

**Minutes of the one hundred and seventh meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Tuesday 24 March 2026
by videoconference**

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

52/26 In the absence of the chairman, Stuart Bain chaired the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

53/26 Tara Jane Sutcliffe reported that she was standing as a Senedd candidate in Gŵyr Abertawe (Gower/Swansea West) and would absent herself from any Wales-related matters until the election on 7 May.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19 FEBRUARY 2026

54/26 The minutes of the meeting on 19 February 2026 were approved and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 4 MARCH REGARDING CASE 25-08

55/26 The minutes of the meeting on 4 March, regarding legal case 25-08, were approved.

MINUTES OF LEGAL COMMITTEE ON 1 MARCH 2026

56/26 The minutes of the legal committee meeting on 1 March 2026, regarding legal case 25-08, were noted.

MINUTES OF LEGAL COMMITTEE ON 15 MARCH 2026

57/26 The minutes of the legal committee on 15 March 2026, legal case 26-01, were noted.

DELEGATED EXPENDITURE

- 58/26 It was noted that the general secretary had approved additional expenditure of £217 as a contribution towards the lunch at an outing for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on outdoor recreation and access to nature

EVERSLEY AWARD

- 59/26 It was noted that the Eversley working party was not making a recommendation for an award.

AGM ARRANGEMENTS, THURSDAY 2 JULY 2026

- 60/26 The AGM arrangements were agreed on the same basis as 2025.

Vice-presidents

- 61/26 It was agreed to propose Diane Andrewes, David (Lord) Clark, Mike Clarke, Roger de Freitas, and Richard Mabey as vice-presidents. Andrew Packman would propose, and Stuart Bain would second them.

Post-AGM entertainment

- 62/26 For the post-AGM entertainment it was agreed to have a discussion on the strategic plan and to invite members to speak about their campaigns.

STRATEGIC PLAN

- 63/26 The trustees considered the outputs from the recent survey of trustees and staff about the existing plan and agreed it had been a useful exercise. They thanked Tara-Jane Sutcliffe for her work on this. The general view was that the plan is too complex with fine aspirations, but no structural plan of how to achieve them. It should be much simpler with clear goals and paths to achieving them.
- 64/26 Tara-Jane Sutcliffe agreed to condense the output and pull out the key points for a further round of input from trustees and staff, for discussion before we meet for the awayday.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS

Renewals

- 65/26 It was agreed to reappoint Chris Hall (Oxfordshire), Denise Metcalfe (Northumberland, former Alnwick District), and Bob Milton (Surrey Heath and Waverley boroughs) for a further three years.

Retirement

- 66/26 It was noted with regret that Peter Berrecloth (London Borough of Barnet) was retiring after five years, and Mike Clarke (Bedford Borough) after seven.

Reports

- 67/26 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

- 68/26 The trustees were not aware of any new claims or circumstances or problems which may give rise to a claim.

MATTERS ARISING

69/26 The report was noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

70/26 Tara-Jane Sutcliffe asked if we should have cause for concern for our reserves, given world events. Stuart Bain and James Lean reassured trustees that our investment policy outlawed investment in fossil fuels, and that our assets were well diversified.

REVIEW OF MEETING

71/26 The trustees were content with the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

72/26 Thursday 16 April at 18.00.
The meeting ended at 18.56.

Meeting dates for 2026

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

Other meetings

Local correspondents' event: 29-30 September.

Strategic-plan awayday tbc.



Phil Wadey

Chair of Trustees