

**Minutes of the ninety-fifth meeting of the Board of Trustees of  
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 12 December 2024  
by videoconference**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Phil Wadey (chairman) Graham Bathe (from 261/24) Chris Beney John Hall (from 262/24) Andrew Packman Tara-Jane Sutcliffe
<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Stuart Bain (treasurer), James Lean

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

254/24 There were no declarations.

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 7 NOVEMBER 2024**

255/24 The minutes of the meeting on 7 November 2024 were approved and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 15 NOVEMBER 2024**

256/24 The minutes of the meeting on 15 November 2024 regarding legal case 24-14 were approved.

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 24 NOVEMBER 2024**

257/24 The minutes of the meeting on 24 November 2024 regarding legal case 24-11 were approved.

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 29 NOVEMBER 2024**

258/24 The minutes of the meeting on 29 November 2024 regarding legal case 24-15 were approved.

**MINUTES OF LEGAL COMMITTEE**

259/24 The minutes of the legal committee meetings on 8 November (legal case 24-14), 19 November (legal case 24-11), and 26 November (legal case 24-15) were noted.

**PARLIAMENT PIECE**

260/24 The trustees ratified their unanimous decision made by email on 5 December 2024 to approve expenditure of an additional £750 to replace a gate at Parliament Piece with a Radar, wheelchair-accessible kissing-gate.

## **DELEGATED EXPENDITURE**

- 261/24 It was noted that the general secretary had approved expenditure of up to £2,000 for counsel's opinion on case 24-12.

## **DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO INCREASE EXPENDITURE ON A SUM ALREADY APPROVED BY TRUSTEES**

- 262/24 The recent need for OSS to seek a whole-board decision for a minor cost adjustment highlights the need for greater flexibility in certain circumstances. It was agreed that, when unforeseeable events occur, the GPC could determine whether whole board involvement is warranted. Phil Wadey agreed to suggest an amendment to the terms of reference of the general purposes committee accordingly, for the trustees to consider at the next meeting.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **Minutes of finance committee on 19 November 2024**

- 263/24 The trustees noted the minutes.

### **Financial policies and procedures**

- 264/24 Following some correspondence between trustees on the financial policies and procedures, the trustees considered that more work was needed to clarify them, with definitions of terms used. Trustees were asked to send any comments by 20 December, and Phil Wadey agreed to produce a further version for consideration by the finance committee and then trustees.

### **Draft budget for 2025**

- 265/24 After discussion, the trustees unanimously approved the draft budget, and increment for staff salaries, as recommended by the finance committee.

## **RISK REGISTER**

- 266/24 The trustees noted the additions to the risk register following the last meeting:
- (a) A4: A risk of not being able to attract new trustees to give a more diverse balance to the board. It was agreed to refer this to the equality, diversity, and inclusion working party to consider the controls and further action.
  - (b) B8: Having the right amount of cash available to meet our needs. This item was approved.

## **LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS**

### **Renewals**

- 267/24 It was agreed to renew the following for a further three years: Mike Freer (Dudley MBC), Peter Pollack (Leics, Market Harborough Borough), Richard Price (west Ceredigion), Ian Witham (most of Norfolk), and Keith Yarwood (Dorset, former North Dorset District).

### **Reports from local correspondents**

- 268/24 The reports and staff comments were noted. The trustees thanked the local correspondents for all their hard work.

## CALENDAR FOR TRUSTEES AND COMMITTEES FOR 2025

269/24 The calendar was noted. Phil Wadey would consult the legal committee about meeting dates.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

270/24 These were noted.

## REVIEW OF MEETING

271/24 The trustees were content with the meeting but asked that we endeavour next December to have fewer items on the agenda to allow ample time for discussion of the budget.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING

272/24 Thursday 16 January 2025 at 18.00.

The meeting ended at 19.00.

## OTHER MEETINGS IN 2025

Thursday 13 February

Thursday 20 March\*

Monday 7 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)

\* = quarterly meetings



Phil Wadey  
Chair of Trustees