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**Minutes of the one hundred and second meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Wednesday 10 September 2025
by videoconference**

PRESENT Phil Wadey (chairman)
Stuart Bain
Chris Beney
James Lean
Andrew Packman
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe

IN ATTENDANCE Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

APOLOGIES John Hall

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

123/25 There were no declarations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths of Gerard Ryan KC and Sheila Cameron KC

124/25 It was noted with sadness that Gerard Ryan KC, a life member of the society and an expert on common land, had died at the age of 93. His wife, Sheila Cameron KC, also an expert on commons, had died five days later, aged 91.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 7 AUGUST 2025

125/25 The minutes of the meeting on 7 August 2025 were approved and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

**MINUTES OF DECISION ON 14 AUGUST 2025 REGARDING TOWN AND
VILLAGE GREEN SURVEY**

126/25 The minutes of the decision on 4 August 2025 were approved.

DELEGATED EXPENDITURE

127/25 It was noted that the general secretary had approved a contribution of £1,000 from the legal-action fund towards a case (25-05) under section 56 of the Highways Act 1980.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2026

- 128/25 The trustees noted that members of the finance committee had had an informal meeting with staff and were recommending that we phase out the monthly memberships as they are expensive and time consuming to administer, and that we do not increase subscription rates in 2026. We would monitor the increase in donors and supporters through the new website, and consider membership models versus donations in autumn 2026.
- 129/25 After discussion the trustees unanimously agreed to phase out the monthly memberships, and not to increase subscriptions in 2026.

ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANT EXPENDITURE FOR 2026 BUDGET

- 130/25 Trustees agreed to include a provision for trustee recruitment.

AUTUMN APPEAL

- 131/25 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.

TRUSTEE SUCCESSION

- 132/25 It was noted that Tara-Jane Sutcliffe would complete her second term at next year's AGM and was eligible to stand for a third term. It was further noted that we intended to recruit co-optees, and we would be appointing trustee apprentices.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS

Renewals for a further three years

- 133/25 The trustees approved the following renewals: Jo Bird (County Durham, former Teesdale and Wear Valley Districts); Paul Brown (West Sussex, Mid Sussex District); Jeremy Clyne (London Boroughs of Lambeth and Wandsworth); Gerald Davies (West Northamptonshire unitary authority, and Ceredigion: Llangeitho, Lledrod, Melindwr, Tregaron, and Ystwyth communities); and Paul Partington (Somerset, former Taunton Deane District).

Reports from local correspondents

- 134/25 The reports and staff comments were noted. The trustees thanked the local correspondents for all their hard work, and the staff for their comments.

DATES FOR MEETINGS IN 2026

- 135/25 The general secretary would send a list of proposed dates for approval by email.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

- 136/25 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

- 137/25 **51/25 Carbon footprint:** It was noted that during September Graham Bathe would prepare a proposal for monitoring our carbon footprint, which would be considered by Stuart Bain, Tara-Jane Sutcliffe, and the general secretary before referral to the trustees.

REVIEW OF MEETING

138/25 The trustees were content with the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

139/25 Thursday 2 October 2025 at 18.00.

The meeting ended at 18.38.

Post meeting note: the meeting on 2 October was not held due to insufficient business.

OTHER MEETINGS IN 2025

Thursday 6 November

Thursday 4 December (which may change)*

* = quarterly meetings



Phil Wadey
Chair of Trustees