

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK CHARITABLE TRUSTS

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5th March 2026

A meeting of the Keswick Parks Charitable Trusts listed below will be held at the Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick on **Thursday 12th March 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

Yours sincerely



Vivien Little
Town Clerk

HOPE PARK
FITZ PARK

Registered Charity 503465
Registered Charity 520327

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence.
2. **Minutes**
To authorise the Chair to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2026 (pages 11-12).
3. **Declarations of Interests**
To receive any declarations of interests in respect of items on this agenda.
4. **Chair's Report**
To receive the Chair's verbal report.
5. **Parks Manager's Report**
To receive the report of the Parks Manager.
6. **Clerk's Report**
To receive the report of the Clerk.
7. **Request for use of the Parks**
To receive the requests from Keswick Athletics Club for use of Fitz Park.

Prior to the following business the Chairman 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.'

8. **Fundraising update**
To receive the report of the Clerk (to follow).

9. **Crosthwaite Road Car Park - Contracting**
To receive the report of the Financial Officer.
10. **Future Options**
To receive the report from Councillor Harwood.
11. **Commercial Working Group**
To receive the minutes of the Commercial Working Group for information.

To:
All Councillors/Trustees
Press

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

Parks Manager Report March 2025

Christine Fawcett

The last two months have again been busy with the parks staff working hard. The weather has been relatively dry in February and allowed us to carry out some of our hard landscaping projects without damaging grassed areas. Thanks, must go to the parks staff for their ongoing efforts and the enthusiasm of the three ladies within the office of Keswick Town Council.

Hope Park

The snowdrops and crocus have been out in full bloom and the tulips are coming through. It will not be long before we have a spring show of colour throughout the park.

In the woodland and shaded shrub beds daffodils, hellebores, and fritillaries are appearing from the under grow, a sure sign spring and a new season is on the way.



The area for the ride on tractors has now been fenced, and wood has been used for the kick boards from the western hemlock trees.

A gate has been installed to keep the area secure, and an access point made for the public to use.

We look forward to the arrival of this new attraction.

The pitch and putt greens have been hollow tinned and cut in late January. Half term was very busy in the park and the greens are now recovering for the Easter holidays.

The 2nd and 3rd Tee boxes have been paved and just need some turf laying around them once the growing season allows.

The crazy golf course will be painted once the weather allows but in the mean time we have been carrying out refurbishment work to some of the holes. The 1st has had new kerbs fitted around the perimeter and a new floor installed and the 11th has had replacement kerbs fitted and the paving repointed.



The annual tree inspection has been completed, and I have applied for the highlighted trees to be worked on through the Lake District Planning Authority. Several ash trees need to be felled due to ash dieback in the woodland area and crown lighting of branches over footpaths are in these applications.

Lower Fitz Park

Removal of deadwood within trees has begun in late February more work will be carried out within the next few months. An application has been made to remove a cracked branch over the river and crown lift branches over the footpath near silver bridge.

Grass cutting will begin in mid-April.

Upper Fitz Park

The bowling green and tennis courts have been cut and verti knifed. The over-seeding of these areas has been a success and new growth is clear to see and will be more apparent once spring arrives. An application of lawn sand and liquid iron will be applied in March to help to reduce the moss in the grass sward.

Games will be up and running for Easter weather permitting, however the grass tennis courts will not be open until the end of April to allow the ground to firm up.



We have completed renewing the retaining boards around the bowling green using recycled plastic boards and the artificial grass has been pressure washed and relayed in the rink area.

A new wooden edge has been fitted to the shrub board in front of the bowling green; this will prevent mulch coming onto the footpath and replaces a previous wooden edge .



The steps to the private bowling green have been rebuilt and the handrail repaired



The tree report has highlighted a silver birch to be removed near the compost bays due to honey fungus disease. I have applied for this work to be carried out, and we will hear back from the Lake District Planning Authority shortly.

The sign for the Townsfield wall agreed at the January meeting has been delivered and will be installed very shortly.

KESWICK PARKS CHARITABLE TRUSTS

12 MARCH 2026

Clerk's Report

Dog Free Area in Fitz Park

Councillor Peat received the following comment/request from a member of the public;

I am a local resident. I am wondering if the council has been discussing or doing anything around the growing number of dogs in Keswick. I don't think there is anywhere else in the world which gets the dog traffic we get here. Unfortunately it does bring major issues.

*While I'm not sure there is a clear and obvious solution in the town centre, residential streets, popular walkways near the lake etc. I do have one small suggestion which could make a **massive difference** to locals, especially in the summer months.*

*Could we create a **small dog-free area** in one of the parks. The top of Fitz Park around the tennis courts feels as though it could work well as a space where residents can relax and children can play without worry. The boundary would be beyond the cafe though not to impact their business, it would essentially cover the mini golf, tennis courts and the sections around them. This is not an arterial route, so dog owners can simply walk around it via the road / old railway.*

I believe this would be a major upgrade, especially in the summer. Adults and children can confidently use the space to relax and play without the worry of dog fouling or unleashed dogs disturbing them. This is especially valuable for residents living in flats who don't have garden space of their own.

