

**Minutes of the sixty-seventh meeting of the Board of Trustees of  
the Open Spaces Society held at 17:30 on Thursday 20 January 2022  
by videoconference**

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

**APOLOGIES** Simon Hunt

**IN ATTENDANCE** Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)  
Sarah Hacking (office manager for minutes 1-5/22)

**STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW**

- 1/22 Phil Wadey introduced his paper in which he made recommendations for changes to the strategic plan 2019-24, following the awayday of trustees and staff on 19 November 2021. He thanked everyone for their work in preparing for the awayday, and for the event itself which had been highly praised. He said that the strategic plan had stood the test of time; the vision and mission did not need changing, and everything arising from the review fitted squarely with these.
- 2/22 He suggested that three topics which came out of the strategic plan exercise needed further consideration: (a) climate change, (b) policy, and (c) engagement and diversity. Item (c) could either be an additional strategic theme, or could be embraced within strategic theme 1, communications. He also considered that, having done extensive work on the plan now, we might wish to roll the current plan forward to 2027 with a mid-term review in 2025.
- 3/22 It was noted that staff had not yet had an opportunity to consider Phil's paper. After discussion it was agreed: to consider 'policy' with a joint staff and trustee working group, and to add a strategic theme 3, climate change, the wording of which required further consideration. It was also agreed to consider whether to have a separate strategic theme for engagement and diversity. Trustees and staff would

consider these issues and the wording for strategic theme 3, and would send comments, within two weeks if possible.

4/22 It was further agreed that the default position would be to extend the plan to cover 2022-27 with a mid-term review in 2025.

5/22 The trustees thanked Phil for his excellent report and synthesis of the outcomes from the awayday.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

6/22 There were no declarations of interest

### **MINUTES OF MEETING ON 9 NOVEMBER 2021**

7/21 The minutes of the meeting on 9 December were approved, and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

8/22 **Minute 205/21:** Chris Beney wished to clarify that his abstention on the decision to increase staff salaries by 3.5 per cent was because he thought the figure was too low.

### **MINUTES OF 13 DECEMBER 2021 REGARDING LEGAL ACTION ON COMMON LAND IN DEVON**

9/22 The minutes of the decision by email were approved.

### **LOCAL CORRESPONDENT**

10/22 It was agreed to appoint Stephen Lindsay as local correspondent for Rhondda Cynon Taf in place of Jay Kynch who wished to stand down. The trustees thanked Jay for her 11 years of service.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Low Moor Common, Richmond, North Yorkshire**

11/22 It was noted with pleasure that North Yorkshire County Council had conceded to our legal challenge of its decision to deregister land at Richmond Low Moor common, and we had received the consent order from the high court. The council was to pay most of our costs, so that our total costs in the case were £3,776.

#### **Policy on renewable energy structures**

12/22 In response to a query from Chris Beney about our policy on solar farms, the general secretary reported that the case officer (rights of way) would produce a draft policy on renewable energy, relating to paths, commons, greens and other open spaces, by the end of February. Trustees and local correspondents would be invited to comment. If necessary, it would be discussed by local correspondents at their event later in the year, and then signed off by trustees.

**REVIEW OF MEETING**

13/22 The trustees were content with the meeting.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 17 February 2022 at 6pm

The meeting ended at 19.01.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P Wadey', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Phil Wadey  
Chair of Trustees