

# British Parachute Association

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## The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Tuesday 17 April 2007 at 1845**  
at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

<b>Present:</b>	Eddie Jones	-	Chairman of Council
	Paul Applegate		
	Adrian Bond	-	Communications Chairman
	Robin Durie	-	Development Chairman
	John Horne		
	David Ibbotson		
	Paul Ledden		
	Ian Marshall		
	Paul Moore		
	John Page	-	Vice Chairman of Council & Competitions Chairman
	Grant Richards		
	Mike Rust		
	John Smyth		
	Weed Stoodley		
	Alex Wilson		
<b>In attendance:</b>	Chris Allen	-	Vice President (to minute 28.3)
	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer
	David Hickling	-	Chairman, Insurance Subcommittee
	Tony Knight	-	BPA Liaison Officer to CAA
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
<b>Observers:</b>	Kieran Brady		
	Karen Farr		
	Stuart Meacock		
	Craig Poxon		

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## Item Minute

### 23/07 Minutes

Minute 9.3, approval of the minutes of the inaugural Council meeting, was corrected to record that John Horne and Ian Marshall voted against accepting the minutes.

Also at the request of John Horne, and taking account of a response to the request by Kieran Brady, the following was added to minute 10, insurance, as a new third-from-last paragraph in that minute: "Kieran Brady said that in the final analysis, it did not matter what decisions were made around the Council table on insurance, in the sense that if the DZ Operators, who are major stakeholders, did not approve of the insurance package they might not allow jumpers to jump at their centres. He therefore emphasised the importance of the BPA consulting with DZ Operators over insurance in order to take their opinions into consideration."

Paul Ledden said that he abstained in the vote in minute 12.1.2 about Letters to the Magazine, and asked that the draft minutes should be corrected to record this.

With the above variations, Adrian Bond proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 February 2007 should be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

**Approved**

**24/07 Clarification of Competitions Committee minute 73.4/06 from the Competitions Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 October 2006 (ratified by the Council on 5 December 2006)**

In a brainstorming session at the above meeting of the Competitions Committee, on nationality issues, the following had been minuted:

*John Hitchen suggested that the Council might consider keeping the requirement to hold a UK passport but allow applications to the Competitions Committee for permission against the rule, on an individual basis, by considering the merits of each specific case. He said that STC had in place a similar system of permissions against certain operational rules on a case-by-case basis*

The Office suggested that this minute would benefit from clarification to put it in context because, as it stood, the wording was open to misinterpretation. John Hitchen said that his comments related purely to the declaration of British National Champion teams, which was a matter in the control of the BPA. He never meant for his suggestion to be taken to apply to teams representing the UK at international parachuting competitions, as these were controlled by FAI/IPC rules, over which the BPA had no discretion or waiver.

The Chairman thanked John Hitchen for this clarification.

**25/07 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 13 February 2007**

**25.1 Minutes of the Inaugural Council meeting – Saturday 20 January 2007 (minute 9.3)**

**25.1.1 Statement by John Smyth**

John Smyth, who had not been present at the last meeting, said that the words that the current Chairman had used about him at the inaugural Council meeting, when they had both been nominees for the Chair, had been offensive. He therefore had a sense of grievance because he said people had been interpreting the statement that the Chairman had made about him in a context beyond the BPA. John Smyth pointed out that he had written a personal letter to the Chairman to seek an apology but had received back a letter saying that it was clear that he (John Smyth) had not sought legal advice. He said that the statement in the February minutes that the Chairman had apologised was inaccurate. In fact, the Chairman's reply to John Smyth had said that no apology was being made or would be forthcoming. John Smyth said that the perception around the table that the Chairman's later written statement to Council was an apology was also inaccurate. John Smyth said that as the Council appeared to be reluctant to distance themselves from the Chairman's remarks, he felt he had no option but to seek legal advice.

**25.1.2 Matter raised by Ian Marshall**

The Chairman responded to an issue raised by Ian Marshall at the last meeting (minute 9.3). The Chairman read aloud correspondence with the then BPA Chairman relating to complaints about him and others in connection with a local issue at his Drop Zone.

