

CONFIDENTIAL

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT MARFORD MILL ROSSETT
ON WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 9.30AM**

Attendance	Peter Glenser QC Eoghan Cameron John Thornley OBE Martyn Jones Robin Marshall-Ball Oliver McCullough Paul Shaw Peter Watson Claire Sadler Professor Ann Mortimer Ian Grindy Ian Coghill Alasdair Mitchell Sally-Anne Cockerill	Chairman Vice-Chairman
Ex-Officio:	Ian Bell Angela Davies Christopher Graffius Steve Bloomfield Caroline Bedell Dan Reynolds Steve Griffiths Dr Colin Shedden Tommy Mayne	Chief Executive Executive Director of Business Management Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs Executive Director of Shooting and Operations Executive Director of Conservation Director England Director Wales Director Scotland Director Northern Ireland
Dialling in:	Sarah Turner	
In Attendance:	Alex Gibson Paul Williamson Sandra Forkin	Consultant, item 7 only Head of Land Management, item 9 only Project Integration Manager, item 9 only
Minute Secretary:	Jayne Danby	

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

1 To receive apologies for absence and to note absentees

Apologies had been received from Lord Dear, Carl Woodall and Cara Richardson.

2 To confirm confidential items

The Chairman confirmed that items 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 19 and parts of the Chairman and CEO's reports were confidential.

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3 To identify suggested items of any other business

Shooting and Conservation Council pages were identified as an additional item of business.

The England Committee membership AOB was picked up under item 8.

4 Declarations of interest

Those members of Council who are trustees of the WHT, WHCST and WHCT i.e. the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, John Thornley and the CEO, declared an interest in item 10.

5.1 Minutes of the 29 November 2018 Council meeting

The minutes of the 29 November 2018 Council meeting were considered.

At 15, the penultimate line should read, 'the NGO have yet to commit'.

With that amendment, the minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

5.2 Minutes of the 28 November 2018 Executive and Finance Committee meeting

The minutes of the 28 November 2018 Executive and Finance Committee meeting were signed as a true record of that meeting.

6 Matters arising from earlier Council meetings

Many Council members have completed their CPD; those who have not, were urged to do so.

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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. Country Directors left the meeting.

Alex Gibson joined the meeting.

John Thornley and Alex Gibson updated the meeting on investigation matters:

Alex Gibson left the meeting and the Country Directors re-joined the meeting

8 Committee Memberships

Political Committee

The CEO invited Council to consider the members of the Political Committee as presented.

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Council agreed that all countries should be represented on the committee by a Council member from that Country. Also, that all Regional and Country Directors should be included on the committee as members.

Council approved the members of the political committee as listed with the addition of Ian Coghill and Sophie Hutchinson, the Scotland Council member, Eoghan Cameron; and that Regional Directors to attend as and when appropriate. It was commented that feedback from every region about what works will be vital for the success of the venture.

Terms of reference will now be drafted for the Committee.

England Committee

Membership of the England Committee was approved as per the paper outlining proposed membership circulated at the meeting.

Uplands Committee

The 'Uplands Committee' is renamed the 'Uplands Group' and it is not run as a BASC Council committee. This is because if the membership for this group are representatives from other organisations it would not be a partnership approach to have those members required to be members of BASC and also being involved in and limited to a group that is a sub-committee of BASC Council.

BASC's uplands working group membership includes Ian Coghill and Ian Grindy and BASC's representative on the Uplands Focus Group, plus other BASC staff members. Council agreed to stop the Uplands Committee and deliver the work through the Uplands Focus Group and the Working Group as proposed above.

9 Centre of Excellence – Presentation *Confidential*****

Paul Williamson and Sandra Forkin joined the meeting.

Paul Williamson and Sandra Forkin gave a presentation on the Centre of Excellence.

Paul Williamson and Sandra Forkin left the meeting.

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10 WHT and WHCST – Terms of Reference *Confidential*****

Council noted the Executive Director of Business Management's paper on the WHT and WHCT, Terms of Reference.

11 Game Fair – Gamekeepers Fair proposal *Confidential*****

The Executive Director of Shooting and Operations presented his paper regarding the BASC Gamekeepers Fair proposal.

12 AGM

a) Honours and Awards

Council members were asked to submit nominations for awards and honours to the Executive Director of Business Management and/or the PA to the CEO by 8 March observing the criteria as outlined in the paper. The nomination will be reviewed at the March Council meeting.

b) Motions (oral)

Council noted that as of the end of December, no motions for the AGM had been received from members. The deadline for motions for the AGM is the 28th March Council meeting, this is to ensure that they can appear in the May/June edition of *Shooting and Conservation*.

It was noted that if Council wish to take any changes to the AGM 2019, the deadline is the March 2019 Council meeting.

13 Council Declarations of Interest *Confidential*****

The Executive Director of Business Management presented her paper on Declarations of Interest.

Council members are asked to review the declarations and feedback any amendments to the Executive Director of Business Management or the Trainee Compliance Officer, Anya Walker.

14 Chairman's Report

The Chairman delivered an oral report at the meeting. Council noted that the Chairman:

- Along with the CEO, attended the birthday party of *The Field* magazine at Holland and Holland in December; this proved to be a useful contact meeting.
- Spoke to Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, about the pressures on shooting in parliament
- The Chairman attended a meeting with Tom Adams from the BGA, at which the Vice-Chairman and the CEO were also present,
- Attended the All-Party Parliamentary Group dinner.
- Attended the McNab Club dinner in a private capacity

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Council asked what our position is on big bags. The Chairman and CEO confirmed that this is something we need to clarify. The Executive Director of Conservation clarified that as part of the conservation strategy we need to understand what is classed as sustainable shooting and it is not specifically about numbers. The CEO confirmed that a line on this needs to be agreed.

