

CONFIDENTIAL

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL ROSSETT
ON THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER 2018 AT 9.30AM**

Present:	Peter Glenser Eoghan Cameron John Thornley OBE John Dryden Martyn Jones Robin Marshall-Ball Oliver McCullough Paul Shaw Peter Watson Claire Sadler Cara Richardson Professor Ann Mortimer Peter Watson Sarah Turner Ian Grindy Ian Coghill Alasdair Mitchell	Chairman Vice-Chairman
Ex-Officio:	Ian Bell Angela Davies Christopher Graffius Steve Bloomfield Dan Reynolds Steve Griffiths Tommy Mayne	Chief Executive Executive Director of Business Management Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs Executive Director of Shooting and Operations Director of England Director of Wales Director of Northern Ireland
In Attendance:	Tom Adams	British Game Alliance (initial presentation only)
Minute Secretary:	Jayne Danby	

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Tom Adams from the British Game Alliance (BGA).

****Confidential Item****

Tom gave a presentation about the British Game Alliance. The aims of the BGA are to bring back commercial value to game and encourage self-regulation that raises standards. He talked about how the BGA propose to audit shoots, investigate complaints and market game. He outlined the composition of the board. He also introduced the Eat Wild campaign.

1 To receive apologies for absence and to note absentees

Apologies had been received from the President, Lord Dear; Carl Woodall; Sally-Anne Cockerill and Colin Shedden.

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2 To confirm confidential items

The Chairman confirmed that items 7, 12, parts of 18, some of 20 and some of 14 were confidential.

3 To identify suggested items of any other business

The following were identified as additional items of business:

Health and safety - will be covered under item 19
WHT stamp artist
Funding of a political policy campaign
WHT proposal – will be covered under item 18
Update on Northern Ireland Judicial Review
NRW update
Country Food Trust's sponsorship request
GWCT – The Knowledge
Offensive weapons' bill - will be covered under item 16

4 Declarations of interest

Ian Coghill declared that he is still on the committee of the GWCT membership marketing and chairs the advisory board of the Lords' Committee Trust.

5.1 Minutes of the 27 September 2018 Council meeting

The minutes of the 27 September 2018 Council meeting were considered.

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

5.2 Minutes of the 26 September 2018 Executive and Finance Committee meeting

The minutes of the 26 September 2018 Executive and Finance Committee meeting, to be confirmed by the Executive and Finance Committee at the subsequent meeting, were signed as a true record of that meeting.

6 Matters arising from earlier Council meetings

The Executive Director of Business Management confirmed that the Joint Partners category of membership is being changed to include any two adults in the same household. This will be implemented as soon as possible.

CLOSED MEETING *CONFIDENTIAL *****

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7 Investigation update (oral)

Only elected and co-opted Council members, the CEO and the Executive Directors were present for this part of the meeting.

John Thornley updated the meeting on the investigation:

8 Council Job descriptions (oral)

The CEO provided an update. Job descriptions had been circulated and comments received. It was noted that the job description for the Chair of E&F was missing and further work needs to be undertaken on the job descriptions and the role of Vice-Presidents.

Further work will be undertaken and they will come back to Council in due course.

9 Chairs of committees:

The CEO gave an oral update. It was noted that the committees are being dealt with in a different way than previously, with the aim of linking with our strategic elements. A number of committees have already been agreed including Countries, Wildfowling, Uplands, Estates and Pensions.

Council needs to now approve the membership of these committee, therefore the Chairs are asked to submit committee memberships for approval, in advance of the next Council meeting.

Ian Coghill presented the proposals for the Uplands committee, with the addition that the newly appointed Executive Director of Conservation will be on the Uplands Committee along with another Council member.

Ian Coghill confirmed that the Committee will meet three times per year, with one of those meetings taking place in Scotland.

Council approved the proposals in the Chair of the Uplands Committee's paper.

