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**Minutes of the fiftieth meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 17 September 2020
by videoconference**

PRESENT Phil Wadey (chairman)
Graham Bathe
Stuart Bain
Chris Beney
Simon Hunt
Chris Meewezen
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe

IN ATTENDANCE Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

APOLOGIES John Hall, Steve Warr

OFFICE MANAGER

131/20 The general secretary reported that Sarah Hacking had been appointed as office manager and that Ellen Froggatt was currently working alongside her to give an induction, before retiring at the end of the month. The trustees welcomed Sarah and expressed their gratitude to Ellen for her ten years' devoted service to the organisation.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

132/20 There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS ON 13 AUGUST AND 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

133/20 The minutes of the meeting on 13 August and the decision by email of 7 September were approved as a correct record and for publication on the website.

DRAFT MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2020

134/20 These were noted.

Autumn appeal

135/20 The trustees discussed whether to have an appeal this autumn, noting that the general secretary intended to send out the legacy leaflet with the autumn *Open Space*. After discussion it was agreed to have an autumn appeal but to be sensitive about the wording of the request given the current circumstances.

NOTE OF COVID-19 WORKING PARTY ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2020

136/20 It was noted that the Covid-19 working party had agreed that the terms of reference should be those presented to the August trustees' meeting. The trustees noted the matters discussed by the working party.

137/20 Graham Bathe asked the working party to consider the opportunities presented by the current situation, and also to review the governing documents to ensure they were fit for purpose, for example in relation to holding meetings. This was agreed.

SUBCOMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

General purposes committee terms of reference

138/20 The trustees unanimously approved the amended terms of reference proposed by Graham Bathe and Tara-Jane Sutcliffe.

Legal subcommittee

139/20 The decision on the terms of reference was deferred pending a paper from Phil Wadey.

140/20 It was agreed that Chris Meewezen would replace Steve Warr as a member of the subcommittee.

CASEWORK POLICY UPDATE

141/20 The trustees considered the paper from the general secretary in which she explained that some people were joining the society with the expectation that we would add a national voice to a local issue. She recommended an addition to the policy which clarified that, while we can offer our opinions, we shall not necessarily become involved in a case; this remained at our discretion. This was agreed.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS

Appointment

142/20 It was agreed to appoint Peter Berrecloth for the London Borough of Barnet, for one year in the first instance.

Reappointments

- 143/20 It was agreed to reappoint Stuart Bain (Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan) and Peter Kidner (former South Somerset district) for a further three years.

Reports

- 144/20 The correspondents' reports had been circulated to the trustees, and Chris Beney and John Hall had collated comments. The trustees thanked Chris and John for their work.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

- 145/20 The trustees were not aware of any new claims or circumstances or problems which may give rise to a claim.

ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 146/20 The trustees noted the progress on matters arising but also considered that some of these were not actions but part of business as usual. The general secretary would review the list and remove any which were not actions.
- 147/20 It was agreed that, since there was no prospect of meeting face to face in the near future, the general secretary should invite Nichola Finan to a future video meeting to discuss her digital work.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 148/20 These had already been agreed as Thursday 15 October, Thursday 12 November, Thursday 10 December.
- 149/20 It was agreed that we should fix the dates for monthly meetings through 2021, and the general secretary would circulate dates for agreement ahead of the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 18.51.



Phil Wadey
Chair of Trustees