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**Minutes of the eighty-fifth meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 18 January 2024
by videoconference**

PRESENT Phil Wadey (chairman)
Graham Bathe (vice-chairman)
Stuart Bain (treasurer)
Chris Beney
Simon Hunt
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe

APOLOGIES John Hall

IN ATTENDANCE Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1/24 There were no interests to declare.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2/24 The general secretary reported that the Darwalls had been granted leave to appeal to the supreme court in the Dartmoor backpack-camping case, and we were seeking leave to intervene.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 7 DECEMBER 2023

3/24 The minutes of the meeting on 7 December 2023 were approved and it was agreed to redact confidential items before publishing them on the website.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19 DECEMBER 2023

4/24 The minutes of the meeting on 19 December 2023, regarding legal case 23-14, were approved.

MINUTES OF LEGAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON 15 DECEMBER 2023

5/24 The minutes of the legal committee on 15 December 2023 regarding legal case 23-14 were noted.

DELEGATED EXPENDITURE

6/24 It was noted that the general secretary had approved up to £2,000 as a contribution to counsel's opinion.

ELECTORAL-LAW COMPLIANCE

7/24 The trustees discussed a paper from Tara-Jane Sutcliffe, which drew attention to the Charity Commission's guidance on charities and elections and set out what we may or may not do as a charity. The general secretary reported on our planned activities for the forthcoming Westminster election. The paper was noted, with thanks to Tara-Jane, and it was agreed to send it to our local correspondents.

EQUALITY, DIVERSION, AND INCLUSION POLICY

8/23 The trustees, having commented on an earlier version of the policy, unanimously approved the updated policy for publication on our website.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS

Appointment

9/24 It was agreed to appoint Ashley Redsell for Spelthorne Borough in Surrey (commons only to start with) for one year in the first instance.

Resignation

10/24 It was noted with regret that Nicholas Whitsun-Jones has retired as our local correspondent for West Dorset for health reasons. The chairman would write to thank him for all his work.

Extension of territory

11/24 It was noted that Maggie Thomas had resumed as local correspondent for Blaenau Gwent (in addition to Caerphilly).

REVIEW OF MEETING

12/24 The trustees were content with the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13/24 Thursday 15 February 2024 at 18.00.

The meeting ended at 18.32.

Meeting dates for 2024 (all Thursdays at 18.00)

14 March*

11 April

16 May

6 June*

4 July (AGM)

8 August

5 September*

3 October

7 November

5 December*.

* = quarterly meetings



Phil Wadey
Chair of Trustees