10 Strategy update (oral)

The CEO provided an update on the development of the strategy following the broad elements that were agreed by Council at the strategy meeting. It is reassuring that these elements are similar to the one drafted by the Executive Directors before the CEO was recruited.

The CEO, Executive Directors, including the Executive Director of Conservation, are meeting to match objectives to outcomes.

These objectives will be considered at the November Council meeting.

11 Strategic Risk Register

The Executive Director of Business Management presented the updated Strategic Risk Register, noting that some actions have been updated.

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Council noted the updates to the risk register.

12 BGA Update * CONFIDENTIAL *** (oral)**

13 Council meetings – timing of election of Chairman, Vice-Chair, E&F Chairman and E&F Committee

Council considered the CEO's paper regarding election timings of the key roles on Council and E&F.

Following a discussion, the Council approved Option 1. That the Council meeting following the AGM, which elects the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council and the Chairman of the E&F Committee would take place after lunch on the day of AGM instead of before lunch.

14 Chairman's Report

The Chairman provided an oral update on a number of items:

Eat Game Awards

The Chairman attended the Eat Game awards. Council congratulated Annette Woolcock and all involved on a very successful event, which is likely to become a major part of the calendar going forward. Attendance by Council at future events was encouraged.

NRW Action

As agreed at September Council, the Association has considered commencing a JR against NRW regarding the ban on shooting on public land. After considering several barristers to take forward the action against NRW. It was agreed that Rhodri Williams QC should be appointed to take forward the action. Following a telephone conference, Rhodri requested more information which has been provided.

It was noted that there are tight timetables in progressing a JR, Therefore, Rhodri Williams QC has been engaged to draft a letter before action, which he has now done and a copy of the first draft has been shared. Council was advised that a JR letter before action is a much more detailed letter which includes the pleading.

Other organisations are keen to be involved in partnership with the action and the costs. However, the Association will be the first applicant of the JR and then the CA and NGO (maybe others) will be additional applicants.

Council asked what the costs are to date and the estimated future costs. The CEO confirmed costs are likely to be shared.

Council are therefore asked to approve the action being taken forward and a capped budget, noting that the costs are likely to be shared with the other organisations and could therefore be lower.

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Council asked what else are we doing to mobilise our members. The Executive Director of Communication and Public Affairs confirmed that we have contacted our members in Wales and over the border and so far around 2000 members have contacted Hannah Blythyn via email, in addition the Director of Wales is seeing Lesley Griffiths AM shortly and encourages members to see their local MPs and AMs regarding the situation.

Following a discussion Council approved a budget to take forward the JR. Council will be kept updated regarding progress and costs.

Other updates

The Chairman confirmed he had attended the Conservative Party Conference during the past month.

15 Chief Executive's Report (oral)

The Chief Executive updated Council on several ongoing pieces of work. Majority of time has been spent on the budget and job evaluation (which is linked to the budget), ahead of the next Executive and Finance Committee meeting.

Time has also been spent on the BGA, developing the strategy and a couple of HR issues which are ongoing, but Council do not need to be updated on any specifics regarding them at this time.

The CEO met Lord Dear and updated him on the progress of the Association. He is happy to become more involved in any role to help and support the Association.

The CEO had a follow up meeting with James Gower regarding the Game Fair proposal. James Gower was happy that the relationship with the Game Fair will continue.

A meeting took place with the new Executive Director of Conservation who is doing some work on the Conservation strategy.

The CEO also attended the Shoot Liaison Committee with the Vice-Chairman. Discussion centred on lead, African Swine Fever and the BGA.

A meeting took place with the GWCT and the CEO went to the Conservative and Labour Party Conferences. The CEO congratulated The Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs and his team on their impact at the Labour Party Conference.

The CEO is undertaking some work with FACE, on how they operate. The Research team is also involved in this work and a survey has gone out to other members of FACE.

Visits to the Scotland and Northern Ireland offices are planned.

16 Executive Director of Public Affairs' and Communications Report (oral)

The Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs' report was given orally.

