

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the Keswick Parks Charitable Trusts listed above held at the Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick on Thursday 12th March 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Chair
Councillor Jean Murray

Councillors

Chris Houghton	Claire Houghton	Steve Harwood
Denstone Kemp	Benita Laphorn	

Also in attendance were Vivien Little (Trust Clerk), Catherine Parker (Financial Officer) and Christine Fawcett (Parks Manager).

68. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dunn, Evans, Peat, Scott and Taylor.

69. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2026 (pages 11-12).

70. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made in respect of this agenda.

71. Chair's Report

RECEIVED the Chair's verbal report.

72. Parks Manager's Report

RECEIVED the report of the Parks Manager. The Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of putting structures (for recreational purposes) on Townsfield (Action – Clerk).

73. Clerk's Report

RECEIVED the report of the Clerk. There was a long debate over the issue of dogs in the park and the request from the member of the public, with understanding being expressed, but also the reality being that in Keswick as a whole, there is difficulty with enforcement of any area due to lack of Cumberland officers being posted in Keswick. The number of dogs was on the increase, but any action brought with it a high risk of alienating groups who treat Fitz Park with respect.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The Clerk respond to the member of the public to explain the position, that we sympathise with them but the issues surrounding enforcement (Action – Clerk);
- ii) Parks Manager, Clerk and RFO to undertake a 'sign audit' of Fitz Park, looking for extra signs that are not needed (Action – Clerk, Parks Manager and RFO); and
- iii) The Clerk to contact Councillor Lansbury (Cumberland Council) to raise the issue, and highlight the need for more officers providing enforcement in Keswick due to the high volume of dogs, with irresponsible dog owners (Action – Clerk).

74. Request for use of the Parks

RECEIVED a number of requests to use the parks.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The request to run a duck race in Fitz Park be refused, as it was not in line with the Trust's no-plastics policy, and it would be difficult to ensure that all the ducks were retrieved from the river, however, the individual was to be encouraged, and if there were other events which they wished to run, to come back with more information (Action – Clerk);
- ii) The dates of the Athletics Club races be noted;

- iii) The dates of the Keswick Town Council Event Committee Events be agreed (Action – Clerk/RFO); and
- iv) 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. (Action – Clerk).

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.’

75. Fundraising update

RECEIVED the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED that

- i. the profit from the Crosthwaite Road Car Park for the year 1 April 2025-31 March 2026 be put into the Play Area appeal (Action – RFO); and
- ii. Councillors Chris Houghton and Claire Houghton meet with the Clerk and the Support Officer to input into design.

76. Crosthwaite Road Car Park - Contracting

RECEIVED the report of the Financial Officer.

RESOLVED that the fee for parking at Crosthwaite Road Car Park be raised from £4 all day to £5 all day from 1 April 2026, with the extra profit made to go towards the Play Area Appeal (Action – RFO).

77. Future Options

RECEIVED the report from Councillor Harwood.

RESOLVED that the recommendations within the report be agreed, and that any associated costs be taken from the Future Development Fund (Action – Clerk).

78. Commercial Working Group

RECEIVED the minutes of the Commercial Working Group for information.

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm.

Chair

Date