

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK & TOWNSFIELD CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Council Offices
50 Main Street
Keswick
CA12 5JS

Email: townclerk@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk

16 January 2024

A meeting of the Charitable Trusts listed below will be held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 50 Main Street, Keswick on **Thursday 23 January 2025 at 7.00 pm.**

Yours sincerely



Vivien Little
Town Clerk

HOPE PARK	Registered Charity	503465
FITZ PARK	Registered Charity	520327
TOWNSFIELD	Registered Charity	520295

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2. Declarations of Interests**
To receive any declarations of interests in respect of items on this agenda.
- 3. Minutes**
To authorise the Chair to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2024 (pages 7-8).
- 4. Chair's Report**
To receive the verbal report from the Chair.
- 5. Clerk's Report**
To receive the report from the Clerk.
- 6. Parks Manager's Report**
To receive the report from the Parks Manager.
- 7. Dog Issues**
To receive the report from the Clerk.
- 8. Football Drainage**
To receive the report from the Clerk.
- 9. Cricket Club extension update**
To receive a report from Councillor Harwood (to follow).

Prior to the following business the Chair will move the following resolution:

'That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.'

10. Fitz Park Charitable Trust & Townsfield – Linking Order, Transfer of Deed, Vesting Declaration and Registration

To receive the report of the Financial Officer.

11. Fitz Park Developments

To receive the reports of the Clerk.

To: All Councillors/Trustees
Press

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK & TOWNSFIELD CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the meeting of the Charitable Trusts listed below held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 50 Main Street, Keswick on Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Chair
Councillor Jean Murray

	Councillors	
Louise Dunn	Steve Harwood	Denstone Kemp
Benita Laphorn	Claire Peat	Lorraine Taylor

Also present were Vivien Little (Trust Clerk), Catherine Parker (Finance Officer), Christine Fawcett (Parks Manager) and Councillor Sally Lansbury (Cumberland Council).

34. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris Houghton and Claire Houghton.

35. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

36. Chair's Report

RECEIVED the verbal report from the Chair.

Councillor Murray informed Trustees that she had requested information on any damage to trees in recent storms, to which the Parks Manager responded that only branches had come down and were dealt with. She also informed Trustees of progress with the Play area and meetings surrounding that, as well as a recent meeting with Hope Leisure.

37. Parks Manager's Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Parks Manager. Trustees brought forward some suggestions, including a QR code to give history information of the park, as well as a future Trustee Walk about.

RESOLVED that;

- i) the staff in the parks be thanked for their hard work, as shown in the recent Cumbria in Bloom awards; and
- ii) the Clerk was asked to chase up progress surrounding the leak in the retaining wall with the Swimming Pool area (Action – Clerk).

38. Clerk's Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED that

- i) the Clerk request that a dog warden undertake regular visits to Fitz Park, to check for problem dogs and also to spray 'Keep in Clean' stencils (Action – Clerk); and
- ii) the Clerk to put a future Bioblitz in Elizabeth's Woodland on the agenda at a future date (Action – Clerk).

39. Draft Budgets for Hope and Fitz Parks 2025-26

Trustees considered the draft budgets for 2025/26, and thanked the Financial Officer and Parks Manager for their hard work and thorough explanations.

RESOLVED that the draft budgets be accepted, with the addition of a budget line, set at £5,000 for this year, in Fitz Park budgets earmarked for work on Wivell and Knights Bridge (Action – Financial Officer).

40. Hope Park & Fitz Park Budgets – 2nd quarter 2024-25

RECEIVED for information the 2nd quarter budget comparisons.

41. Climate Change Action Plan

RECEIVED the report from the Clerk. Councillor Sally Lansbury (Cumberland Council) said that due to a change in officers at Cumberland, the waste process for the old Allerdale area would be looked at.

