pensions Committee.

It was noted that the final approval for a pensions' advisor will need to be agreed by Council after completion of the tendering exercise. The tendering process will commence in the New Year.

A.11 Constitutional review – update (oral)

The second redraft of the Constitution will be scrutinised by the Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communications and will be circulated to Council in November, for agreement in January, in time for presentation at the AGM for approval and adoption.

A.12 Country and Advisory Committees – Work plans 2018 (oral)

Council discussed the function and scope of the Country and Advisory Committee. It was agreed that this will be discussed at the meeting with Ian Bell on the 6th November and will come back to the November Council meeting.

Each Committee provided the following updates on their work plans:

A.12.1 The England Committee



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The Committee will meet in February to agree a forward plan.

A.12.2 The Northern Ireland Committee

The Northern Ireland Committee is working well with good working relationships. The main issue at the moment is general licences.

A.12.3 The Scottish Committee

The Scottish Committee last met in September. It was felt that the development of Social Committees may help to create an improved sense of community.

A.12.4 The Welsh Committee

The Chairman of the Welsh Committee reported that Steve Griffiths has been appointed Director of Wales. A paper was circulated at the meeting outlining membership of the overhauled Welsh Committee and an agreed way forward.

A.12.5 The Deer Stalking Committee

The Deer Advisory Committee Membership and agenda report was circulated prior to the meeting. Council approved the recommendations of the report.

The Chairman is to be added to the email circulation list and the bow-hunting report is to be forwarded to the Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communications.

A.12.6 The Game Shooting and Gamekeeping Committee

A work plan is to follow.

A.12.7 The Wildfowling Committee

Thanks were expressed to Paul Williamson for his recent work with the Natural England report.

A.13 Chairman's report (oral)

The Chairman reported that at the recent Shotgun and Chelsea Bun Club conference, which he attended, the topic of conversation was firearms licensing. The Chairman had spoken on firearms licensing with Bill Harriman but also on a variety of other subjects pertaining to standards in shooting particularly bag sizes and raptor persecution. This was well received by the audience

Council noted that the Chairman attended the Conservative Party Conference with Sophie Hutchinson and Garry Doolan. Discussions took place with the Angling Trust about closer working relationships.



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A.14 Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communication's report

The Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communication's report was presented.

Council accepted the report and note the following updates:

- The membership figure, as at the 25th October 2017 stands at 151,978 gross, with 946 down for mass mark off. Therefore, the net membership stands at 151,032

A brief meeting took place recently with Geoffrey Clifton Brown and Sir John Randall, environmental advisor to the Prime Minister at Downing Street.

Council agreed that:

- A fact sheet about lead alternatives will go in the next trade mailing.
- The NRA are supported in opposing the banning of 50-calibre and rapid-fire rifles.

A.15 Operations' report

The Director of Operations presented his update on operational matters.

The report was accepted as presented and Council noted the following updates:

- Jane Mawer has joined the Shooting Standards team as their temporary manager.
- Matthew Dutton has been appointed Regional Officer for Central England creating a vacancy in Game and Deer.
- The issues on a deer scheme are being resolved.

Council expressed thanks to Ian Danby, Matt Ellis, Conor O'Gorman and Paul Williamson for their work in managing recent wildfowling issues.

Council was advised that money raised by the Wiltshire Social Committee in the South West does not count towards the regional fundraising target.

A.16 Scottish Committee minutes 14 September 2017

The Chair of the Scottish Committee presented the minutes of the meeting on 14 September 2017.

Council noted that:

- Findhorn Bay Council may be looking to impose further restrictions.
- The fundraising auction will take place online; a PDF brochure will be sent out with the forthcoming Fast Track.



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A.17 WLC Committee minutes 9 September 2017

The Chairman of the WLC presented the minutes of the meeting on 9 September 2017.

Council noted his report and that there has been a strong team response to recent wildfowling issues.

Council resolved that a new venue is to be sought for the 2019 Wildfowling Conference.

A.18 To consider requests for advice from Country and Advisory Committees

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

B. CLOSED MEETING * CONFIDENTIAL *****

Tommy Mayne left the room for this part of the meeting

B.1 Closed minutes of the 28 September 2017 Council meeting

B.2 Confidential matters arising from closed meeting (oral)

B.3 Investigation update (oral)

B.4 Director of Business Management's report

The Director of Business Management presented her Business Management Report and orally updated the Council on financial management accounts at the end of October 2017.

Council noted the report and the following updates:

- Under 2.1, profit and loss sheets will be emailed round to Council members; at the end of September there was a surplus of £926,000; a surplus of well over a million pounds is expected at year end; there is over ten million pounds in the bank.
- The reserves policy will be on the agenda for the Council meeting in November, along with the risk management policy.
- An addition to table D on page 4, it was noted that there is a temporary staff member covering for a long term sickness in ICT – the absent person will have a phased return to work.



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- The risk register is currently with heads of department for feedback; it will then come to Council in November for feedback and approval.
- Job evaluation training has recently started.
- The solution to resolve the PCI compliance issue has been successfully implemented.

There will be FCA training in November for key staff and the four Council members who have been elected by Council to have oversight for our FCA compliance.

Council raised the fact that subscription rises were not explained fully to members. It was agreed that an article should be included in *Shooting and Conservation* explaining the subscription rises prior to its announcement.

Council approved the recommendation at 6.1 to increase the procurement limit for the head of publications.

B.5 Raptor persecution – update (oral)

Council noted that in BirdLife International's report, Britain has one of the lowest numbers of illegal persecutions, although the exact figures are not known. A press release from BASC called for attention to this perspective and reaffirmed BASC's commitment to ending raptor persecution.

The Chairman, the Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communications and the Vice-Chairman will attend the Shoot Liaison Committee on 1 November 2017.

The Chairman has been invited to meet Darren Murphy from Bell Pottinger and David Ross at the end of November at the latter's estate, to discuss Darren Murphy's report.

Reports to Council will follow and a timetable of action will be formulated.

B.6 The Game Fair

Council considered and approved that the Acting Chief Executive/Director of Communications' takes forward the proposals for:

- A three year partnership contract with the Game Fair, including a one year contract to recruit membership to BASC at the Game Fair entrances and if successful to extend it to the full three years.
- A separate three year memorandum of agreement with the Game Fair, for the Game Fair to provide complementary admission for all members.

Council asked if the question could be asked of the GWCT, whether a similar deal can be reached in Scotland. Council was informed that arrangement would have to be for complimentary membership given by the organisers of the fair, not BASC. Council noted that BASC only attend one large game fair in Northern Ireland.



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Council also approved a proposal for BASC to host a fundraising Ball in December 2018 at the Game Fairs, Winter Fair in London. An organising Committee will be established to arrange and promote the event.

C. OTHER ISSUES

C.1 Any other business by leave of the Chairman

Schöffel gilets

Council agreed the in-year budget for Schöffel gilets to be bought for all member-facing staff and volunteers, hopefully in time for Christmas.

The Chairman invited responses to his email about Amhuinnsuidhe.

Council noted that at the recent Executive and Finance Committee meeting, a legacy bid for a grouse moor project in Northern Ireland was considered. The Committee had resolved to support the project, subject to the acceptance of certain conditions by the grouse project board.

Council supported the decision; more details will come to Council in the future.

C.2 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 30 November 2017 at Marford Mill.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman

