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**Minutes of the sixty-third meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18:00 on Thursday 12 August 2021
by videoconference**

PRESENT Phil Wadey (chairman)
Stuart Bain
Graham Bathe
Chris Beney
John Hall
Simon Hunt (from minute 154/21)
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe
Steve Warr

IN ATTENDANCE Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

148/21 There were no declarations of interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

149/21 The trustees noted with pleasure that our rights-of-way case officer, Helen Clayton, had started work with us on 13 July, three days a week (Tuesday-Thursday). They welcomed her to the role.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 8 JULY 2021

150/21 The minutes of the meetings on 8 July were approved, and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

**RICHMOND LOW MOOR COMMON, NORTH YORKSHIRE: LEGAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF 9 JULY 2021 AND TRUSTEES MINUTES OF 13 JULY 2021**

151/21 The trustees noted the legal committee minutes, and approved the trustee minutes of 13 July.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR GENERAL MEETING

- 152/21 It was noted that, as we had omitted to include an opportunity to vote at the AGM for the special resolution to amend the articles, we would need a general meeting to approve the change. Since the cost of mailing the papers to those not on email was little more than the cost of mailing them with *Open Space* magazine, it was agreed to proceed as soon as possible. The trustees agreed the arrangements, with an online meeting on Monday 20 September at 6pm.
- 153/21 It was noted that, at the first face-to-face general meeting we should have an item on the agenda to ratify any decisions made under the Covid dispensation.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Management report, reserves spreadsheet, and treasurer's commentary to end June 2021

- 154/21 The treasurer presented the management report, reserves spreadsheet and membership figures to the end of June. He noted that the trustees needed to take a decision about the future of Landman's work for us. He would also like an assessment of money paid, and due to be paid on legal cases to assist with preparing the budget.
- 155/21 The general secretary said that she anticipated that the decision on Landman would come as part of the budget discussion for 2022, which she intended should start earlier than usual, in September.

APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL TRUST COUNCIL MEMBER

- 156/21 It was noted with regret that Graham Bathe was standing down as our council member for personal reasons. Trustees had been invited to submit applications of interest for the role and two had done so.
- 157/21 The chairman proposed a process for appointing the National Trust council member, which was that the trustees provide a shortlist, the general purposes committee and the general secretary consider the shortlisted candidates, consult the National Trust secretariat, and make the appointment. The process was agreed unanimously.
- 158/21 It was further agreed for this occasion to shortlist the two candidates who had submitted expressions of interest. The two candidates did not vote.
- 159/21 Graham explained that the OSS person on the council was not a representative but an appointee and once appointed was a full member of the council. The role was to monitor the performance of the National Trust against its strategy, to act as a critical friend and to challenge the trust to ensure that it was performing to the best of its ability.

APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL CORRESPONDENT

- 160/21 The trustees approved the appointment of Gerald Davies as local correspondent for the former Daventry District of Northamptonshire (now part of West Northamptonshire unitary authority), and five communities* in Ceredigion. The appointment was for one year in the first instance.

PROCESS FOR REVIEWING LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS' REPORTS

- 161/21 The general secretary gave an oral report of preliminary thinking about reviewing the local correspondents' reports now that the rights-of-way case officer was in post. Following the September meeting, we would ask for the reports to be sent in a few weeks earlier than at present so that Helen had a chance to review them and follow up any issues, and would then make a list of matters which were being pursued. The process thereafter would remain the same but trustees would know which matters were being followed up by the office. For the current round, Helen would look at the reports quickly after they were received and might be able to provide some notes to go to trustees with the reports for the September meeting.
- 162/21 It was agreed that we should try this process and see how it works.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 163/21 Tara-Jane Sutcliffe gave an oral report on the Charity Commission's updated advice on Covid-19, that despite the easing of restrictions, the commission advised the amendment of charities' governing documents to allow for online and hybrid meetings—which is what we were intending to do. The Charity Commission would review its advice again on 30 September.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 8 September at 6pm

The meeting ended at 18.39.

** Post-meeting note: the communities are Llangeitho, Lledrod, Melidwr, Tregaron, and Ystwyth.*



Phil Wadey
Chair of Trustees