

**Minutes of the sixty-fourth meeting of the Board of Trustees of  
the Open Spaces Society held at 18:00 on Wednesday 8 September 2021  
by videoconference**

**PRESENT** Phil Wadey (chairman)  
Stuart Bain  
Graham Bathe  
Chris Beney  
John Hall  
Simon Hunt  
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe (from minute 166/21)  
Steve Warr

**IN ATTENDANCE** Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)  
Frances Kerner (commons re-registration officer)  
to minute 167/21

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

164/21 There were no declarations of interest.

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 12 AUGUST 2021**

165/21 The minutes of the meetings on 12 August were approved, and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

**COMMONS RE-REGISTRATION PROJECT AND LANDMAN CONTRACT**

166/21 Frances Kerner gave an update on her work on the commons re-registration project, and spoke to the staff recommendation with regard to the Landman contract. After questions and discussion, the trustees agreed the recommendation that we retain Landman for one year, to September 2022, and budget for £45,600 for that period, with an interim review at the end of December 2021 and close monitoring. They also agreed that a notice period of three months on both sides for Landman was appropriate.

167/21 They also agreed that, if there was money over, the general secretary was authorised to spend it on other professional assistance, such as interpretation of palaeography, without needing further authority.

- 168/21 The trustees thanked Frances for her impressive work, the paper, and her clear explanations.

### **RICHMOND LOW MOOR COMMON, NORTH YORKSHIRE: JUDICIAL REVIEW**

- 169/21 Phil Wadey, as chairman of the legal committee introduced the item. The trustees had seen the draft minutes of the legal committee meeting on 6 September, the pre-action protocol letter, the response from North Yorkshire County Council (as defendant), and the note of the meeting with counsel. He reported that the legal committee had considered the matter fully and had gone through all the requirements, as set out in the draft minutes. The committee recommended that we seek judicial review.
- 170/21 There was some discussion as to further steps should we lose in the high court, but trustees recognised that it was not possible to obtain figures for such action at this stage. In such circumstances, the matter would come back to trustees.
- 171/21 The trustees unanimously endorsed the legal committee's recommendation, that we approve funding of up to £42,000 to seek judicial review of North Yorkshire County Council's decision to deregister common land at the grandstand etc on Richmond Low Moor, subject to obtaining a costs protection order.
- 172/21 Phil Wadey said that in future, when legal committee matters came before the trustees, he would invite the vice-chairman to chair that session so that he (Phil) was free to speak as chairman of the legal committee.

### **COMMITTEES, SUBCOMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES: MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- 173/21 The following was agreed:

#### **General purposes committee**

Terms of reference unchanged.

Membership: Graham Bathe, Phil Wadey, Steve Warr.

#### **Finance committee**

Terms of reference unchanged

Membership: Stuart Bain, Tara-Jane Sutcliffe, Phil Wadey, Steve Warr (chairman), with appropriate staff in attendance.

#### **Legal committee**

Terms of reference unchanged

Membership: John Hall, Simon Hunt, Phil Wadey (chairman), Steve Warr, with appropriate staff in attendance.

#### **Covid-19 working party**

Terms of reference unchanged

Membership: Stuart Bain, Tara-Jane Sutcliffe, Kate Ashbrook

## **LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS**

### **Renewals**

- 173/21 It was agreed to reappoint the following for a further three years: Peter Berrecroth (London Borough of Barnet); Jack Jennings (North Warwickshire District and Sutton Coldfield (Birmingham)); Peter Pollak (Market Harborough District, Leicestershire); Helen Slade (Isle of Wight), and Graham Wanstall (Canterbury City, and Dover and Shepway Districts, Kent).

### **Temporary resignation**

- 174/21 It was noted that Nicholas Whitsun-Jones (Teignbridge, Devon) had resigned as local correspondent because he was moving away. Once he was settled in a new location he would apply for reappointment for a different territory. He would remain on the 'ring' for communication between local correspondents.

### **Reports**

- 175/21 The correspondents' reports had been circulated to the trustees, with comments from the staff, and Chris Beney and John Hall had collated comments to which the general secretary had added further observations. The trustees thanked Chris, John and the staff for their work, and the local correspondents for all their time and effort. Chris and John said they were happy with the new arrangements for reviewing the reports.

## **PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE**

- 176/21 The trustees were not aware of any new claims or circumstances or problems which may give rise to a claim.

## **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 177/21 The trustees had agreed to review the arrangements for meetings in September, but agreed to keep the dates already arranged for the rest of the year. The general secretary would send suggested dates for monthly meetings in 2022, and in December 2021 the trustees would review the frequency and times of meetings.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- 178/21 These were noted.

## **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

- 179/21 The chairman reported that the symposium held that afternoon, which was organised by the Museum of English Rural Life to mark the end of Katrina Navickas's period as Open Spaces Society's fellow, had been extremely successful, with many references to the work of the society, and discussion of the lantern-slide collection.

**REVIEW OF MEETING**

180/21 The trustees were content with the meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Thursday 7 October at 6pm  
Thursday 4 November at 6pm  
Thursday 9 December at 6pm  
Strategic plan away day: Tuesday 9 November.

The meeting ended at 19.05.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Wadey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Phil Wadey  
Chair of Trustees