

FITZ PARK & HOPE PARK CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the Charitable Trusts listed below held at the Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick on Thursday 22 January 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Chair
Councillor Jean Murray

Councillors		
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).

57. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kemp.

58. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

59. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2025 (pages 8-10).

60. Chair's Report

RECEIVED the verbal report from the Chair. The Chair updated Trustees on the consultation event held at Crosthwaite Rooms, Keswick Museum in November, and said that there would be two more sessions, one set for during the Easter holidays and one just after which will target parents after school ends (Action – Clerk).

61. Parks Manager's Report

RECEIVED the report from the Parks Manager. The recent wet weather had made things difficult, as outdoor jobs needed to be completed but couldn't be easily.

The Clerk and Parks Manager would look into the feasibility of a Pickleball court in Fitz Park, though it was acknowledged that it is generally an indoor sport (Action – Clerk and Parks Manager).

Councillor Peat brought up the flood defence at Townsfield which had been blocked up on numerous occasions. The Parks Manager agreed to create a sign to be put there informing the public of the need to keep the area clear (Action – Parks Manager).

RESOLVED that the Parks Manager theme 2027 bedding flowers yellow and black as celebration of the Tour de France.

62. Clerk's Report

RECEIVED the report from the Clerk.

RESOLVED that:

- i) the idea of mooring Fitz Park as an events village space was not be pursued; and
- ii) the Clerk to respond to the member of the public encouraging them to contact the Parks Manager to discuss further (Action – Clerk, Parks Manager).

63. Survey results

RECEIVED the report from the Clerk. Thanks were given to Councillor Dunn for her work in pulling the survey results together, and Trustees expressed how useful these results would be moving forward.

64. Hope Park & Fitz Park Budgets – 3rd quarter 2025-26

RECEIVED for information the 3rd quarter budget comparisons.

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.’

65. Fundraising update

RECEIVED the report of the Clerk.

66. Hope Park 100th Anniversary

RECEIVED the report of the Parks Manager.

RESOLVED that the idea be agreed in theory, and investigated further (Action – Clerk).

67. Commercial Group Update

RECEIVED the minutes of the Commercial Group, along with a verbal update. The Trustees thanks the Commercial Group for their work so far, and hoped that they would be able to carry on with the same enthusiasm.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Chair

Date