Standing Conference

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There is a campaign for the Standing Conference on Countryside Sports, which was part founded by BASC, to meet once a year instead of twice despite that not being the will of the membership. The Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs is taking this forward. Council will be kept informed of developments.

FACE

FACE UK has had indications that a member would like to see a reduction in our contribution to FACE following Brexit; this viewpoint is not shared by other organisations in FACE UK. The impact could be that our subscriptions will need to increase to maintain our current level of involvement with FACE.

The Director of Communications and Public Affairs confirmed that the President on FACE will be attending the next FACE UK meeting.

Council raised that we should invited the President of FACE to the Mill and maybe to a Council meeting.

The Offensive Weapons Bill

The Offensive Weapons Bill now has 61 signatures on the amendments which means that it cannot be passed without Labour votes; thus the Labour party have a chance to defeat the government on this issue. A meeting with Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP is scheduled. The debate has been taken over by the NCA in their campaign to get 50 calibre rifles banned. A response has been sent.

The Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs left the meeting.

17 Executive Director of Shooting and Operations' Report

The Executive Director of Shooting and Operations' report was taken as read.

Council was updated on the recruitment of the pathways to shooting post, 21 candidates were interviewed over 3 days and 8 have been selected for second interviews which are pending.

18 Executive Director of Business Management's report

The Executive Director of Business Management's report was taken as read.

Council noted the following updates:

All three complaints as per 3.1 of the report have been dealt with and are now closed. None of the complaints were upheld.

Regarding the IDD at 3.4, some significant and major regime changes need to be implemented from a governance point of view as per the FCA rules. We are working with Membership to produce new scripts to ensure compliance with the new rules. Proposals for other changes and updates will be brought back to Council over the coming months.

Renewal of all of the Associations domestic insurance are currently being work on.

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A claims review meeting for the membership liability and personal accident insurances is planned for November 2018.

Following implementation of IDD, the conflict of interest policy needs to be amended. This is currently being finalised and will be emailed out to Council members for approval shortly. Once approved Council members, will need to complete a new declaration.

Council was asked to approve the budget bids in Table 2 of the report on page 4.

Council approved all the budget bids.

19 Council forward plan

Council noted the report.

20 Monthly Health and Safety report

Council noted that there had been no accidents since the last report.

RIDDOR accident report * CONFIDENTIAL *****

Council noted the report and suggested that in addition to risk awareness training, training on using specific appliances should be included in the improvement plan.

21 Any other business by leave of the Chairman

Council may wish to consider the importance of whether WHT Stamp artists should be members of the shooting fraternity. This was noted, but explained to Council, that the WHT is currently a separate legal entity to the Association. However, three trustees were members of the Associations Council.

Council approved sponsorship of the Country Food Trust

GWCT has asked the Association to support them to implement the knowledge test online. In exchange for supporting them the test would be endorsed by BASC. Therefore, the certificate would be the GWCT accredited shot, endorsed by BASC. Council agreed negotiations should take place.

Africa Swine Fever is now in wild boar in Belgium. The CEO has directed Conor O'Gorman and Glynn Evans to draw up a bespoke contingency plan in preparation for African Swine Fever coming to the UK.

Council raised the need to increase funding of political campaigning. Following a discussion Council agreed that the Executive and Finance Committee should discuss the need for a political campaign fund which would allow the nurturing of connections with grass roots politicians in the UK, the contracting of persons to undertake specific political tasks, for lobbying and to help members engage with their politicians. A proposal and figures will be drafted by the CEO and the Director of

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Communications and Public Affairs for consideration at the November Council meeting as part of the budget approval item.

The Director of Northern Ireland updated the Council on the status of the Northern Ireland JR. Statements have been provided for the judicial review in Northern Ireland. The judge will issue amended instructions including a date for the hearing. Council will be kept informed.

The Vice-Chairman reminded Council members that they need to set up their BASC email accounts as the deadline for no longer using personal accounts is rapidly approaching. The Executive Director of Business Management will email all of Council with the deadline.

22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 29 November 2018 at Marford Mill.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman