

## FITZ PARK AND HOPE PARK CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the meeting of the Charitable Trusts listed below held at the Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.00 pm.

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Present:

Chair

Councillor Jean Murray

Councillors

Louise Dunn

Natalie Evans

Chris Houghton

Claire Houghton

Steve Harwood

Benita Laphorn

Claire Peat

Richard Scott

Lorraine Taylor

Also present were Vivien Little (Trust Clerk), Catherine Parker (Finance Officer) and Christine Fawcett (Parks Manager), Tony Feasey (Fundraiser) and one member of the public.

**41. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nelson.

**42. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2025 (pages 6-7).

**43. Declarations of Interests**

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

**44. Chair's Report**

**RECEIVED** the verbal report from the Chair.

**45. Parks Manager's Report**

Consideration was given to the report of the Parks Manager.

**RESOLVED** that thanks be passed onto the parks staff for their continued hard work, and especially in light of another year of Gold awards from Cumbria in Bloom (Action – Parks Manager).

**46. Draft Budgets for Hope and Fitz Parks 2026-27**

Trustees considered the draft budgets for 2026/27, and thanked the Financial Officer and Parks Manager for their hard work and thorough explanations.

**RESOLVED** that the draft budgets be approved (Action – Financial Officer).

**47. Commercial Working Group**

**RECEIVED** the report from the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that the Commercial Working Group be established, with Councillors Evans, Harwood, Chris Houghton and Scott as members (Action – Clerk).

**48. Hope Park & Fitz Park Budgets – 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2025-26**

**RECEIVED** for information the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget comparisons.

**49. Funds Movement**

**RECEIVED** the report from the Financial Officer.

**RESOLVED** that the transfers of funds be approved as set out in the report (Action – Financial Officer).

**50. Requests for use of the Parks**

Consideration was given to the following:

- (i) Lakesman Triathlon – to consider a request to use Hope Park for their annual Lakesman Triathlon event on Sunday 21 June 2026.  
**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).
- (ii) Sands Charity – to consider a request to use Fitz Park for a walking event for Sand Charity, to be held on 12 September 2026.  
**RESOLVED** this request be granted, to be charged a base rate of £750+VAT, plus £1.50+VAT per competitor over this number, with £125 per day for set-up fee, and a £500 bond be taken (Action – Financial Officer).

**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.’*

**51. Request from Café Hope for an addition in the park**

**RECEIVED** a request from Hope Leisure Limited for the addition of a new attraction.

**RESOLVED** that the new attraction be approved (Action – Clerk).

**52. Fundraising Update**

**RECEIVED** the report of the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that there be an open event for members of the public to attend on Sunday 30 November at 8.30am-11am, to be held at the Crosthwaite Room, Keswick Museum (Action – Clerk).

**53. Tennis Club update**

**RECEIVED** the report from the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**54. Clerk’s Report**

**RECEIVED** the report of the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that signage be put up as necessary (Action – Clerk and Parks Manager).

**55. Future Options for Hospital Field Site in Fitz Park**

**RECEIVED** the report from Councillor Harwood.

**RESOLVED** that other options also be explored and brought to the January Trust meeting for discussion (Action – Councillor Laphorn).

**56. Lease/Licence discussions**

**RECEIVED** the report of the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that:

- i) The Commercial Group be granted delegated authority to negotiate the lease as set out in the first section of report (Action – Financial Officer);
- ii) A budget of £1100 for an independent valuation, to be carried out by Edwin Thompson, be agreed, and taken from contingency (Action – Financial Officer);  
and
- iii) The Commercial Group be granted delegated authority to discuss with Hope Leisure any issues relating to commercial activities (Action – Financial Officer and Clerk).

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

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Chair

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Date