**26.2 Insurance (minute 10)**

At the last meeting, David Hickling (Chairman, Insurance Subcommittee) had said he had requested a clear direction from the Council on the policy that the Insurance Subcommittee was to adopt for the future of BPA insurance. Numerous points had been put forward at the DZ Operators' meeting held on Thursday 12 April 2007, and there had also been two meetings of the Insurance Subcommittee, one on the day of the DZOs meeting and the second this morning. David Hickling had briefed the Development Committee earlier today. Paul Moore had come up with an interesting idea that warranted full consideration. The

Chairman said that as a result of all these inputs, the mandate for the Council to give to the Insurance Subcommittee, in terms of the desired outcomes of future insurance policy, were now becoming clearer and should have crystallised by the time of the next Council meeting in June 2007.

#### **26.3 The Airkix Fund (minute 12.2)**

John Page and Robin Durie, as the BPA's representatives on the Airkix Fund Committee, planned to meet Simon ward, Chief Executive of Airkix Milton Keynes, next week.

**Action: John Page & Robin Durie**

#### **26.4 BPA Aviation Liaison Group (minute 14)**

Tony Knight had recommended draft terms of reference (circulated) for the group discussed at the last Council meeting, which he now recommended should be called the BPA Aviation Liaison Group (ALG). Tony Knight also recommended that Kieran Brady should be invited to Chair the Group. After discussion, Mike Rust proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the Council should accept all of Tony Knight's recommendations.

**Carried unanimously**

Robin Durie said that, due to the pressure of other work, he was unfortunately unable to join this group. John Smyth offered to liaise between the BPA Aviation Liaison Group and the Royal Aero Club.

#### **26.5 Club Reps (minute 15)**

Club Reps confirmed that they had been making contact with Centres in their areas.

#### **26.6 World Air Games 2009 – UK bid (minute 16.1)**

John Smyth reported that the commercial organisation that had been spearheading this bid had decided not to proceed. This had come as no surprise to the airports organisations that had considered the bid, at such impractically short notice, to be ill conceived. FAI/IPC had two or three bids on the table for WAG 2009, but a UK bid was thankfully not among them.

**No further action**

John Smyth said he did not understand why FAI was promoting the World Air Games (WAG) concept so robustly. It was in his view a poorly thought out concept to seek to have all airports competing at one location. In terms of sport parachuting, WAG 2009 would include only Accuracy and CF, not all disciplines. FAI appeared keen to hold a WAG every two years instead of every 4 years as at present. The RAeC was against this because it would interfere with other competition cycles. John Smyth said the WAG would be likely to have a detrimental effect on sport parachuting if it switched to a two-year cycle. He said that FAI/IPC had said that the UK appeared to be the only nation objecting to the proposed 2-year cycle. The matter was due for further discussion at an FAI meeting in the next few weeks.

**Ongoing**

#### **26.7 RAeC Awards Ceremony (minute 16.2)**

John Smyth reported that, because the RAeC had changed the date of the award ceremony to 24 April, Team Airkix would now be able to collect their Award personally.

**Resolved**

#### **26.8 Staff issues (minute 17)**

The Office was currently under establishment with a full-time administrative vacancy that was currently being advertised through a recruitment agency with a view to engaging a suitable candidate on a temporary trial basis before more permanent arrangements were considered.

The staff had invited Weed Stoodley to be Staff Liaison Officer for 2007 and she had accepted.

#### **26.9 AGM 2008 (minute 18)**

The quotation received from the Hinckley Island Hotel for the BPA AGM 2008 on Saturday 12 January 2008 had an over-inflation increase, although it was noted that the hotel had pegged most prices for the last AGM, held in January 2007, with those of the year before. The

Treasurer asked that the Office should liaise with the hotel to seek to negotiate an inflation-linked increase.

**Action: BPA Office**

The Office confirmed it had asked the Hotel to reserve forward dates for AGMs over the next few years.

#### **26.10 Significant areas for sports (minute 19)**

Information had been received from Sport England on their arrangements for recording details of Significant Areas for Sports (SASPs). The Council agreed that it would be helpful for sport parachuting to record its significant sites, and to find out whether a similar scheme may be offered by the other home countries' sports councils covering Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Chairman and the Office would progress this.

**Action: Chairman & BPA Office**

#### **26.11 Carrying parachuting kit by British Airways (minute 20)**

Robin Durie reported that he was trying to get sports parachute equipment included on British Airways' list of recognised sporting equipment, which would mean that it would normally be conveyed free of additional charge as hold baggage. He had established that BA had a working group that determined policy on what the airline recognised as sports equipment. It was proving to be quite a challenge to get in touch with this group, but Robin Durie was persisting. His case was that sport parachutists needed to take their own, personal, equipment in order to practise their sport safely. Such equipment would be stowed in the hold, so the issue of parachutes in the aircraft cabin would not arise.

