

**Minutes of the one hundred and tenth meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 6 August 2026
by videoconference**

PRESENT	Phil Wadey (chairman) Richard Clarke John Hall James Lean (treasurer) Andrew Packman Tara-Jane Sutcliffe
IN ATTENDANCE	Emma Kate Cooney Rick Hebditch Georgia Souter Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)
APOLOGIES	Stuart Bain (vice-chairman)

WELCOME

- 143/26 The chairman welcomed Richard Clarke as a new trustee, and the observers, Emma Kate Cooney, Rick Hebditch, and Georgia Souter, who were potential trustees and potential associate trustee.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 144/26 There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 18 JUNE 2026

- 145/26 The minutes of the meeting on 18 June 2026 were approved and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

MINUTES OF TRUSTEE DECISION ON 18 JUNE 2026

- 146/26 The minutes of the decision regarding legal case 24-16 were approved.

DELEGATED EXPENDITURE

- 147/26 It was noted that the general secretary had approved a second sum of £480 regarding legal assistance with case 26-05.
- 148/26 It was noted that the general secretary had approved £1,400, one third of the cost of counsel's advice on legal case 26-07, which was shared between three organisations.

FINANCE

Draft minutes of finance committee meeting on 28 July 2026

- 149/26 These were noted.
- 150/26 It was noted that the finance committee hoped to meet JM Finn on 24 August online and that trustees would be invited to attend if they wished.
- 151/26 The treasurer pointed out that we were slightly below our boundary for liquid reserves and that our long-term investments were slightly above. In October, after meeting JM Finn, we would consider whether to rebalance the funds.
- 152/26 The treasurer reported that, following a query at the AGM, we would review our ethical investment policy with JM Finn and would include the full policy in our financial policies and procedures, and a summary in the annual accounts.

Management accounts to 30 June 2026

- 153/26 These were noted.

Investment report to 30 June 2026

- 154/26 This was noted.

COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

- 155/26 The terms of reference of the finance committee, legal committee, equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) working party, and Eversley Award working party were agreed, with membership of these deferred to the next meeting. The general secretary would circulate our EDI statement to new trustees.

AGM 2026 AND 2027

Draft minutes of AGM on 2 July 2026

- 155/26 The draft minutes had been published on the website. The trustees thanked the staff for managing the hybrid event so well.

Matters arising

- 156/26 AGM 26/26, ethical investment policy: the action had been noted above (152/26).

AGM 2027

- 157/26 It was noted that the AGM would be on Thursday 1 July 2027 at Friends House. The chairman strongly encouraged trustee attendance.

TRUSTEE RESOURCES HUB

- 158/26 The trustees discussed the paper from Stuart Bain and agreed to proceed with a trustees' resources page as the trustee-owned hub for induction, development, and ongoing reference. They noted that we would need to consider where it should be held, given that there were problems with access. The trustees thanked Stuart for his work on this.

TRUSTEE, OFFICER, AND ASSOCIATE TRUSTEE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

- 159/26 The job descriptions were approved.

NATIONAL TRUST

- 160/26 Tara-Jane Sutcliffe, our appointee on the National Trust council, spoke to her report which was noted with interest. The trustees thanked Tara-Jane for her work on the council and for her report.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND LEGAL ACTION

- 161/26 It was noted that we were consulting local correspondents about changes to the guidelines regarding legal action. The paper and feedback would then come to trustees for approval.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 162/26 **Legal case 26-07:** The trustees approved additional expenditure of £1,780 on this case, as our share, between three organisations, for counsel's costs in drafting our objection.

REVIEW OF MEETING

- 163/26 The trustees and observers gave positive feedback of the meeting and the papers.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 164/26 Thursday 3 September at 18.00.

CO-OPTIONS AND ASSOCIATE TRUSTEE

- 165/26 It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Emma Kate Cooney and Rick Hebditch, and to appoint Georgia Souter as associate trustee. All these posts would run to our 2027 AGM. The trustees thanked all those involved in the trustee recruitment.
- 166/26 Tara-Jane Sutcliffe offered (with Stuart Bain) to lead on producing an induction plan for new trustees and associate trustee.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

- 167/26 It was unanimously agreed to appoint Stuart Bain as chairman, and Andrew Packman as vice-chairman, for three years.
- 168/26 The trustees warmly thanked Phil Wadey for his six years' service as chairman. The meeting ended at 19.17.

Meeting dates for 2026

Thursday 8 October

Tuesday 3 November

Thursday 10 December*

* Quarterly meetings

Other meetings

Members' day: Saturday 19 September

Local correspondents' event: 29-30 September.

Strategic-plan awayday: Tuesday 24 November

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of the letters 'S' and 'B' followed by a horizontal line.

Stuart Bain

Chair of Trustees