

**Minutes of the seventieth meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Wednesday 18 May 2022
by videoconference**

PRESENT Phil Wadey (chairman)(from minute 67/22))
Graham Bathe (vice-chairman) (chaired to minute 67/22)
Stuart Bain
Chris Beney
John Hall
Simon Hunt
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe
Steve Warr (treasurer)

IN ATTENDANCE Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)
Helen Clayton (case officer, rights of way) to item 67/22

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

59/22 There were no interests to declare.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 14 APRIL 2022

60/22 The minutes of the meeting on 14 April were approved, and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 7 APRIL 2022

61/22 The minutes of the meeting by email regarding legal action were approved.

MINUTES OF LEGAL COMMITTEE ON 27 APRIL 2022

62/22 The minutes were noted regarding the society's approach to the deregistration of commons under paragraph 4 of schedule 2 to the Commons Act 2006.

OSS POSITION ON RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

63/22 Helen Clayton introduced the paper, which had been prepared following consultation with trustees and local correspondents on an initial draft. This took account of the comments we had received, and now she sought a steer from trustees for the next iteration of the policy.

64/22 In particular, she sought views on whether we should have a position on offshore wind energy or tidal power; and whether our position should include reference to the visual impact of wind- and solar-energy developments, recognising that this could

be subjective, but can have an impact on the public's enjoyment of public paths and open spaces.

65/22 The trustees made a number of constructive comments; they considered that sustainability was of great importance, and believed that we should be neutral on offshore versus onshore developments as this was beyond our remit and could bring us into conflict with allied organisations. The need to consider visual impact was rightly recognised in the paper. The guidance, to be written once the policy was agreed, would set out the list of issues which those representing the society needed to consider.

66/22 The trustees thanked Helen and other members of staff for an excellent paper.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Management report, supplementary management report, reserves, and treasurer's commentary to end March 2022

67/22 The treasurer presented the papers. The cash position continued to be healthy, and with the rise in interest rates, he felt it might be time to transfer some of our instant-access cash to term deposits. He would investigate this.

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES TO END MARCH 2022

68/22 The trustees noted with pleasure that the membership numbers had increased.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

69/22 John Hall said that he had attended the two-day workshop for local correspondents on commons, greens, and open spaces, run by Hugh Craddock and Nicola Hodgson, with administrative support from Sarah Hacking. He had found the sessions excellent and congratulated all involved. Stuart Bain agreed.

REVIEW OF MEETING

70/22 The trustees were content with the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 9 June 2022 at 18.00.

The meeting ended at 18.51.



Phil Wadey
Chair of Trustees