**Ongoing action by Robin Durie**

#### **27/07 Vice President's Inquiry into the Council election process**

Chris Allen, a Vice President, asked the Council to review its decision (minute 8) to call a Vice President's Inquiry into the Council election Process 2007. He said he saw no reason why the Council should not itself convene a small working group to look at this. He said that in October 2006, the Council had in fact reviewed the election procedure, and decided to retain the present in-house arrangements because they were considerably more economical than to pay the charges of an external agency.

The allegations of impropriety about the election had, so far as Chris Allen was aware, been made on a third party Internet chat forum or discussion group, not in writing to the BPA. The BPA's own disciplinary tribunal procedure required there to be a written complaint to the BPA to set off that procedure. This was a provision purposefully intended to prevent an inappropriate reaction to rumour and hearsay of a kind often associated with forums such as internet discussion groups, etc. It was important to have as a starting point for any Inquiry a witness who was prepared to state 'This is what happened to me'.

Chris Allen said that his comments should in no way be seen as a criticism of the Council, in fact quite the reverse as his position was that the Council was competent to conduct any review of the BPA's election procedure that might be appropriate.

John Smyth stated that if the Council reversed its decision to hold a Vice President's Inquiry, it would lead to the in his view justifiable concern from the membership that there might be something to hide. If the Council conducted the Inquiry instead of the Vice Presidents, he said it would only lead to accusations of a cover-up. He therefore believed that the Vice Presidents' Inquiry should go ahead.

In discussion it was noted that no strategy for the Inquiry had been set by the Council or, to date, agreed by the Vice Presidents. Vice President Jim Crocker had requested that the sealed box containing the voting cards be taken to him to be opened only at a meeting of all Vice Presidents who had agreed to take part in the Inquiry, a request with which the Office had complied after consultation with the Chairman. However, concerns had been raised by some Council Members and others, including Karen Farr now at the meeting, that it would be

a breach of trust and a violation of human rights for an individual's voting card, cast in a secret ballot, to be made known to any other BPA Members, even the Vice Presidents.

John Horne said that the foregoing discussion had been predicated on the premise that no formal written allegation of ballot rigging had been received. But he was himself in receipt of such an allegation. He did not wish to table it at the Council, but was content to pass it to the Vice Presidents. Chris Allen pointed out that the complaint had not been made to the Chair of the relevant committee, as required by the BPA tribunal procedures.

John Smyth then proposed, and John Horne seconded, a motion that to carry on with the Vice Presidents' Inquiry into the Council election 2007.

John Page proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a counter-proposal that the ballot cards be returned to the BPA Office immediately, and that John Horne provide the written complaint about the election to the Vice Presidents in order that they can decide whether or not there is sufficient basis on which to conduct a Vice President's Inquiry. A vote was taken on the counter-proposal, and the result was:

For – 8; Against – 5; Abstain – 1 (Robin Durie) **Carried – Action: John Horne**

Craig Poxon raised a point about the issue of results. This had been covered in a memorandum dated 25 January 2007 from the staff to the Council, and the Council asked the Office to provide Craig Poxon with a copy.

**Action: BPA Office**

## **28/07 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees**

The minutes of each of the following meetings had been circulated in advance.

### **28.1 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 13 February 2007**

Robin Durie (Development Chairman) proposed, and Adrian Bond seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 13 February 2007 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

### **28.2 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 13 February 2007**

With the deletion of the name of Alex Wilson from the list of those present, Adrian Bond (Communications Chairman) proposed, and Robin Durie seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Communications Committee meeting held on 13 February 2007 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

### **28.3 Safety and Training Committee meeting on Thursday 29 March 2007**

John Hitchen (STC Chairman) reported that, as recorded in the STC minutes, there had unfortunately been a fatal accident at Skydive Bridlington. He said it was possible that this could result in a disciplinary tribunal. John Page then proposed, and Alex Wilson seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 29 March 2007 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

[**Note:** A typographical error has subsequently been corrected on page 5, minute 5(ix), line 2, in which 'G92 aircraft' had been corrected to read 'SMG92 Turbo Finist aircraft'.]

