



Fields in Trust AGM 2026

2025 AGM Minutes – Thursday 26th June 2025
at 1pm

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Trustees, the Chair of Fields in Trust Jo Barnett welcomed everyone to the 2025 Fields in Trust Annual General Meeting and looked forward to updating all attending members on the work that Fields in Trust had carried out over the last twelve months.

The meeting was being held virtually with the Chair and Trustees in attendance at Octopus Group's London office. JB thanked Octopus for hosting and their support over the last 12 months. All attendees were asked to use the on-screen chat function to raise questions and propose or second motions raised during the meeting.

2024 AGM MEETING MINUTES

The Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting were unanimously accepted as read and an accurate record of proceedings having been proposed by Jeremy Hammond and seconded by Carlotta Newbury.

REVIEW OF 2024 ACTIVITY

Jo Barnett and Helen Griffiths provided key reflections on 2024, as summarised below;

- 2024 was a pivotal and transformational year for Fields in Trust, focused on reflection, reorganisation and strategic reprioritisation ahead of its centenary in 2025.
- The charity refreshed its strategy, structure, vision and mission to strengthen its impact in protecting parks, playgrounds, sports fields and green spaces, particularly in the context of increased housing development, climate pressures and social inequality.
- Trustees led a strategic and financial review to improve long-term sustainability, reduce reliance on reserves and move towards a mixed income model combining fundraising, partnerships and income-generating services (including consultancy and stewardship activity).
- Cost controls were implemented alongside targeted investment in research and specialist support to shape future income generation and strategic direction.
- A proactive approach to fundraising and partnerships resulted in renewed engagement with founding partners and new strategic relationships including Octopus, Lands Improvement Holdings and Hampden Bank.
- The charity also established a Centenary Appeal Board to support future fundraising and profile-raising activity.
- Significant policy and advocacy work was undertaken, including influencing discussions on children's access to play, contributing to government roundtables, and promoting the inclusion of green space within planning reform.
- A revised version of the Fields in Trust Standards was published with plans to expand related products and services and work more directly with developers and planners.



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- Fields in Trust now protects nearly 3,000 spaces, benefiting around 9 million people; however, 87% of the population still lacks access to protected local green space, highlighting the ongoing need for the charity's work.
- The organisation acknowledged the continued importance of its founding purpose, noting that green spaces are critical for physical and mental wellbeing, biodiversity and climate resilience, yet remain under threat from development.

Jo Barnett expressed gratitude to HRH The Prince of Wales for assuming patronage of the charity from Queen Elizabeth II continuing the longstanding support of the Royal Family and his continuing commitment to our work. She also warmly welcomed Jill Scott MBE as the charity's new President and looked forward to working closely with Jill as she advocates for the importance of access to places for play.

2024 ACCOUNTS

Income & Expenditure

- Total income for 2024 was £764,000 which represented a 44% increase on total income in 2023 (£532,000).
- The majority of income in 2024 was unrestricted and included £195,000 of donations from trusts and foundations and £181,000 generated from charitable activities.
- Total expenditure for 2024 was £1,328,000 which was comparable with 2023 (£1,263,000).

Reserves

- At the end of 2024, total reserves stood at £1,670,00, a decrease of £533,000 from 2023.
- Within the 2024 total, the charity's free reserves totalled £521,000 - in line with the six months forward expenditure which is budgeted at £516,000.
- In addition to these free reserves that represent working capital, the Trustees designate a sum of money as a Fields Legacy Fund that will be used to ensure that the work required in the administration and stewardship of those sites already protected can continue. At the end of 2024, this stood at £477,000.
- Restricted reserves, which are given under trust for a specific purpose, have fallen from £189,000 at the end of 2023 to £82,000 at the end of 2024 as we continue to prioritise spending down these remaining project funds.

The Treasurer thanked donors for their support and recommended the adoption of the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2024 and was proposed by Jeremy Hammond and seconded by Duncan Peake.

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 December 2024 summarises last year's key activity and was adopted having been proposed by Ian Ginbey and seconded by Carlotta Newbury.



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ELECTIONS

One third of our Council members are due for re-election each year. Retiring Council members Joanna Barnett and Carlotta Newbury have agreed to stand again and have been duly proposed and seconded.

The Chair thanked all Council members for their outstanding contributions to our ongoing work.

AUDITORS

The Chair thanked Sayer Vincent LLP who completed the charity's audit and it was proposed they be reappointed as Auditors for next year and their remuneration to be fixed by the Fields in Trust Council. The proposer was Jeremy Hammond and the seconder Joanna Barnett. Their re-election was unanimously agreed.

RESOLUTIONS

No suggested resolutions were received from members this year.

PLANS FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

- The meeting closed with a look ahead to the celebration of the organisation's centenary this year and the opportunity to building on the foundations established in 2024 to deliver its future ambitions.
- The centenary year will reflect on a century of impact, including the health, wellbeing and environmental benefits generated by the protection of thousands of green spaces, alongside sharing stories of the communities they serve.
- The charity will continue developing its new strategy, with a focus on protecting and stewarding more spaces while increasing its influence over how new green spaces are created within developments.
- Building on the Six Acre Standard and the updated Fields in Trust Standards, the organisation plans to work more closely with planners, developers and industry partners, supported by tools such as the Green Space Index.
- Recognising that current decisions will shape communities for generations, the charity aims to expand support by engaging a new generation of partners and supporters.
- Thanks were expressed to all supporters, with encouragement to remain involved in the next phase of the organisation's work.

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking all members for their support and thanking the team and Trustees for everything they have done in the year.