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**Minutes of the one hundredth and first meeting of the Board of Trustees of
the Open Spaces Society held at 18.30 on Thursday 7 August 2025
by videoconference**

PRESENT

Phil Wadey (chairman)
Chris Beney
John Hall
James Lean
Andrew Packman (to end of minute 114/25)
Tara-Jane Sutcliffe

IN ATTENDANCE

Kate Ashbrook (general secretary)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

104/25 There were no declarations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legal case 24-15, Wilmot Gardens, Plymouth

105/25 It was noted with pleasure that Plymouth City Council had, on 24 July 2025, rejected the planning application for houses on Wilmot Gardens. We were assisting the residents to persuade the council to register the site as a town green.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 13 JUNE 2025

106/25 The minutes of the meeting on 13 June 2025 were approved and it was agreed to publish them on the website.

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 8 JULY 2025 REGARDING LEGAL CASE 25-05

107/25 The minutes of the meeting on 8 July 2025 were approved.

DRAFT MINUTES OF LEGAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON 30 JULY 2025

108/25 The draft minutes were noted.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER

109/25 It was unanimously agreed to appoint Stuart Bain as vice-chairman, and James Lean as treasurer.

FINANCE

Draft minutes of finance committee meeting on 29 July 2025

110/25 The draft minutes were noted.

Management report to 30 June 2025 and commentary

- 111/25 The trustees noted the report and the commentary, and that the society's finances were healthy.
- 112/25 Chris Beney observed that the second supplementary paper to the report referred to profit and loss which was incorrect, this would be amended in future.

Draft letter to Charity Commission about redistribution of funds

- 113/25 With a minor amendment, the trustees approved the letter, drafted by Nick Smith of Villars Hayward and the general secretary, for submission to the Charity Commission, requesting approval to close the Buxton Fund and the Creech Jones Fund and transfer the money to the general fund and the Candy (Restricted) Fund respectively.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

- 114/25 The trustees considered the terms of reference and membership of the committees, subcommittees, and working parties. They agreed the following.

General purposes committee: Terms of reference agreed. Membership: Phil Wadey, Stuart Bain, James Lean.

Finance committee: Terms of reference and financial policies and procedures agreed. Membership: James Lean (chairman), Stuart Bain, Phil Wadey.

Legal committee: Terms of reference agreed. Membership: Phil Wadey (chairman), John Hall, Andrew Packman. The trustees thanked Tara-Jane Sutcliffe for her work on the committee; she had decided to stand down from it.

The trustees also approved the documents regarding terms of grants from the legal-action fund, as recommended by the legal committee.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion working party: Terms of reference agreed. Membership James Lean, Tara-Jane Sutcliffe, Kate Ashbrook.

Eversley Award: Terms of reference approved. Membership: John Hall, Kate Ashbrook

AGM 2026 FORMAT

- 115/25 The trustees considered the format for the 2026 AGM in the light of the feedback from the AGM itself. They agreed unanimously to continue with the hybrid format in 2026, but to review this annually. The general secretary said that we had made a provisional booking at Friends' House for Thursday 2 July 2026, and this would now be confirmed.

MEMBERS' DAY, KENILWORTH, SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

- 116/25 There was a brief discussion about the members' day; the chairman had already booked to attend, and other trustees said they would come if they were able to.

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 117/25 It was noted that Paul Johnson of Natural England, who was formerly an honorary life member of the society but had retired due to risk of conflict of interest, was leaving Natural England shortly. It was proposed by Phil Wadey and unanimously agreed that he would be reinstated as an honorary life member on retirement from Natural England.

REVIEW OF MEETING

118/25 The trustees were content with the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

119/25 Thursday 10 September 2025 at 18.00.

The meeting ended at 19.22.

OTHER MEETINGS IN 2025

Thursday 2 October

Thursday 6 November

Thursday 4 December*

* = quarterly meetings

Additional events

Saturday 13 September, members' day, Kenilworth, Warwickshire

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P Wadey', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Phil Wadey
Chair of Trustees