Appreciate some dog owners are quite sensitive, so it would need to be communicated clearly. Most dog owners claim to pick it up each time, but I often find at best they get 80% and sometimes 0% depending on texture. That is even if they are watching, many let their dogs conveniently wander out of sight so they don't need to do anything. Last year during a dry period, I saw a big dog produce a large volume of diarrhea on the river bank area which is so popular among sunbathers and children. The owner made a token effort to clean it with the plastic bag, but obviously that was futile. The next day I saw children playing on the same spot. It isn't safe or right. Not to mention the urine issue.

I am happy to gather support for this from locals if you need it. I believe Cumberland Council could use PSPOs to enforce it if you elevated it to them, or maybe it is just something Keswick Parks can enforce straightaway without needing approval.

I've recently had a daughter, and at the moment I don't really feel the streets or parks are clean enough to let children play safely. I'm not writing to complain as such — more to ask whether this can be something the council can act on, or if there are any ideas being explored.

The issues arising are that the PSPO that is in place is currently not being enforced fully by Cumberland Council, so extending the area of the PSPO would have no affect. I also feel that there would be a lot of negative feedback from members of the public if we were to ban dogs from any part of Fitz Park, with one exception.

The play area is currently within the areas covered by the PSPO, and is a designated dog free area, designed for children. There may need to be improved signage for this, but I do feel that this is an appropriate area to be dog free, but Trustees may have their own thoughts.

Vivien Little

4 March 2026

KESWICK PARKS CHARITABLE TRUSTS

12 MARCH 2026

REQUESTS FOR USE OF PARKS

I have received the following request for the use of Fitz Park:

I am incredibly excited about my upcoming trip to Borneo in 2027 with Camps International for community and environmental projects. The expedition is through school, but we have to take it upon ourselves to fundraise as much of our £5490 as possible - quite a challenge!

Overall the reason I am writing, is to see if it would be possible to run a duck race in the river by Fitz park at some point during the summer. By this I am meaning people pay to sponsor a rubber duck, and they all get released with the winner of the race getting a cash prize.

Firstly I can tell you that there would be absolutely no ducks left in the river at the end. I will have an army of friends in wellies catching them all! However, before I get too excited about planning it, I was looking to see if it would be possible please? I am to no extent an expert on any of the regulations surrounding it so I want to get an answer from those in charge! Additionally, providing the duck race would be okay, would it also be possible to have a few fundraising stalls on the grass at the start/end of it?

*Thank you so much for your time and consideration. If you want to know any more about the expedition we're raising money for, please get in touch.
I hope to hear back from you soon!*

Trustees are asked to decide if they want to allow this.

Keswick Athletics Club

I have received a list of upcoming Keswick Athletics Club races which will use the Cricket Pavilion as Race HQ. Trustees are asked to okay this list – they will have minimum impact on the park.

Fell races which start and finish in Fitz Park with approval of the Trustees with the Cricket Pavilion as race HQ. SAG forms do not apply to these events.

Friday 1 May - Uphill only Trial Race on Skiddaw details tbc.

Wednesday 13 May - Latrigg Race - start 7.00pm.

Wednesday 10 June - Round Latrigg Race - start 7.00pm.

Sunday 5 July - Skiddaw Race - start 12noon.

Wednesday 12 August - Not Round Latrigg Race - start 7.00pm.

Sunday 16 August - Keswick Games Latrigg Challenge - start 2.00.

All these races have minimal impact on the town.

Keswick Athletic Club also organises 10 other races on the fells and mountains outside the town throughout the year which have no impact on the town.

Keswick Town Council – Events

There are three upcoming events by Keswick Town Council Events Committee which will require use of the Parks.

Monday May 4th – Annual Mayday event at Townsfield

Saturday 27th June – Party in the Park, Fitz Park

Sunday 16 August – Keswick Games, Fitz Park

These will be held in exactly the same manner as previous years, except for the Party in the Park, there will be no hay bales this year, so it will in fact have less impact on the park.

Bowling Club

Annually we allow the use of the parking area beside the Museum for the Bowling Club on certain dates for their matches, to allow visitors to the club to park close and be able to bring their equipment. I therefore propose the following, which is the same as in previous years.

RECOMMENDATION: The arrangement with Keswick Bowling Club be renewed for another 12 months i.e five spaces for use by the Bowling Club at the side of Keswick Museum on Tuesday afternoons between 1.45pm and 4.30pm, and on a maximum of 18 other occasions (dates to be confirmed by the Bowling Club) during the main season, which runs from mid-April to mid-September, subject to permits being displayed at all times, and following the rules set out in previous years.

Vivien Little
4 March 2026