FITZ PARK AND HOPE PARK CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the meeting of Charitable Trusts listed below held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Council Offices, 50 Main Street, Keswick on Thursday 8th July 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Chair
Councillor Jean Murray

Councillors

Louise Dunn	Natalie Evans	Chris Houghton
Claire Houghton	Steve Harwood	Denstone Kemp
Benita Lapthorn	Claire Peat	Richard Scott
Lorraine Taylor		

Also present were Vivien Little (Trust Clerk), Catherine Parker (Finance Officer) and Christine Fawcett (Parks Manager).

19. Apologies
No apologies for absence were received for this meeting.

Councillor Evans arrived at 7.03pm

20. Minutes
RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2026 (pages 1-3).

21. Declarations of Interests
No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

22. Trustee Reports and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026
Trustees considered the reports and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026.
RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the September meeting.

23. Chair's Report
The majority of the Chair's Report be dealt with under agenda item 10, however discussion was made of the advertisement of the Parks Manager and how to be move this forward, and how important the role was.
RESOLVED that the Parks Manager role be advertised through the Horticulture Weekly (Action – Clerk).

24. Parks Manager's Report
RECEIVED the report of the Parks Manager. The Parks Manager brought up that the works to Wivell Bridge would likely be more extensive than originally planned, and would require an application for an amendment to the permit which had been issued by Environment Agency, which could take a significant amount of time to receive. Councillor Taylor asked if there were be any grants which could help towards this. The Clerk answered that at the moment it was unknown, but would be worth looking into.

The Clerk also brought up the fact the Bowling Club have still not removed the container as had been requested, and Trustees were asked how they wanted to proceed.

RESOLVED that:

i) The Parks Manager get a quote for the work for to be done on Wivell Bridge, and has delegated authority to proceed with the work, to a limit of £10,000, to be taken from the Future Development fund (Action – Parks Manager); and

ii) The Bowling Club be instructed that they need to remove the container by the end of July, and Trustees be updated on the progress of this (Action – Clerk).

25. MUGA lights

RECEIVED the report of the Parks Manager. Councillor Taylor asked whether it would be possible to obtain spare lighting elements at the same time, in order to store them and have them ready for the next time this happened.

RESOLVED that the Parks Manager proceed with obtaining the flood lights as per the quotations and install before the winter months, with the funding to be taken from the Future Development Fund (Action – Parks Manager and RFO).

26. Requests for use of the Parks

Consideration was given to the requests to use the parks. Concern was raised over the amount of use of the parks, and whether we as a Trust should be encouraging use of the park by commercial events, when as a Town Council we have highlighted the number of events which are using Keswick as a base, and giving very little back to the town as a whole.

RESOLVED that

i) Binfluencers – the date of Friday 17 July be noted as the date of the unveiling of the banner/statues provided by the Binfluencers;

ii) Lost and Found in the Lakes – the arrangement put in place be ratified by Trustees;

iii) Berghaus Shoot –the arrangement put in place be ratified by Trustees;

iv) Forty Farms –the proposal from Theatre by the Lake be agreed, with the exhibition being placed in Hope Park through August to mid-October (Action – Clerk);

v) Request from Cricket Club regarding boarding – that the request to put up boarding between the benches and the cricket field be refused on the grounds of visual impact within the park (Action – Clerk).

vi) GB Ultra –the proposed agreement go ahead, based on the rates in the current fees and charges (£750 + VAT for base rate, plus £1.50 +VAT per competitors over 750 total, with £125 + VAT per set up day), with a £500 bond to be put in place in case of damage to the park. This is subject to careful watching the weather closer to the time, with the final decision lying with the Parks Manager, and the possibility of moving the start to the solid surface of the Crosthwaite Road car park should the weather render the main park unusable (Action – Clerk, RFO, Parks Manager); and

vii) a policy for using the parks for filming be developed, with research being undertaken on what other Councils charge and brought back to the September Trust meeting (Action – Clerk).

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.'

27. Future Use of Fitz Park

RECEIVED the report of Councillor Harwood. Councillors raised concerns on a number of issues which he agreed would go back to Cumberland Council with. It was noted that the event was still at an early stage of planning, and nothing would actually be decided until a later date.

RESOLVED that Councillor Harwood feed back Trustee concerns to Cumberland Council, especially over rubbish and potential damage to Fitz Park, and the route that Park and Ride buses take through the town (Action – Clerk/Councillor Harwood).

Councillor Peat left the meeting at 8.15pm.

28. Fundraising

RECEIVED the reports from the Clerk and Councillor Murray. A good deal of discussion was had over how to move forward with fundraising now that the Fundraiser was no longer working with us. The time was ideal now to approach the fundraising from a corporate perspective, as this has not been completed so far.

RESOLVED that:

i) an advert be placed for a Fundraiser, with the details and job description to be delegated to the Fundraising Group (Action – Clerk/Fundraising Group);

ii) the Clerk to respond to the offer of raising monies for the play area positively, with a requirement that there be a contract signed, and clear boundaries set regarding waste and use of the parks (Action – Clerk);

iii) communication work be undertaken to explain why we need a new play area at this point – the independent RoSPA and Zurich reports of the play area show ongoing concerns over the current structures (Action – Clerk); and

iv) the Fundraising Group to focus on what recognition businesses can get for their investment in the Play Area (Action – Fundraising Group);.

29. Lease Update

RECEIVED the report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

RESOLVED that

i) a date of 1 August 2026 be set for completion of the lease; (Action – Clerk/RFO);

ii) the agreement of the addition of any ancillary structures be delayed until the lease is signed; and

iii) Trustees concerns regarding complaints be put forward to the tenant (Action – Clerk).

30. Car Park contract

RECEIVED the report of the Responsible Financial Officer.

RESOLVED that the contract be renewed for another 3 year period (Action – RFO).

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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Chair

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Date