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**Minutes of the one hundred and third meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 6 November 2025
by videoconference**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

APOLOGIES Tara-Jane Sutcliffe

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

140/25 There were no declarations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members' day, 13 September

141/25 It was noted with pleasure that our members' day on 13 September in Kenilworth had been a success. Fifty members and staff had visited our land at Parliament Piece and seen the trees planted to celebrate our 160th anniversary and the general secretary's 40th anniversary with the society.

Clyne Common, Swansea

142/25 It was noted with pleasure that we had won the case at Clyne Common and defeated the proposed exchange of common land for housing. This followed our attendance as an objector at a public inquiry in August 2024, and our donation to the Gower Society towards legal representation.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

143/25 The minutes of the meeting on 10 September 2025 were approved and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

DELEGATED EXPENDITURE

144/25 It was noted that the general secretary had approved a contribution of £2,000 from the legal-action fund for counsel's opinion on a case (25-06) regarding compliance

with procedures for an application for exchange of common land under section 16 of the Commons Act 2006.

FINANCE MATTERS

Draft minutes of finance meeting on 29 October 2025

- 145/25 The draft minutes were noted.

Management accounts to 30 September 2025 and commentary

- 146/25 The trustees noted the accounts and the commentary prepared by Villars Hayward.

RISK REGISTER

- 147/25 The trustees considered the updated risk register, and went through it in detail. Stuart Bain challenged whether F1 sufficiently covers the risk of a shifting political landscape across England and Wales. SB flagged that, although there is a forthcoming Senedd election, this is just an example of the broader changes that could impact the society.
- 148/25 After discussion about various elements the risk register was approved, subject to the chairman and general secretary splitting risk C1A regarding cyber security, as it covered two separate issues.

CLIMATE

- 149/25 Stuart Bain introduced the paper which he had prepared with Tara-Jane Sutcliffe and the general secretary, and referred also to the helpful paper which prompted our thinking, from Graham Bathe, our former vice-chairman.
- 150/25 Stuart explained that the paper was to address our strategic theme 1 regarding climate change, pitched at an appropriate level where we could make a difference to mitigating climate crisis. It made suggestions for activities, largely operational, with an opportunity for the board to monitor progress.
- 151/25 After discussion it was agreed that the general secretary would obtain the views of staff when they meet face to face in December, and she would then report to the board who will consider next steps.

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT

- 152/25 It was agreed that we should start the recruitment of two co-opted members in the new year, and that this would be led by the general purposes committee. The committee would meet soon to discuss the timetable and process.
- 153/25 The general secretary would shortly be pursuing the plan for trustee apprentices.

DATES FOR MEETINGS IN 2026

- 154/25 The following were confirmed (all Thursdays at 18.00):
- 15 January
 - 19 February
 - March date to be determined by email
 - 16 April
 - 21 May
 - 18 June*
 - (2 July AGM)
 - 6 August
 - 10 September*

8 October
5 November (to be confirmed)
10 December*
* Quarterly meetings

REVIEW OF MEETING

155/25 The trustees were content with the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

156/25 Thursday 11 December 2025 at 18.00.

The meeting ended at 19.02.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Phil Wadey", is written over a dotted line.

Phil Wadey

Chair of Trustees