

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK & TOWNSFIELD CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the meeting of the Keswick Parks Charitable Trusts held at the Council Chamber, First Floor, Council Offices, 50 Main Street, Keswick on Thursday 13th March 2025 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Chair
Councillor Jean Murray

<p style="text-align: center;">Councillors</p> <p>Louise Dunn Chris Houghton Benita Laphorn</p>	<p>Natalie Evans Claire Houghton</p>	<p>Steve Harwood Denstone Kemp</p>
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Also present were Vivien Little (Trust Clerk) and Christine Fawcett (Parks Manager).

55. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nelson, Peat, Taylor and Catherine Parker (RFO).

56. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2025 (pages 9-10).

57. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

58. Chair's Report

RECEIVED the Chair's report. Councillor Murray updated Trustees on the letter which she had put in the Reminder regarding tree management in the parks in response to a letter which had been factually incorrect. The Parks Manager highlighted the importance of the annual tree survey (which follows the Qualified Tree Risk Assessment Framework) as with the recent Horse Chestnut removal, when it was felled, the amount of damage honey fungus had caused to the tree was obvious to see, and it was clearly the correct thing to do to prevent risk to life. The Parks Manager works closely with the LDNPA Tree officer, who regularly attends the parks to discuss the trees which required management.

The Parks Manager also reminded Trustees that some trees which were planted when Fitz Park was founded were coming to the end of their natural life span. Trees did not live indefinitely.

RESOLVED that social media be put out ahead of any future tree work in order to explain reasoning to concerned residents in advance (Action – Councillor Dunn, Clerk).

59. Parks Manager's Report

RECEIVED the report of the Parks Manager.

The Parks Manager updated Trustees on repair work following the trees which had blown down. The stump of the Norway Maple has now been removed, and the contractor will be on site to repair the wall next week, after which Cumberland Council can repair the footpath, hopefully ahead of the main season.

RESOLVED that:

- a) a sum of £2692 be taken from the Sinking Fund to cover the uninsurable costs relative to the clearing up of the fallen tree (Action – Financial Officer);
- b) the quotation for removal of the containers be agreed, and the final amount (approximately £500 per container) to be taken from the Future Developments Fund (Action – Financial Officer, Parks Manager); and
- c) the Parks Manager to investigate the ongoing leak into Lower Fitz Park (Action – Parks Manager).

60. Clerk's Report

RECEIVED the report of the Trust Clerk. It was noted that the 'Clean it Up' signs that had been sprayed in Fitz Park had a noticeable effect, and would be replaced when they wore off.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The parking arrangement with the Bowling Club be agreed for the next twelve months (Action – Clerk); and
- b) The Trustees agree to the replacement of the windows on the Bowling Bower (Action – Clerk).

61. Upper Fitz Park Development

RECEIVED the Clerk's report. Trustees noted the progress made so far, and were happy to continue as has been planned. They looked forward to seeing how things progressed with fund raising.

RESOLVED that Trustees proceed with going out to tender with the two preferred companies following the adoption of the updated Financial Regulations at the next Town Council meeting (Action – Financial Officer, Clerk).

62. Hope Park & Fitz Park Budgets – 3rd quarter 2024-25

RECEIVED for information the 3rd quarter budget comparisons.

63. Request for use of the Parks

- i) **RECEIVED**—for information a number of races 2025 from Athletics Club – **RESOLVED** that Trustees noted all the events.
- ii) **RECEIVED** information about 2026 event from Lakeland Trails – **RESOLVED** that the Trustees are happy with the principle of the event being moved, and discussions could happen with Lakeland Trails (Action – Financial Officer, Clerk)

Prior to the following business the Chairman 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.'

64. Golf Ball Incident

RECEIVED the Clerk's report.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

65. Use of the Parks

RECEIVED the Clerk's report.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Vice-Chair, Financial Officer and Clerk enter negotiations with the organiser (Action – Councillor Chris Houghton, Financial Officer, Clerk); and
- b) Fees and Charges for the parks are looked at in detail at the next Trust Meeting (Action – Trustees)

66. Hope Park Request

RECEIVED the Clerk's report.

RESOLVED that the Trustees reject the request (Action – Clerk).

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chair

Date