15 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive presented his report and provided oral updates. Council noted the following:

BASC Vice-Presidents - as the review of remit of Vice-Presidents continues, the CEO will bring a paper to the March meeting of Council outlining the proposal to invite certain persons for limited time periods to be Vice Presidents, where their skills can be used to assist BASC.

Medical issues and firearms licensing – a proposal was put forward to Lord Dear and David Orford where BASC members could access a doctor who would review BASC members' medical records and provide a report to the police for application and renewal where it is needed. The CEO asked to work this idea up and test it. It was agreed to pursue this idea.

The CEO is keen for BASC to have a focussed representation at the Eat Game Awards in 2020. Therefore, Council are asked if they know anyone who would be a positive BASC ambassador for BASC at this event to let the CEO know.

Contingency plans and BASC "lines to take" – work is being carried out on anticipated challenges so that contingency plans can be formulated, so staff and Council can be given pre-prepared Association lines (as agreed by Council).

Potential London Office – the CEO will bring a proposal to Council regarding the setting up (via the Estates Committee) of an office in London. It was also raised that it would be useful to also have an office in Cardiff to increase BASC credibility in Wales.

In response to SEAT's recent advert debasing field sports, they will be removed from the BASC member car discount scheme and a statement made to support the CA and field-sports.

The CEO has met with Andrew Gilruth, GWCT. The Knowledge was discussed and BASC support for it – following a discussion Council agreed that the CEO should take forward and enter a partnership with the GWCT regarding the Knowledge.

BGA – the CEO met and discussed various issues with Tom Adams – BASC's support for the BGA was reiterated at the meeting.

The BGA would now like the name of the representative to join the board. Following a discussion, it was agreed that volunteers should be sought from elected Council members, so it was aligned with our democratic structure. It was agreed that volunteers should make themselves known to the CEO and the CEO, Chairman and Vice-Chairman would also approach prospective candidates during the

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day. The CEO agreed to contact Cara Richardson and Carl Woodall who sent apologies to the meeting.

Expressions of interest are sought by the end of the week, or if this is not possible, the CEO will pick this up on his return from leave, week commencing 25 February.

An opportunity has arisen for BASC to be involved in the production of a four-part documentary series about rural and shooting life for Channel 4, to be aired in the summer. Following discussion, Council agreed that, although resources could be realigned to pursue this, the time frame is tight and there is a lack of contract and structure at this time which is a concern. The CEO was asked to pursue the project and gain further details about the project including taster footage, as well as reassurances around quality and time of delivery. The proposal will then come back to Council including budget requirements for decision making. It was noted that as the next Council meeting is not for six weeks this may need to be decided electronically.

16 Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs' Report

The Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs' report was taken as presented.

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

17 Executive Director of Shooting and Operations' Report

Council noted the Executive Director of Shooting and Operations' report as presented, noting additionally that:

BASC and the CA have agreed to attend the next meeting of the Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group.

Planning regulations – Three law firms have been approached for legal advice on planning regulations and shooting. A solicitor has been selected and the work is ongoing.

Dyfi – the situation has deteriorated regarding consent areas. BASC and Clubs will be putting in a complaint about the NRW employee regarding her interpretation of the consent.

18 Executive Director of Conservation's Report

The Executive Director of Conservation's report was taken as read and the following noted:

Thanks, were extended to those who responded to the conservation survey. Feedback will be brought to the March Council meeting.

A meeting has taken place with Lyalvale Express regarding cartridge recycling. Hull and Game bore are still to be contacted.

NE have released information on heather burning and hen harrier tagging which is to be reviewed by the conservation teams.

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Council asked if Chris Packham's Wildlife Manifesto is to be raised with the RSPB and the Wetlands Trust who have both expressed support for it. Council wanted to know the level of support for the campaign. The Executive Director of Conservation confirmed this would be asked

Council also asked if BASC were supporting Curlew Country, a successful scheme which is about to disappear due to a lack of funding. The Executive Director of Conservation confirmed she had met with Curlew Country

19 Executive Director of Business Management's report *Confidential*****

The Executive Director of Business Management's report was noted. Further, Council noted the updated pre-audit Income and Expenditure and Balance sheets as circulated at the meeting.

Membership currently stands at 154,864. Retention rates are on the rise again.

All Council members were reminded to undertake their online GDPR training.

Council asked if we have any clear ideas on what is driving retention. The Executive Director of Business Management confirmed the main reasons for members leaving us; and confirmed that a membership recruitment and retention session has been arranged to look at the membership journey and ideas to improve recruitment and retention.

20 Council forward plan

Council noted the updated forward plan as circulated at the meeting and presented by the Chairman.

In addition, Council confirmed that every January meeting moves into February from this year onwards.

21 Health and Safety report – Monthly Update

Council noted the report, as presented by the Executive Director of Business Management.

It was noted that some of the report didn't note what had happened and we need more meaningful reports. For example, near misses should be included.

It was also noted that the item should move towards the start of the agenda as health and safety should be recognised as an important issue in accordance with the HSE.

The Executive Director of Business Management noted that Health and safety training for staff is due to be undertaken this year. This will include their responsibilities to report incidents and near misses.

22 Strategic Risk Register – Quarterly Review

Council noted the Strategic Risk Register as presented by the CEO.

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23 Any other business by leave of the Chairman

Council was reminded that Louise Farmer was filmed for *Jamie and Jimmie's Friday Night Feast* last year – the programme is to be aired on Friday 15 February; Louise is to be congratulated.

Council page in *Shooting and Conservation*. Ann Mortimer confirmed she had taken over from Sally-Anne Cockerill and contributions should be made to either Mike Montgomery or Ann Mortimer by the close of business on 14 February.

24 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 28 March 2019 at Marford Mill.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman