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**Minutes of the one hundredth meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Friday 13 June 2025
by videoconference**

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

MILESTONE

- 85/25 The chairman reported that this was the one hundredth meeting of the board of trustees since the society's incorporation.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 86/25 There were no declarations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legal case 24-10, Stoke Lodge, Bristol

- 87/25 It was noted with regret that the Friends of Stoke Lodge, Bristol, had lost the high court case between Cotham School and Bristol City Council, and that the council's registration of the land as a village green had been annulled.

Legal case 24-11, Patchway Common, South Gloucestershire

- 88/25 It was noted with pleasure that the society had won its case in Bristol county court regarding a wall which had been built, without the necessary consent, on Patchway Common. The judge had ruled that the wall be removed by 12 September 2025. The trustees congratulated Jess Tyler and Hugh Craddock on this success.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 21 MAY 2025

- 89/25 The minutes of the meeting on 21 May 2025 were approved and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

DELEGATED EXPENDITURE

- 90/25 It was noted that the general secretary had approved £1,340, the balance of the money authorised by the trustees for case 24-15, towards the legal costs to be incurred for the next stage of the campaign.

AGM 2025

- 91/25 The trustees approved the arrangements for this year's AGM. The vice-chairman would chair the report of the election of trustees since the chairman was standing as a trustee. We would announce at the start the anticipated end time for the formal business.

BOARD SUCCESSION

- 92/25 The chairman was pleased to report that, following the discussion at the May meeting, board members had put their names forward for the posts of vice-chairman and treasurer.

TRUSTEE APPRENTICES

- 93/25 The trustees discussed the paper from the general secretary in which we proposed that we appoint trustee apprentices. This would enable us to involve younger people, and those who might lack the confidence to serve as a trustee. The apprentices could experience the work of trustees without the liabilities and legal duties and participate in all but the confidential business. There would be mutual benefit.
- 94/25 The trustees enthusiastically approved this in principle, and asked that we make any invitation as encouraging and welcoming as possible, emphasising that we want new people to become involved, and to learn from them.

COMPLAINTS REPORT 2024-25

- 95/25 The trustees thanked the chairman for producing such a well-written report, which they noted.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS

Renewals for a further three years

- 96/25 The trustees approved the following renewals: Harry Alexander (Bournemouth and Poole), Phil Escritt (Herts, St Albans City), Richard Lloyd (Solihull Metropolitan Borough), and Rodney Whittaker (Surrey, Elmbridge Borough).

Reports from local correspondents

- 97/25 The reports and staff comments were noted. The trustees thanked the local correspondents for all their hard work, and the staff for their comments.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

- 98/25 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

- 99/25 **170/24 Sharepoint for trustee papers:** it was agreed to add James Lean and Tara-Jane Sutcliffe to the sharepoint trial.

- 100/25 **51/25 Carbon footprint:** Graham Bathe said that he still wished to prepare a proposal, and that he would like to remain on the working party after he had ceased to be a trustee. This was agreed.

REVIEW OF MEETING

- 101/25 The trustees were content with the meeting.

FAREWELL TO GRAHAM BATHE

- 102/25 The chairman noted that this was Graham Bathe's last trustees' meeting, and thanked him warmly for all that he had done for the society, serving almost continuously since 2012, as vice-chairman, chairman, then vice-chairman again. Among his achievements were his work on our strategic plan, and three books to celebrate our 150 years. The trustees endorsed the chairman's thanks.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 103/25 Thursday 7 August 2025 at 18.00.
The meeting ended at 18.41.

OTHER MEETINGS IN 2025

Wednesday 10 September*

Thursday 2 October

Thursday 6 November

Thursday 4 December*

* = quarterly meetings

Additional events

Thursday 3 July, AGM, London

Saturday 13 September, members' day, Kenilworth, Warwickshire



Phil Wadey
Chair of Trustees