### **28.4 Competitions Committee mini-meeting held on Tuesday 5 December 2006**

John Smyth proposed, and Grant Richards seconded, a motion that the minutes of the mini-meeting of the Competitions Committee held on Tuesday 5 December 2006 should be ratified (a summary report had been ratified at the last Council meeting, minute 11.4, as the minutes had been transcribed late due to a staff shortage). This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

### **28.5 Competitions Committee mini-meeting held on Saturday 20 January 2007**

John Page proposed, and Alex Wilson seconded, a motion that the minutes of the mini-meeting of the Competitions Committee held on Saturday 20 January 2007 should be ratified (a summary report had been ratified at the last Council meeting, minute 11.4, as the minutes had been transcribed late due to a staff shortage). This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

### **28.6 Competitions Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 March 2007**

The minutes of this meeting had not yet been transcribed because of a staff shortage. However, a summary report had been circulated covering the key points. The Competitions Committee had recommended that the BPA's 24-hour subsistence rate for judges and coaches etc, which had not been reviewed for several years, should be increased by £5 from £25 to £30. Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion to approve this increase with immediate effect.

**Carried unanimously**

John Smyth invited the Council to consider funding a Head of Delegation / Delegation Manager to accompany the British delegation to the World Cup 2007 in FS and Artistic in Stupino, Russia, from 4-12 August 2007. He said that the BPA did not usually, by custom and practice, support a Head of Delegation to a World Cup. However, the British Delegation was likely to comprise some 40 competitors, plus accompanying persons and others, making a sizeable delegation that would justify a co-ordinating role. John Smyth said he had been invited to the meet as a member of the jury and could not therefore himself be Head of the British Delegation. However, as he would be on site, and would naturally be pleased to give whoever was appointed to this role all the help and advice he could provide within the rules of IPC, because as a member of the jury he would remain independent from all the delegations.

John Smyth then formally proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the BPA should cover the costs of the entry fee (including accommodation) and flight of a Head of British Delegation / Delegation Manager for the World Cup 2007 in Stupino, based on actual costs up to a maximum of £500.

**Carried unanimously**

## **29/07 Reports on Committee meetings held earlier today**

### **29.1 Communications Committee**

Adrian Bond (Communications Chairman) reported that the Communications Committee had:

- co-opted Grant Richards to the Communications Committee;
- discussed possible closer links between the BPA and the UK Skydiver (UKS) website and agreed to defer any decision to October 2007;
- drafted the Communications Action Plan 2007/8 (minute 30.4);
- given preliminary consideration to the suggestions of the staff on BPA Communications Policy, but had not taken any decisions because Lesley Gale, Editor of *Skydive Magazine*, had not been present.

### **29.2 Development Committee**

Robin Durie (Development Chairman) reported that the Development Committee had:

- noted that John Page and the Development Chairman were due to meet Simon Ward of Airkix Milton Keynes next week to consider the progress of the Airkix Fund;
- discussed the future direction of BPA insurance with David Hickling (Chairman, Insurance Subcommittee) in the light of feedback from the Drop Zone Operators' meeting on Thursday 12 April 2007. This had included a possible future variation of the amount of cover, the implications of which would have to be thoroughly investigated before any decision was taken;
- further discussed a suggestion by David Turner for a "Dragon's Den" type event for investment in skydiving-related goods or services;

- drafted the Development Action Plan 2007/8 (minute 30.3).

### **30/07 BPA Action Plan: 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008**

The Chairman reminded the Council that the Action Plan for 2007/8 was not a bid document, as previous Action Plans had been, but was required by UK Sport to confirm exchequer funding they had previously agreed for the BPA of £25,000 for the UK Sport year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This funding would in fact be applied to the BPA Action Plan year from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 inclusive.

The budget for the Action Plan 2007/8 was based upon the previously-agreed (minute 71/04 of the Council meeting on 7 December 2004) apportionment of percentages of the BPA's forecast surplus of income over routine expenditure, together with the addition of the £25 UK Sport exchequer funding grant allocated in the customary ratio of £20K to Competitions and £5K to Safety and Training. The funding allocation was therefore:

Safety & Training	14,554	10% + £5000 of UK Sport grant
Development	4,777	5%
Communications	4,777	5%
Competitions	72,544	55% + 20000 of UK sport grant
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Action Plan total	96,652	75% [The remaining 25% is for BPA investments]

Each main Committee of the BPA had recommended its Action Plan targets to the Council, and these were now considered in turn.

