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**Minutes of the fifty first meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 15 October 2020
by videoconference**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)
Sarah Hacking (office manager)

APOLOGIES John Hall, Chris Meewezen

ATTENDANCE

150/20 The chairman welcomed Sarah Hacking, our new office manager.
The trustees sent their good wishes to John Hall, who was recovering from a slight stroke and was making good progress.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

151/20 There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

152/20 The minutes of the meeting on 17 September were approved as a correct record and for publication on the website.

INVESTMENT POLICY

153/20 The treasurer presented version 2 of the investment policy the first version of which had been considered by the finance committee. The trustees asked questions and expressed views.

- 154/20 With regard to ethical investments it was agreed for the present to adopt the following policy: 'The society's assets should be invested in line with its aims. The Trustees do not wish to adopt an exclusionary policy, but individual investments may be excluded if perceived to conflict with the society's aims.' The finance committee would consider this further and make some recommendations to the trustees.
- 155/20 The finance committee would consider the next version of the investment policy and it would be approved by trustees thereafter.

COMPLIANCE DUTIES IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

- 156/20 The trustees welcomed a paper presented by the Covid-19 working party which made a number of recommendations relating to public health compliance and trustee meetings, our governing document, financial issues, and health and safety. It was agreed that the recommended actions should be pursued, and the chairman undertook to set out how each might be disposed of, and to send a table for trustees to note.

LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

- 157/20 The chairman had circulated a paper but with insufficient notice for the matter to be properly considered. It was agreed that any recommendation to trustees needed to have the support of the legal subcommittee, and that the subcommittee should first provide comments before the paper was re-circulated to trustees, for confirmation at a future meeting.
- 158/20 Because John Hall was indisposed at present it was agreed that Graham Bathe would join the legal subcommittee until John felt able to return.

CLIFTON AND DURDHAM DOWNS, BRISTOL: REQUEST FOR FUNDING

- 159/20 The chairman of the legal subcommittee had prepared a paper, but trustees had not had sufficient time to consider it. It was agreed that trustees should circulate their views by the end of Monday 19 October, and in the absence of agreement, the trustees would need to meet to determine the matter.

COMMONS RE-REGISTRATION ON MEMBERS' LAND

- 160/20 It was agreed that the society should proceed with applications to re-register commons when the land belongs to a society member who objects to the re-registration. The decision related to the seven pioneer areas in England where the opportunity for commons re-registration ends on 31 December 2020, and will be reviewed thereafter.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS

Appointment

- 161/20 It was agreed to appoint Helen Slade for the Isle of Wight, for one year in the first instance.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 162/20 Chris Beney was interested in the society's work to oppose plans from the National Farmers' Union and Country Land and Business Association to make it easier to divert paths to avoid livestock. The general secretary said that she would circulate a note about this.
- 163/20 The general secretary reported that the new landowner at Dorchester-on-Thames in Oxfordshire had agreed to dedicate as new village greens the two areas which local people were claiming as greens, as well as some public paths. There would be publicity in due course; the society's role had been significant.
- 164/20 She further reported that the society's local correspondent for Oxfordshire had also won a new green and path at Witney in exchange for the withdrawal of our objection to the diversion of a path on which Richmond Homes had built a house: the green had now been registered and the path recorded.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 165/20 These were agreed as follows

Thurs 12 November 2020
 Thurs 10 December 2020*
 Thurs 21 January 2021
 Weds 17 February 2021
 Thurs 18 March 2021*
 Thurs 15 April 2021
 Thurs 13 May 2021
 Thurs 10 June 2021*
 Thurs 8 July 2021 (AGM with our meeting in evening)
 Thurs 12 August 2021
 Wed 8 September 2021*
 Thurs 7 October 2021
 Thurs 4 November 2021
 Thurs 9 December 2021*

- 166/20 It was noted that Nichola Finan would join the first part of the next meeting to discuss our digital work.

The meeting ended at 19.24.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Phil Wadey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a solid line. Above the signature, there is a horizontal dotted line.

Phil Wadey
Chair of Trustees