

**Minutes of the ninetieth meeting of the Board of Trustees of  
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.30 on Thursday 6 June 2024  
by videoconference**

**PRESENT** Phil Wadey (chairman)  
Stuart Bain (treasurer)  
Graham Bathe  
Chris Beney  
John Hall  
James Lean  
Andrew Packman

**APOLOGIES** Simon Hunt, Tara-Jane Sutcliffe

**IN ATTENDANCE** Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

122/24 It was noted that Tara-Jane Sutcliffe had been selected as a parliamentary candidate and would not be attending meetings until after 4 July. The chairman had suggested to her that she be given leave of absence from the board until 5 July and she had agreed. The trustees unanimously approved this.

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 23 MAY 2024**

123/24 The minutes of the meeting on 23 May 2024 were approved and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

**MINUTES OF LEGAL COMMITTEE**

124/24 The minutes of the legal committee meeting by email on 31 May, regarding legal case 24-06, were noted.

**DELEGATED EXPENDITURE**

125/24 It was noted that the general secretary had approved expenditure of up to £2,000 in relation to legal case 24-07.

**AGM ARRANGEMENTS, THURSDAY 4 JULY 2024**

126/24 The trustees confirmed the arrangements and agreed that Graham Bathe would propose the vice-presidents at the meeting, as Tara-Jane Sutcliffe had given her apologies.

127/24 The chairman reported that Simon Hunt had unfortunately failed to submit his nomination as a trustee before the closing date and therefore was unable to stand for re-election this year. He thanked Simon for his four and a half years' service on the board.

## **IN-HOUSE SOLICITOR**

- 128/24 The trustees discussed the proposal to appoint Jess Tyler as our in-house solicitor to appear in the magistrates' court on our behalf. They noted that this did not require us to take out additional insurance. It would require some training which can be accommodated within the budget. They approved payment of up to £600 to the Law Society for the practising certificate for the remainder of 2023-4 and for 2024-5.

## **COMPLAINTS REPORT**

- 129/24 The trustees noted the chairman's paper on complaints received in the last 12 months. The chairman had received one complaint, and remedial action had been taken.

## **LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS**

### **Renewals**

- 130/24 The following were approved for a further three years: Peter Newman (Herefordshire, former Leominster district; Powys former Radnorshire district); Dave Ramm (Hampshire), and Maggie Thomas (Blaenau Gwent county borough; Caerphilly county borough).

### **Reports**

- 131/24 The reports and staff comments were noted. The trustees said that the reports contained some very useful information. Chris Beney considered that attendance at local access forum meetings was valuable and hoped we would promote this. The trustees thanked the local correspondents for their excellent work.

## **PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE**

- 132/23 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**

- 133/23 The report was noted.

## **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

- 134/24 The trustees unanimously approved the co-option of James Lean and Andrew Packman for a further year following the AGM.
- 135/24 Stuart Bain suggested that it would be beneficial to have a central digital store of trustee papers to reduce the number of emails and ensure that trustees could refer to previous papers. There was a brief discussion with a variety of views. The chairman asked Stuart to write a paper for a future meeting if he wished the trustees to consider this.

## **REVIEW OF MEETING**

- 136/24 The trustees were content with the meeting.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 137/24 Thursday 8 August 2024 at 18.00.
- 138/24 The December meeting was confirmed as 12 December.  
The meeting ended at 19.07.
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**Meeting dates for 2024 (all Thursdays at 18.00)**

4 July (AGM, 11-4)

8 August

5 September\*

3 October

7 November

12 December\*.

\* = quarterly meetings

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Wadey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line. There are small dots on either side of the signature, possibly indicating the end of a line or a specific format.

Phil Wadey  
Chair of Trustees