#### **30.1 Safety and Training Action Plan**

The targets and their associated budgets were:

- 30.1.1 Increase awareness of parachuting activities and the effects of legislation within the European Union - budget £3K
- 30.1.2 Increase the number of tandem instructors - budget £7K
- 30.1.3 Train Club & Team personnel in the conduct of risk assessments - budget £2K.

John Page then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the above STC Action Plan, with the three targets stated and a total budget of £12K, should be approved.

**Carried unanimously**

#### **30.2 Competitions Action Plan**

The targets and their associated budgets were:

- 30.2.1 Support training of top teams that meet strict funding criteria (performance equal to fourth place or better at the last World Championships) to win medals at the world Championships 2008 – budget £57K
- 30.2.2 Improve competitor standards to build a base for future National teams – budget £10K
- 30.2.3 Retain the level of UK National and international judging expertise at establishment – budget £5K
- 30.2.4 Review the scoring system cards – budget £544.

John Page then proposed, and John Smyth seconded, a motion that the above Competitions Action Plan, with the four targets stated and a total budget of £72,544, should be approved.

**Carried unanimously**

### **30.3 Development Action Plan**

The targets and their associated budgets were:

- 30.3.1 Research methods of membership recruitment and retention - budget £1K
- 30.3.2 Investigate replacement of reduced exchequer funding - budget £500
- 30.3.3 Support and encourage Clubs & Centres to run more safety events - budget £1K
- 30.3.4 Enhance the BPA website for members and the general public – budget £1K.

Robin Durie then proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the above Development Action Plan, with the four targets stated and a total budget of £3.5K, should be approved.

**Carried unanimously**

### **30.4 Communications Action Plan**

The targets and their associated budgets were:

- 30.4.1 Online Membership Questionnaire - budget £250
- 30.4.2 Study the feasibility of enhancing the BPA website [cost of enhancement currently estimated at around £4K] - budget £250
- 30.4.3 Publish a BPA Skydiving calendar 2008 – budget for running costs of £2K to be covered by advertisement sales
- 30.4.4 Publish a trial promotional DVD – budget £250
- 30.4.5 Upgrade Magazine website as a result of feasibility Study - budget £750.

John Page then proposed, and John Smyth seconded, a motion that the above Communications Action Plan, with the five targets stated and a total budget of £1.5K, should be approved.

**Carried unanimously**

### **30.5 Administration Action Plan**

The targets and their associated budgets were:

- 30.5.1 Upgrade computer system/ membership database at BPA Office - budget £3K
- 30.5.2 Purchase updated software and associated training as required - budget £1.5K
- 30.5.3 Produce safety and information posters (target carried forward from 2005/6 Action Plan) - budget (£1.5K unspent budget carried forward from 2005/6) + £500 = £2K

John Page then proposed, and Adrian Bond seconded, a motion that the above Administration Action Plan, with the three targets stated and a total budget of £6.5K, plus £1.5K unspent from the 2005/6 Action Plan year, should be approved.

**Carried unanimously**

### **31/07 Reports from Club Reps**

Adrian Bond reported that he had visited NWPC Cark in February. No issues had arisen that Needed to be reported to the Council. Paul Ledden reported that he had written to introduce himself all of the Centres in the Central Region for which he was the Rep. The Chairman said it was a good idea for Reps to make initial contact with Centres by letter. He also thought it would be a good idea for Reps to have their photograph published in the Mag and asked the Mag whether it might be able to arrange this.

**Action: Skydive Mag**

### **32/07 Report from the Royal Aero Club**

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to the Royal Aero Club) reported that the RAeC had sought an additional contribution from its member organisations, including the BPA, to cover the cost of its work in safeguarding UK airports from undesirable restrictions of European Legislation being progressed by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). In the BPA's case, this amounted to £275 in addition to the amount of £6406 already agreed (minute 76.3 of the meeting on 5 December 2006), bringing the total annual BPA subscription payable to RAeC



to £6681. John Smyth proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, a motion that the additional £275 should be paid.

