

**Minutes of the seventy-seventh meeting of the Board of Trustees of  
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 16 February 2023  
by videoconference**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Phil Wadey (chairman) Graham Bathe (vice-chairman) Stuart Bain (treasurer) Chris Beney Simon Hunt Tara-Jane Sutcliffe
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	John Hall
<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

- 13/23 The meeting was preceded by a presentation by Abbie Cavendish and Sarah Hacking on our digital marketing. The trustees expressed their gratitude to Abbie and Sarah for their work and for the presentation.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 14/23 There were no interests to declare.

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19 JANUARY 2023**

- 15/23 The minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2023 were approved, and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

**MINUTES OF LEGAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON 15 FEBRUARY 2023**

- 16/23 The trustees noted the minutes of the legal committee confirming its approval of a grant of £3,000 from the legal fund to the Woodcock Hill Village Green Committee in Hertfordshire. This was a contribution towards the group's estimated cost of £12,000 for judicial review of the decision to exchange part of the green under section 16 of the Commons Act 2006.

**EXPENDITURE**

**Bude-Stratton footpath 32, Cornwall.**

- 17/23 The trustees noted that the general secretary had approved expenditure of £960 from the legal fund to support our member Lucy Wilson in her legal action against Cornwall Council. The council had failed to remove railings which are obstructing

Bude-Stratton footpath 32. The action was in the magistrates' court under section 130A of the Highways Act 1980.

### **Dartmoor camping case**

- 18/23 The trustees noted that the general secretary had authorised the sum of £2,000 to our solicitors, Richard Buxton, for exploratory work on possible intervention in the case *Darwall v Dartmoor National Park Authority* (DNPA), on which the DNPA was seeking leave to appeal in the court of appeal. Through an oversight, the general secretary had exceeded her delegated authority of £1,000.

### **Water End, Hertfordshire**

- 19/23 The general secretary apologised for her further oversight in approving £2,000 for the counsel's opinion on the Water End, Hertfordshire, case (minute 161/22). The chairman noted that spending limits were currently under review by the Finance Committee to ensure they were keeping pace with expected levels of authorisation and expenditure.

### **DRAFT MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 7 FEBRUARY 2023**

- 20/23 The trustees noted the draft minutes and the work in progress.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT, MANAGEMENT REPORT, RESERVES, AND MEMBERSHIP AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

- 21/23 The treasurer spoke to his report. On the management report, the income and expenditure were on track. On the reserves we were transferring funds to Flagstone. The treasurer was aware that our holding with Nationwide at £170k was over the financial services compensation scheme limit of £85k, but we were addressing this. The overall RAG status was amber because the models to calculate our funds needed updating and the treasurer was investigating this. Membership figures were steady, and we were reviewing the material presented to the finance committee so that we can track why people join and leave us.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 22/23 Graham Bathe expressed concern that the trustees were now few in number. The general secretary said that recruitment was an item to be discussed at the next meeting.
- 23/23 The trustees wished Chris Beney a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 18 February.

### **REVIEW OF MEETING**

- 24/23 The trustees considered it was an excellent meeting.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 25/23 The next meeting would be on Thursday 16 March 2023 at 18.00.  
The meeting ended at 18.54.



Phil Wadey  
Chair of Trustees