Council Meeting Synopsis

DATE	START TIME:	LOCATION
11 September 2026	16:00	Ellesmere Port HQ & Online via Teams

IN ATTENDANCE:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Carline Deal, Alex Denny, David George, Samantha Holgate-Davey, Emma James (Hon Sec), Antonella Mulè, Richard Pettifer (Hon Treasurer), Andrew Shenstone (Chair), Mary Tetley (CEO), Yasmine Thorn (Vice Chair)

On-line: Sophie Rennie (NDO)

VICE PRESIDENTS

Brian Cummings (on-line), Tony Marshall

HQ COLLEAGUES

Sophie Heptonstall (HoDT), Wendy Meadows (COO)

INVITED GUESTS

APOLOGIES

Catherine Haworth, Jane Maddocks, Catherine Smith

Minutes: Emma James

Welcome & Opening Administration

a. **Apologies**: Catherine Haworth, Jane Maddocks, Catherine Smith
b. **Approval of Minutes: July 2026 Council Meeting** - approved
c. Conflicts of interest: Updates to register
d. Raising of AOB - dates for 2027 Council Meetings (EJ)
e. HQ representatives: Wendy Meadows COO, Sophie Heptonstall (HoDT)
f. eVote since last meeting: ratification of results - David George joins Council - eVote ratified.

AS reminded Council that DG has joined Council replacing Michelle Haywood who unfortunately stood down. In accordance with our Articles of Association, we require a minimum of 5 ordinary council members so with DG we are fulfilling our minimum.

AS introduced the meeting. Confirmed we are quorate to commence the meeting.

CEO Report

Member retention is a continuing focus together with increasing instructor numbers. Pool closure continues to be a major problem that HQ constantly tackling. SHD mentioned she has been working with local councils where sports are able to pitch their sport for resource and suggested we work with Swim England to pitch and secure local resource for pools. SH mentioned that Holiday Parks in winter can offer potential pool opportunities.

Lobbying & Networking: Wreck legislation – we have been working with the navy over the last few weeks, and the navy have provided us with feedback on the communication for members. Many thanks to Jane Maddocks and Alex Denny for working closely with MT and SH to get comms out in a timely manner. BSAC was thanked in the House of Lords and by the Navy for work that contributed to the proposal. Continuing work on parts of the text with the Navy. Some questions still coming in from members. Most divers are very supportive of the protection. SH clarified that it is possible, with permission, to have consent for certain action.

Grants: applying for appropriate grants to help funding.

Clean Water Alliance: MT stated that some of the bigger sports within the Clean Water Sports Alliance group have legal teams who are helping us all with lobbying.

HoDT: we have paused work on Snorkeller Training Programme to manage resources. **Capacity to Train**: we have the demand and people wanting to learn to dive but a number of challenges faced: lack instructors, aging demographic in membership and instructors, clubs at capacity, along with pool accessibility issues as well. We've increased our Centres/Commercial offering, but pricing is a challenge compared with other agencies. Our volunteers are fantastic, and we recognise the volunteer work they are doing. SH confirmed that the drop-off of instructors is predominantly "age" or "medical" related. YT's observation is that clubs are working hard to attract new members as their membership finances keeping kit in-service - however, the struggle is then with enough instructors to train. SH raised the point that the combined cost of club and e-learning is deterring some volunteers.

Strategy update: a line-by-line document of on-going strategy projects was shared with Council.

Sport80: Engagement is improving although instructors haven't had a positive journey. Improved Instructor sign-off is being tested currently and should soon be possible to auto-allocate the qualification. The Event System is working but needs further development work to ensure the events are more discoverable.

Environment: we now have 86 Marine Champs. 64 events and over 270 volunteers involved. The Environment offers us strong partnering opportunities and enables us to apply for grants.

Finance Update –

RP reported on July numbers.

Balance Sheet:
Key Metrics Actual v Budget.
Realisation of Benefits of Sport80:
2026 Reforecast:
Budget 2027 - RP presented a suggestion of Assumptions from which to build 2027 budget

AOB:

TM updated Council on a project he has been working on for many years and relating to setting up a **Diving Museum** - it finally started on a boat in Gosport in 2011 and now have a 100-year lease for a permanent building in a Victorian military battery also in Gosport on the shores of the Solent. Established by the Historical Diving Society who secured multiple small grants but most recently have secured an £800K grant and overall, over £2m to fund it. It is an accredited museum, has had a soft opening and will have an official opening in November 2026. Would like to suggest trips by BSAC branches visit often through the winter - in particular. MT added that the BSAC library is in the museum now.

Council Meeting dates: no clash with any dive festivals. RP & WM to get back regarding an extra evening budget meeting in May.

MEETING CONCLUDED	18:45
NEXT MEETING	28 NOVEMBER 2026 – IN PERSON / ELLESMERE PORT