**Carried unanimously**

**33/07 Europe Air Sports**

Paul Moore reported that he had represented the European Parachuting Union at a meeting of Europe Air Sports held in Cologne, Germany, on 17-18 March 2007. He had circulated notes on the meeting, the key technical points of which he outlined. Some 30 nations were now covered by EASA regulations and the additional costs they created. The German and French parachuting delegates had been pleased to see a British parachuting representative. They had agreed with Paul Moore to seek to re-convene the European Parachuting Union by meeting within the next two months.

**Action: Paul Moore**

**34/07 Publication of Council minutes**

John Horne had circulated in advance a paper calling for the earlier publication of Council minutes. He believed the present two-month wait for ratification of the minutes of the minutes of the previous meeting, before they could be published and the information therein disseminated to Members, to be too long. After a discussion, John Horne proposed, and John Smyth seconded, a motion to try electronic ratification of the Council minutes in order that the ratified minutes could be published before the next Council meeting. The vote was:

For - 13; Against - 1

**Carried**

**35/07 Balance of BPA Committees**

Ian Marshall raised the concern that some BPA Committees had a majority of over half the Members of Council on them. He believed that this should not happen, so that any Committee's recommendations had to come to the full Council for fair and balanced consideration. The Development Committee currently had some two thirds of Council Members on it, that being coincidentally the majority needed to approve expenditure of over £5K. Ian Marshall said he had no problem with Committees co-opting people to do the work, so long as the number of voting Members was limited.

Ian Marshall also said that he believed the main Committees of the Council should be formally known as 'Committees' - strictly speaking they were still officially known as Subcommittees – and the term 'Subcommittee' should apply only to Subcommittees of main Council Committees, such as the Insurance Subcommittee of the Development Committee.

The Chairman thanked Ian Marshall for his thoughtful input, and asked him kindly to liaise with the Committee Chairmen with a view to formulating a proposal to be considered at the next Council meeting.

**Action: Ian Marshall**

**36/07 Application for Re-Affiliation – Skydive Brid**

The Chairman said this item would be held in camera, and he asked all those who were not elected Council Members or staff, apart from the Treasurer, to leave the room. A discussion then took place in camera. Alex Wilson proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion which set out the BPA's position on the matters at hand and this carried unanimously. The in-camera session concluded, the Chairman invited those who had left the meeting to return.

John Horne then proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to Re-Affiliate Skydive Brid with the BPA, in accordance with their completed BPA Form 135 (circulated in advance).

**Carried unanimously**

**37/07 Redecoration of BPA Board Room**

The sum of £4,500 had been budgeted to redecorate the BPA Board Room in the current Action Plan year ending on 30 June 2007. This was an increased amount from an unspent budget in a previous year, when the decorators had pointed out that the ceiling was cracked and would require remedial attention. They had recommended installation of a new suspended ceiling, but the previous budget had been insufficient to cover this, hence the increase to £4,500. However, a number of Council Members and others had suggested that air conditioning should also be installed, because the room became very uncomfortable

during the summer heat. The Office had obtained quotations and found the additional cost of basic air conditioning would be about £2,500. John Smyth proposed, and Adrian Bond seconded, a motion to add a budget of £2,500 for air conditioning to the already-approved Action Plan budget of £4,500 for the installation of a new suspended ceiling and re-decoration of the BPA Board Room.

**Carried unanimously**

**38/07 Council vote by e-mail**

John Page (Vice Chairman of Council) reported that a Council vote by e-mail had been taken on the publication in the April Mag of:

Andy Scott's letter For - 8, Against - 6; Abstain - 1 (Chairman) **Carried**

Charles Shea-Simonds' letter For - 8; Against - 6; Abstain - 1 (Chairman) **Carried**

Cheryl Smyth's letter For - 7; Against - 7; Abstain - 1 (Chairman) – on Vice Chairman's casting vote in favour **Carried**

John Page said he believed it to be wrong to have an e-mail vote to reverse a decision taken by the Council only a couple or so weeks previously. He did not believe that this was the correct use of an e-mail vote, which suffered a significant shortcoming in that it did not allow Council Members to hear each others' views around the table and to discuss and debate points before a vote was taken. Weed Stoodley agreed. John Page said that he trusted that the Council would be very careful in its agreement to hold votes by e-mail in the future.

**39/07 Dates of next meetings**

Tuesdays at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester: 12 June, 14 August, 9 October and 4 December 2007 (after the EGM).

The meeting closed at 2215.