

**Minutes of the seventy first meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 9 June 2022
by videoconference**

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

APOLOGIES Tara-Jane Sutcliffe

IN ATTENDANCE Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

71/22 There were no interests to declare.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 18 MAY 2022

72/22 The minutes of the meeting on 18 May were approved, and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2027

73/22 The trustees considered the final draft of the strategic plan which had been discussed by the working party.

74/22 It was agreed that the operational plan should include an action to generate a list of desirable legislative changes.

75/22 The trustees unanimously approved the strategic plan.

76/22 It was agreed that the working party was now *functus officio*.

COMPLAINTS HANDLED BY THE CHAIRMAN

77/22 The trustees noted the chairman's paper of complaints received since June 2021. None had been received directly but the general secretary had informed him of a subject access request (a request, under the General Data Protection Regulations, to receive a copy of personal data which is held by the society). This had been dealt with.

AGM ARRANGEMENTS

78/22 The trustees noted the agenda for the AGM.

APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

79/22 The chairman said that Steve Warr was standing down as a trustee at the AGM. He had first been co-opted in 2014, and had been elected treasurer shortly after, and had served in that role ever since. We were immensely grateful to Steve for getting things in really good shape, so that we fully understand our financial position.

80/22 The chairman said that, since we know who will be on the board after the AGM (the closing date for nominations having passed), we could appoint the new treasurer now. The trustees agreed that we should do this.

81/22 The chairman proposed Stuart Bain as treasurer with immediate effect, and this was agreed unanimously.

82/22 It was also agreed that Stuart would replace Steve on the general purposes committee.

83/22 It was noted that Steve would present the accounts at the AGM as the treasurer for the period covered by the accounts.

84/22 Chris Beney gave his personal thanks to the treasurer, as he would not be able to do so in person at the AGM.

OSS POSITION ON RENEWABLE-ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

85/22 The trustees considered the paper which had been amended in the light of their comments and further comments from staff. The trustees agreed two further amendments, one was to clarify the claim that energy should be generated close to the point of demand, the other was to insert the word 'adverse' in the section on impacts of wind turbines. With these amendments they approved the paper, with thanks to Helen Clayton and all involved.

86/22 It was noted that the next step was to prepare guidance for local correspondents on responding to renewable-energy developments which affect our interests, and that this would be discussed at the event in July.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Renewals

87/22 It was agreed to reappoint the following for a further three years: Harry Alexander (Bournemouth, Poole & Christchurch unitary council: Bournemouth and Poole); Phil Escritt (Herts, St Albans City and District); Richard Lloyd (Solihull); Rodney Whittaker (Surrey, Elmbridge Borough).

Resignation

88/22 It was noted with regret that Colin Sandford (Surrey, Guildford Borough) had resigned after ten years. The trustees thanked him for his service.

Reports

89/22 The local correspondents' reports had been circulated to the trustees, with comments from the staff, and Chris Beney and John Hall had collated comments. It was noted that the guidelines to local correspondents would be discussed at the July event, and that this would include reporting methods. The trustees also noted the report from a correspondent who was concerned that the council was submitting

proposed path changes to the magistrates' court, rather than using sections 118 and 119 of the Highways Act 1980. John Hall offered to prepare a note on this. The general secretary said that it was our policy to oppose such action.

90/22 The trustees thanked Chris and John for reviewing the reports and producing the paper.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

91/22 The trustees were not aware of any new claims or circumstances or problems which may give rise to a claim.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

92/22 The paper was noted. It was agreed that we should put deadlines against the actions. The following in particular were noted:

189/21 Ethnic diversity in the environmental sector: Phil Wadey and Stuart Bain to consider whether they need to meet to discuss/

190-102/21 Trustee success and skills audit: working party to meet after AGM.

67/22 Treasurer to investigate transfer of some instant-access cash to term deposits: Steve Warr said that he felt we should retain the cash surplus for the present to cover our expenses.

REVIEW OF MEETING

93/22 The trustees were content with the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

94/22 It was agreed that the post-AGM meeting was not required, and that the next meeting would be on 11 August at 18.00.

95/22 It was further agreed to change the September meeting date to 15 September. The meeting ended at 18.59.



Phil Wadey
Chair of Trustees