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**Minutes of the ninety-seventh meeting of the Board of Trustees of  
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.00 on Thursday 13 February 2025  
by videoconference**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Phil Wadey (chairman) Stuart Bain Graham Bathe Chris Beney John Hall James Lean Tara-Jane Sutcliffe
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Andrew Packman
<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

19/25 There were no declarations.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mark Westley**

20/25 It was noted with sadness that Mark Westley, a long-standing life member and generous donor, had died. He was the Ramblers' footpath secretary for Hertfordshire and North Middlesex for many years and had been a prodigious defender of public paths with an extensive knowledge both of paths in Hertfordshire and of the law, and had been active in persuading the county council to carry out its legal duties on paths.

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 16 JANUARY 2025**

21/25 The minutes of the meeting on 16 January 2025 were approved and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

**MINUTES OF LEGAL COMMITTEE ON 30 JANUARY 2025**

22/25 The minutes of the legal committee decision regarding case 25-01 were noted.

**OUTCOME OF CASE 24-08**

23/25 The trustees noted the outcome of case 24-08.

**EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION WORKING PARTY**

24/25 It was agreed to appoint Tara-Jane Sutcliffe to the working party.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, 4 FEBRUARY 2025**

### **Draft minutes**

25/25 The trustees noted the draft minutes of the finance committee meeting on 4 February 2025.

### **Management accounts and treasurer's commentary to 31 December 2024**

26/25 The trustees noted the favourable financial position at the end of 2024, the ongoing work on reserves and investments, the figure for the applications designated fund, and the generous donation of shares by a member. They thanked the treasurer and finance officer for the clear set of papers.

### **Support with treasurer's activities**

27/25 After discussion, the trustees unanimously approved the recommendation from the finance committee to employ Villars Hayward, to the end of 2025 initially, to carry out the treasurer's activities at an additional cost of £3,000 in the budget for 2025. This would provide a contingency, assist the current treasurer, and enable us to find others to take on the role.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

28/25 The general secretary updated trustees on plans for the members' day in Kenilworth on Saturday 13 September.

### **REVIEW OF MEETING**

29/25 The trustees were content with the meeting.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

30/25 Thursday 20 March 2025 at 18.00.

The meeting ended at 18.27.

### **OTHER MEETINGS IN 2025**

Monday 7 April

Wednesday 21 May

Friday 13 June\*

Thursday 7 August

Thursday 4 September\*

Thursday 2 October

Thursday 6 November

Thursday 4 December\*

\* = quarterly meetings

### Additional events

Thursday 3 July, AGM, London

Saturday 13 September, members' day, Kenilworth, Warwickshire

Tuesday 30 September – Wednesday 1 October, local correspondents' get-together, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Phil Wadey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a solid line. Above the signature, there is a horizontal dotted line.

Phil Wadey  
Chair of Trustees