

## THE PRESS STANDARDS BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED

Strictly private and confidential

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Company held at St Andrew's House, 18-20 St Andrew Street, London on Thursday 16 June 2011 at 2.30pm.

### PRESENT:

Lord Black of Brentwood (Chairman), Robin Burgess, Nicholas Coleridge, Paul Dacre, John Fry, Clive Milner, David Newell, Jim Raeburn and Paul Vickers.

### APOLOGY:

An apology was intimated on behalf of Barry McIlheney.

### NOTICE:

The notice calling the meeting was taken as read.

### ACCOUNTS:

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011 and the reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon were received and unanimously adopted.

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

Separate resolutions for the re-election of Clive Milner, Nicholas Coleridge and James Raeburn who retired by rotation, were carried unanimously.

### RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS:

A resolution to re-appoint Nelson Gilmour Smith & Co., Chartered Accountants, auditors of the Company and authorising the Directors to fix their remuneration was carried unanimously.

**THE PRESS STANDARDS BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED**

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Minutes of meeting of Directors held at the offices of the Newspaper Society/ Newspaper Publishers Association, St Andrew's House, 18-20 St Andrew Street, London on Thursday, 16 June 2011, at 2.35pm.

**PRESENT:** Lord Black of Brentwood (Chairman), Robin Burgess, Nicholas Coleridge, Paul Dacre, John Fry, Clive Milner, David Newell, Jim Raeburn and Paul Vickers.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Baroness Buscombe and Stephen Abell for item 2.

1. **APOLOGY:** An apology was intimated on behalf of Barry McIlheney.
2. **SELF-REGULATION:** Baroness Buscombe referred to the difficult political climate for self-regulation. She had recently held meetings with a number of national newspaper publishers to brief them on the role of the working group of three Commissioners looking at the issues and available information relating to phone hacking and then make recommendations to the Commission. Her thinking was to have an industry protocol on all aspects of gathering personal information which would help underpin trust in the self-regulatory system.

She also referred to various discussions with Ministers and Shadow Ministers and Lord McNally's statement, during the debate on the draft Defamation Bill, on the possible role of the PCC mediating on libel claims.

Baroness Buscombe then indicated she would like to see a joint PCC/PressBoF working group, as recommended by the governance review, with two members from each body, to consider various proposals to help promote the PCC in a positive light.

3. **MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February were approved.

**4. MATTERS ARISING:**

**4.01 Northern & Shell plc:** It was noted that there had been no further developments. The matter should be discussed again at the next meeting.

**5. PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION:**

**5.01 Membership:** The Board noted the appointments of Lord Grade, Judge Jeremy Roberts QC and Michael Smyth. They replaced Bishop Waine, Matti Alderson and Eve Salomon as public members of the Commission.

**5.02 Financial Statements:** The Board noted the draft Report and Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2010 together with the Treasurer's analysis of the actual outcome against the budget. The pre-tax loss of £26.4k was attributable to the under accounting of legal costs of £34.6k previously reported in respect of 2009 and earlier.

**6. CODE COMMITTEE:** Paul Dacre reported on the meeting of the Code Committee held on 24 March which had included discussion on possible future action in relation to phone hacking.

A proposed change to the Code on the prominence of adverse adjudications remained under consideration.

**7. PCC - USE OF TWITTER:** The Board, having considered industry responses to the consultation on the recommendations of the PCC online working group on publications' use of Twitter, agreed that more time was required to give full consideration to the complex issues involved and their impact on privacy.

**8. PRESS FREEDOM ISSUES:** Following a report by the Chairman of current threats to press freedom and self-regulation, the Board expressed deep concern about the fundamental issues at stake and the importance of the industry vigorously contesting them.

**9. TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Board noted the Treasurer's Report as at 14 June (tabled). He expressed his satisfaction that the new arrangements implemented for the calculation of regional press contributions had resulted in the budget sum of £350k being achieved for the first half of 2011. He also reported his concern about the non-payment of registration fees by certain magazine publishers.

**10. PCC CHAIRMAN:**

11. **NEXT MEETING:** 2.30pm Thursday, 20 October at the offices of the NS/NPA.