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**Minutes of the one hundred and sixth meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 19 February 2026
by videoconference**

PRESENT Phil Wadey (chairman)
Stuart Bain (vice-chairman)
Chris Beney
John Hall
James Lean (treasurer) (from minute 36/26)
Andrew Packman
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe

IN ATTENDANCE Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

28/26 There were no declarations.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 15 JANUARY 2026

29/26 The minutes of the meeting on 15 January 2026 were approved and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS ON 28 JANUARY REGARDING CASE 25-07 AND ON
15 FEBRUARY 2026 REGARDING CASE 25-06**

30/26 The minutes of both meetings were approved.

MINUTES OF LEGAL COMMITTEE ON 24 JANUARY 2026

31/26 The minutes of the legal committee meeting on 24 January 2026, regarding legal case 25-07, were noted.

MINUTES OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE ON 19 JANUARY 2026

32/26 The minutes of the general purposes committee on 19 January 2026 regarding trustee recruitment were noted.

DELEGATED EXPENDITURE

33/26 It was noted that the general secretary had approved additional expenditure of £215 to enable the digital marketing and content manager to spend time on user testing of the website during February 2026.

- 34/26 It was noted that the general secretary had approved expenditure of £2,000 for counsel's advice on case 25-08.

EXPENDITURE ON LEGAL CASE 26-01

- 35/26 The general secretary reported that we had been invited by another organisation to part-fund, with others, counsel's opinion on an inspector's refusal to confirm a definitive map modification order. Trustees approved expenditure of up to £1,400 for this, noting that it would come from the Find Our Way Fund.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Minutes of finance committee meeting on 5 February 2026

- 36/26 The minutes were noted.

Management accounts for year end 2025

- 37/26 The treasurer reported on the year-end position, and noticed that the costs had been well managed, and the legal-action fund appeal had been successful.

Investment report for year end 2025

- 38/26 The treasurer reported that our investments were just under 50 per cent in long-term investments which was satisfactory, but we may wish to review this during the year.

Financial policies and procedures (FPP) update

- 39/26 The finance committee recommend trustees to approve the updated FPP with a new clause 2.5.4 to take account of the increased limit for the financial services compensation scheme (FSCS) to £120k. This was approved.

Operation margin forecast update

- 40/26 The treasurer reminded trustees of our formula for calculating the operating margin and it was agreed to subtract £100k for one-off costs in 2025 in determining this figure for the year end 2025.

STRATEGIC REVIEW 2027-2032

- 41/26 Trustees and some staff had completed the horizon-scanning exercise circulated by Tara-Jane Sutcliffe, and trustees thanked Tara-Jane for this work. There was discussion about the next steps in preparation for the awayday later in the year, noting that it was useful to do as much preparatory work as possible to maximise time together on the day.

- 42/26 After discussion trustees agreed to consider three matters ahead of the next meeting: what good would look like in five years' time; an analysis of the current plan to consider what is good, what is not adding value, and what is missing; and a consideration of the balance between casework and policy work. The chairman offered to prepare and circulate some notes. Staff would explore suitable dates for the awayday in Henley, and would consider who might be the facilitator.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS

- 43/26 It was noted with sadness that Dave Ramm (Hampshire) was retiring after 30 years' service. The chairman would write to thank him for his outstanding work on our behalf.

WEBSITE UPDATE

44/26 The trustees expressed their appreciation of all the work done on the new website, which had been presented to them at an online session on 17 February.

REVIEW OF MEETING

45/26 The trustees were content with the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

46/26 Tuesday 24 March at 18.00.
The meeting ended at 18.56.

Meeting dates for 2026

Thursday 16 April

Thursday 21 May

Thursday 18 June*

Thursday 2 July AGM

Thursday 6 August

Thursday 10 September*

Thursday 8 October

Tuesday 3 November

Thursday 10 December*

* Quarterly meetings



Phil Wadey

Chair of Trustees