

**Minutes of the ninety-third meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 3 October 2024
by videoconference**

PRESENT	Phil Wadey (chairman) Graham Bathe Chris Beney James Lean Andrew Packman Tara-Jane Sutcliffe
IN ATTENDANCE	Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)
APOLOGIES	Stuart Bain (treasurer)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

201/24 There were no declarations.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

202/24 The minutes of the meeting on 5 September 2024 were approved and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

AUTUMN APPEAL

203/24 It was unanimously agreed that the autumn appeal should be to top up the legal-action fund since the sums spent or pledged for legal action exceeded the amount remaining in the fund.

APPOINTEE TO NATIONAL TRUST COUNCIL

204/24 It was noted that Tara-Jane Sutcliffe's three-year term of office as the society's appointee to the National Trust council had expired. It was also noted with pleasure that the society was on the list of organisations for which the trust was recommending its members to vote. The decision would be made at the trust's annual general meeting on 2 November. To be ready to continue our role, should we be elected, it was desirable to approve our appointee at this trustees' meeting.

205/24 The chairman thanked Tara-Jane for her three years as our appointee on the council. Trustees had been invited to submit expressions of interest to serve as our appointee, and Tara-Jane was the only candidate. It was agreed that she had done an excellent job as our appointee and it was unanimously agreed (Tara-Jane not voting) that, if the society is elected as an appointing body, she should serve as the society's appointee for a further three years.

206/24 Tara-Jane gave a brief oral update to trustees of the council's work.

BUDGET FOR 2025

- 207/24 It was noted that staff would be preparing the 2025 budget during October for consideration by the finance committee on 19 November, and approval by trustees on 12 December. Trustees were invited to make suggestions for projects in 2025 for which we need a line item in the budget.
- 208/24 Trustees expressed enthusiasm for the website project, on which they had received a presentation on 23 September, and agreed that it was important to invest in this and proceed expeditiously.
- 209/24 James Lean, who had attended the local correspondents' conference, outlined some thoughts about providing greater support for the recruitment of local correspondents and agreed to discuss his ideas with the general secretary

PAPERS FROM LEGAL COMMITTEE

- 210/24 It was noted that, as no member of the legal committee was present at the August meeting when the legal committee's papers were considered, trustees should have a further opportunity to raise issues or ask questions on the legal cases summary paper, the proactive legal work, and the legislative shopping-list.
- 211/24 Graham Bathe said that the trustees had been extremely impressed with the papers, and he was keen for future reviews to include a lessons-learned approach as well as consideration of outcomes.
- 212/24 Various suggestions were made of additions to the legislation shopping-list. Trustees were requested to put these in writing for consideration by staff and legal committee.

DATES FOR MEETINGS IN 2025

- 213/24 The following dates were agreed:
 Thursday 16 January
 Thursday 13 February
 Thursday 20 March*
 Tuesday 8 April
 Wednesday 21 May
 Friday 13 June*
 Thursday 7 August
 Thursday 4 September*
 Thursday 2 October
 Thursday 6 November
 Thursday 4 December*
 (Thursday 3 July AGM)

REVIEW OF MEETING

- 214/24 The trustees were content with the meeting.

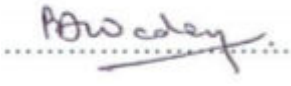
DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 215/24 Thursday 7 November 2024 at 18.00.
 The meeting ended at 18.40.

Meeting dates for 2024 (all Thursdays at 18.00)

12 December*.

* = quarterly meetings

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Phil Wadey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Phil Wadey
Chair of Trustees