

OPEN UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY



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Society Committee

Monday 11th August 2025

MINUTES

The minutes of the 9th meeting of the 2024/25 Society Committee held online on Monday 11th August 2025.

Present:

Patricia Thomson

Chair

Mark Lindley-Highfield of Ballumbie Castle

Treasurer

William Brazier

Secretary/Acting Vice Chair

Agenda:

N/A

Welcome:

Patricia Thomson, Committee Chair, welcomed everyone to the 2024/25 Society Committee's 9th meeting.

Housekeeping:

N/A

Absent:

N/A

Minutes of the last meeting:

N/A

Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda:

1. Charter Amendments

- The proposed charter amendments have received sufficient votes and will be enacted.

2. Scheduling of AGM

- Mr Brazier is available on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings; Mr Lindley-Highfield of Ballumbie Castle is also available.
- Preferred dates for maximum attendance are Tuesday 19 August 19:00 or Wednesday 20 August 19:00.
- This meeting will be the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- All members will be invited to attend.

3. Guest Speaker Gifts

- Mr Brazier researched gift options, including customisable pens (£20–£40).
- There are four confirmed guest speakers; Ms Thomson considers this affordable.
- For eight speakers, Ms Thomson expressed concern about costs; Mr Lindley-Highfield of Ballumbie Castle suggested bulk purchases.
- Previous gifts have cost approximately £30 each.
- Mr Brazier to circulate links for gift options.

4. Special Recognition

- Isabelle Hoyet declined the offer of a gift for her assistance, but the committee will award a certificate of recognition for her contribution
 - Mr Tom Morris: To receive a gift for judging the mooting competition.
- 2• All mooting certificates have now been issued.

5. Welcome Week

- The Open University has invited OULS to attend Welcome Week at MK campus on 29 September.
- Travel costs will be reimbursed by the Open University.
- Ms Thomson to offer Vice-Chair attendance.
- Attendance last year resulted in 25 new members.

6. Website and Online Services

- Mr Lindley-Highfield of Ballumbie Castle discussed migrating the website from the old platform to a new one.
- Ms Thomson prefers Squarespace, which can integrate PayPal as a payment gateway.
- Proposal to establish a new PayPal account for OULS.
- Suggestion to keep the old website temporarily while encouraging members to transition to the new one.
- Mr Lindley-Highfield of Ballumbie Castle proposes having the new website fully operational by the end of the next service year.
- Current emails are hosted by Google (paid monthly). Ms Thomson previously considered cancelling but decided to keep them for practical purposes.
- Additional email addresses can be added to the current Google account.
- Wix is currently used for email mailing lists; Squarespace could replace this, but old emails would not transfer.
- These matters to be discussed with the new committee after the AGM.

7. Mooting

- Two new mooting coordinators to take over following the AGM, with the

current coordinator remaining in place until then.

8. Committee Transitions

3• Mr Brazier to remain in role until the AGM, at which point he will hand over responsibilities.

- Final minutes to be completed by Mr Brazier before the handover.

Report:

N/A

Actions:

Finance:

- The committee previously shared financial updates, which will be brought forward to members at the AGM.
- Outstanding payment from the University of Law has been received.
- Mr Lindley-Highfield of Ballumbie Castle thanked Ms Thomson for her assistance in resolving this matter.
- Ms Thomson made a payment on behalf of OULS for the website; Mr Lindley-Highfield of Ballumbie Castle confirmed there should be a receipt for reimbursement.
- Former Chair's card has been removed; he queried a £17.49 charge that may relate to the website provider.
- Two past students had subscriptions renewed; committee agreed to refund if they have not participated in society events.

Proposed changes to the society byelaws and society guidelines

N/A

Any other business

N/A

Date of next meeting

N/A

Signed:

William Brazier, Secretary, Acting Vice-chair