42. Requests for use of the Parks

Consideration was given to the following:

- (i) Town Council request to have a Party in the Park on Saturday 28 June 2025 and Scruffs Dog Show on Sunday 29 June
RESOLVED that this request be agreed (Action – Financial Officer).
- (ii) Keswick Museum –request to use Fitz Park for their local schools event and a Summer Fair on Friday 6th June 2025 and Saturday 7th June 2025.
RESOLVED that this request be granted (Action – Clerk).
- (iii) Lakeland Trails – To consider a request to use Fitz Park for their annual Lakeland Trails event on Saturday 6th September 2025;
RESOLVED that this request be granted, to be charged a base rate of £750+VAT, plus £1.50+VAT per competitor over this number (Action – Financial Officer).
- (iv) West Cumberland Orienteering Club –a request to use Fitz Park for an orienteering event on Saturday 26th April 2025.
RESOLVED that this request be granted (Action – Clerk).

Prior to the following business the Chair moved the following resolution:

'That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.'

43. Minutes

RESOLVED that Chair was authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2024 (pages 5-6).

The meeting closed at 7.57pm.

Chair

Date

KESWICK PARKS CHARITABLE TRUSTS
23 JANUARY 2025

Clerk's Report

Request for Educational Interactive Signs

We have received a request from a member of the public who has requested that Trustees consider putting an educational interactive audio sign near the Henry Irwin Jenkinson Memorial Gates in Fitz Park. The person who contacted us is a descendant of Henry Irwin Jenkinson.

I'm writing to ask if the Trustees of Fitz Park would consider placing an educational interactive audio sign near the Henry Irwin Jenkinson memorial gates that would tell the history of the park. It could also include other Keswick stories.

Fitz Park is a wonderful asset to Keswick and the story of how it came about is worth telling. The gates dedicated to Jenkinson have no explanation as to who he is and his role in establishing the park. His other contributions to the town are also worth a mention being a guide book writer of note, and one of the main protagonists of the Latrigg Fell Trespass 1887 that led to locals and visitors alike being able to enjoy access to the summit of the fell in perpetuity. Without easily accessed public information there is the risk that this significant piece of Keswick's history will be forgotten.

My partner sourced these great u-turn round audio interpretation signs that work very well outdoors in any location as they don't need to be attached to an energy source and can be mounted on a design that is in keeping with the landscape. This company 'specialise in audio visual interpretation solutions and products for the museum, heritage, attractions and retail industries. Other companies are no doubt available but these do look especially good.

Here's a link to the product site that gives you all the information:

<https://www.interpretationshop.co.uk/product/u-turn-round/>

These audio signs can contain up to eight stories and can be updated whenever required. We thought what a great project it could be working with the museum/schools and the like to tell various stories about Keswick's history.

I am willing to help source funding.

Is this a project that the Trustees of the Park would be willing to consider? I do hope so as I think this would be a fun, educational and dynamic addition to the experience of visiting the park and would compliment the museum.

Many thanks for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Trustees are asked to consider this project and whether they wish to investigate this further.

Vivien Little
10 January 2025

We have had relatively dry weather for the last two months and this has given us the opportunity to get some hard landscaping projects completed. Thanks must go to the parks staff for their hard work and to the three ladies within the office of Keswick Town Council for their help and support.

Hope Park

All of the herbaceous borders have also been cut back and have been mulched using composted bark chippings that are composted on site.



All the hedges have now been cut back and the annual tree inspection has been completed.

A memorial tree "Sorbus Joseph Rock" has been planted near to lake road. This replaces an ash tree that had ash dieback.

Paving slabs have been laid under 4 of the nine tee boxes on the pitch and putt. This will prevent weeds growing under and around the tee boxes and improve their general appearance.



Turf has been laid around the crazy golf to fill in holes and general wear areas.

Steps have been installed between 7th green and the 8th tee to improve access



The sewage pump failed just before Christmas and has been repaired in early January. However extra work is needed to prevent the pump failing again. The quote for this work is £2795.00, I would suggest this amount comes from the Building Fund at Hope Park.

Lower Fitz Park

New posts have been fitted to the Kanope play equipment in the play area. The old posts had rotted at the base and were also worn around the steps and slide. New chains have also been ordered for the flat swings and side panels for the slide.



In December we experienced vandalism in the multi-use games area. A household wheelie bin was brought into the games area and set on fire; this damaged the tarmac surface. This incident was reported to the police and the games area had to be closed to repair the damage.



Upper Fitz Park

Leaves have been removed from the fine turfed areas to allow grass growth from few daylight hours we have at this time of year. With dry mild conditions we have had in recent months these areas have had to be cut right through until December.

