

**Minutes of the fifty ninth meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 15 April 2021
by videoconference**

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

APOLOGIES Simon Hunt

IN ATTENDANCE Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

81/21 There were no declarations of interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Case officer (rights of way)

82/21 It was noted with pleasure that we had appointed Helen Clayton as our case officer (rights of way), starting on 13 July.

Luppitt case

83/21 It was noted that we had paid a contribution of £750 from the legal fund to the Ramblers towards the counsel's opinion which led to the quashing of the inspector's decision not to confirm the definitive map modification order at Luppitt in Devon.

Woodcock Hill village green

84/21 It was noted that the legal committee had agreed to grant £3,000 from the legal fund to the Woodcock Hill Village Green Committee. This was towards its costs in employing a barrister to fight, at a public inquiry, Taylor Wimpey's application to deregister part of the green under section 16 of the Commons Act 2006. The minutes would be presented to the next meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 18 MARCH 2021

- 85/21 The minutes of the meeting on 18 March were approved, and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Draft minutes of finance committee meeting on 6 April

- 86/21 The treasurer presented the minutes of the finance committee. It had reviewed the accounts and made some small adjustments, undertaken the solvency review, and begun work on the investment policy.

Annual report for 2020

- 87/21 The trustees approved the annual report for publication.

Accounts for 2020 and letter of representation

The trustees approved the accounts for 2020 and authorised Phil Wadey and Steve Warr to sign them on their behalf. They also agreed that Phil Wadey would, on their behalf, sign the letter of representation to the independent examiner.

AGM 8 JULY 2021

Arrangements

- 88/21 It was agreed to hold the meeting by videoconference, with all voting done by proxy. Members would be encouraged to submit questions in advance, but it would also be possible to raise questions and have discussions at the meeting.

Draft agenda

- 89/21 The trustees approved the draft agenda. The vice-presidents would be proposed by Graham Bathe and seconded by John Hall. The appointment of the independent examiner would be proposed by Steve Warr and seconded by Stuart Bain. Stuart Bain, Chris Beney and Simon Hunt wished to stand for election to the board and the general secretary would provide forms and instructions.

- 90/21 It was agreed to invite Katrina Navickas, reader in history at the University of Hertfordshire and Open Spaces Society fellow at the Museum of Rural Life, to give a talk after the meeting, about her research into protest and open spaces, and her work for the OSS.

- 91/21 It was agreed to start the meeting at 1pm, rather than 11am as advertised in *Open Space*.

Special resolution to amend articles

- 92/21 Phil Wadey apologised for not having completed the draft special resolution in time for the meeting, but would send it round in a few days' time. Since the trustees had agreed the principles of the changes, it should be possible to approve the resolution by email.

- 93/21 It was agreed that Phil Wadey would propose, and Chris Beney would second the resolution at the AGM.

NOTE OF STRATEGIC AWAY DAY WORKING PARTY MEETING ON 8 APRIL

- 94/21 The trustees noted the report of the meeting and that they and the staff would be asked to respond to various question papers ahead of the away day.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 95/21 Graham Bathe asked that trustees should be able to request agenda items for future meetings. It was agreed that it had always been the case that any trustee could make suggestions, and that this was best done by contacting the chairman with a copy to the general secretary. The general secretary would add this to the trustees' handbook.
- 96/21 Graham said that the two items he would like discussed were the Eversley Award, and the review of historic legal cases to see what they had cost and what difference they had made.
- 97/21 For the Eversley Award it was noted that Chris Beney and the general secretary had been appointed to a working group, and it was agreed that this group should be added to the list of subcommittees and working parties which the trustees appoint each year.

REVIEW OF THE MEETING

- 98/21 Members had found the meeting satisfactory.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thurs 13 May 2021 at 6pm.

The meeting ended at 18.45.