The staff have spent many hours preparing and laying the new paved area next to Café HNW, this will provide valuable space for café users in the near future.



Most of the shrub beds have been cut back and mulch has been applied to prevent weeds. The remaining wooden memorial benches have been brought inside to be painted and the recycled plastic benches will be pressure washed as soon as the weather will allow.



KESWICK PARKS CHARITABLE TRUSTS

23 January 2025

Dog issues

Following on from the dog issues report last month (see attached), we have had a number of further complaints about dogs over the Christmas break, both in the parks, and in the Town Centre.

These are some of the complaints which we have received which relate to the parks;

One:

As a local I very rarely walk down market square, however yesterday 29th December, I visited the cinema with my granddaughters.

Luckily got a parking place on back streets but found walking the pavements a minefield of dog dirt to try and avoid and market square was a disgrace. Dogs galore and wee everywhere, even on shop boards outside cafes etc. The stone benches had dogs seated on them rather than humans and again dog wee all around.

My daughter was waiting in the park and encountered the same dog poo everywhere with a small child avoiding it on the grass was a nightmare.

What can be done I don't know but it is a disgrace.

Two:

I would like to make a complaint about many of the dog walkers who choose to continuously ignore the signs to keep dogs on a short leash.

I walk my children to and from school through Fitz Park then onto the Keswick to Threlkeld line to avoid the main road.

Every day I have the same stress with dog walkers who think it's acceptable to have their dogs running riot in the park, I have a 5 year old child who is terrified of dogs and it certainly doesn't help having big energetic dogs running towards her wanting to jump up or chase my children.

Only just the other day did a lady have two big dogs off leads chasing a ball, one of which then decided to sprint towards my child growling with its ball in its mouth. My child was hysterical.

Not only is it irresponsible and ignorant but where is the safety in this? When a dog is yards away from its owner how does that owner know their dog isn't going to potentially snap or attack a child/adult or another dog which might also be passing but on a leash. I have seen dogs fighting because of this and the owners are either yards away or at a loss of what to do because they have zero control of handling their dogs.

How can somebody keep their dog under control when it is off a leash? The answer is 'they can't'.

There has also been the odd occasion where owners are also taking their dogs into the children's playpark, again causing unnecessary stress to children who don't react well to dogs.

Following the last meeting, I contacted Cumberland Council, and requested that the dog warden do regular checks through Fitz Park, as well as Market Square, which they have been doing, but of course, they can't be there all the time.

We cannot enforce anything on Fitz Park, as it is a large open area, and the vast majority of dogs are well behaved, but it is one or two who spoil it for everyone else. Even if we wanted to ensure that dogs were on leads at all times, it couldn't be enforced.

We could introduce a Code of Conduct for Fitz Park, with notices at all entrances, and possibly leaflets at the café along with a social media campaign along the lines of:

"We welcome responsible dog owners and their dogs. To ensure everyone can enjoy this space, please ensure your dog is on a lead or under close control at all times within the Park. Please do not allow your dog to approach other park users, particularly children, or other dogs without express consent. Thank you for your cooperation." However, it can easily be ignored.

Especially difficult times are school start and end, so we could focus on those times.

I think that whatever we do must be in collaboration with Cumberland Council and the LDNPA, as they both promote dog friendliness, which is contributing to the problem.

Vivien Little

14 January 2025

KESWICK PARKS CHARITABLE TRUSTS
23 JANUARY 2025

Fitz Park Drainage Improvement

We were contacted by a member of the public, Stu Cronin, about flooding on the junior football pitches in Fitz Park, which is an ongoing issue. There have been a number of dates when matches have to be cancelled because of the state of the pitch. He is interested in applying for funding from the Football Foundation to improve drainage of grass pitches, which was initially investigated a number of years ago, but was not pursued at the time due to cost.

In that area, there is a lot of hardcore beneath the pitch, which may have been an old BMX track, but no one can fully remember.

I see no issue in beginning to investigate this issue alongside Stu Cronin and the Football Club, as if there is funding available, it would be to the benefit of everyone. Would Trustees recommend granting delegated authority to the Chair/Vice-Chair, Clerk, Financial Officer and Parks Manager to investigate this further alongside, with the aim of bringing it back to Trust at a future meeting?

Vivien Little
2 January 2025