

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK & TOWNSFIELD CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the meeting of the Charitable Trusts listed below held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 50 Main Street, Keswick on Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Chair
Councillor Jean Murray

Councillors		
Louise Dunn	Emily Hardy	Chris Houghton
Claire Houghton	Steve Harwood	Benita Lapthorn
Claire Peat	Richard Scott	

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

34. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Evans and Taylor.

35. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Trust Meeting held on 9th July 2026 (pages 4-6).

36. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Harwood declared a personal interest in agenda item 14, as he was a race organiser on behalf of Keswick Athletics Club. He would remain in the room and vote on that item.

37. Trustee Reports and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026

The Trust's new accountant, Martin Borradaile was in attendance to answer questions from Trustees on the accounts and annual reports. Thanks were given to Mr Borradaile for his attendance and insightful answers to the questions.

RESOLVED that the Trustee Reports and Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026 for Hope Park and Fitz Park (including Townsfield) be formally approved.

38. Chair's Report

RECEIVED the verbal report of the Chair. The Chair briefly thanked Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association (UK) for their support of the new play area of Fitz Park, to the tune of £12,000. Trustees who attended the dinner also thanked them for their hospitality on the evening.

39. Parks Manager's Report

RECEIVED the report of the Parks Manager for September 2026. The Parks Manager added an update regarding the conversations she had had with Thomas Graham, regarding the foundations of Wivell Bridge. A survey would need to be done to ensure that the correct works were undertaken, which would cost in the region of £2-3,000, which could come from the Future Development Fund.

RESOLVED that

- i) the funding for the battery for the first Dennis mower be taken from the Development and Equipment fund, to the tune of £1,868 (Action – Parks Manager/RFO);
- ii) the Parks Manager to seek advice from Dennis/Lloyds over advice on the use of the batteries, in case there had been any updates since the original purchase four years ago (Action – Parks Manager);
- iii) carry on with the survey on the foundations of Wivell Bridge, with the funding to be taken from the Future Development Fund;

- iv) while the survey was being undertaken of Wivell Bridge, survey the wooden boards beside the Silver Bridge, and bring a further report back to the Trust meeting in November;
- v) seek to obtain a quote from MPM to repaint the Wivell Bridge (Action – Parks Manager); and
- vi) the Clerk to investigate if any funding would be available for any of the above projects, especially in relation to flood prevention (Action – Clerk).

40. Hope Park & Fitz Park Budgets – 1st quarter 2026-27

RECEIVED for information the 1st quarter budget comparisons.

41. Request from Keswick Rotary

RECEIVED a request from Keswick Rotary to upgrade the Tree of Light.

RESOLVED that the request be approved, but concerns over light pollution be raised with Keswick Rotary, and ask them to ensure that appropriate measures were taken (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.’

42. Confidential minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Extraordinary Trust held on Monday 3rd August 2026 (pages 7-8).

43. Clerk’s Report

RECEIVED the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED that

- i) for item 2 of the report, the overspend in professional fees be taken from the Future Development Fund (Action – RFO); and
- ii) for item 3 of the report, the request be denied (Action – Clerk).

44. Fundraising Update

RECEIVED updates from Councillor Dunn on the fundraising for the Play Area. The main point raised was the upcoming interviews for the role of Fundraiser, which would take the following week.

45. Effective Decision Making for the Keswick Parks Charitable Trusts

RECEIVED the report of Councillor Claire Houghton. This generated a good deal of discussion amongst Trustees, who were broadly in favour of it.

RESOLVED that existing Keswick Town Council committee and working group structure be used to make recommendations to Trustees on decisions relating to the Fitz and Hope Park Trusts (Action – Clerk).

46. Written Notice of Special Resolution

RECEIVED a Written Notice of Special Resolution, at the request of Councillor Evans, Dunn and Chris Houghton. “That the hire Charges for the parks be agreed, with the addition of a transit fee for Commercial Users who wish to cross through the parks with no equipment, as a base rate of £850 plus VAT per day, with no fee for extra competitors”.

47. Review of Fees and Charges

RECEIVED the report from Councillor Chris Houghton. Thanks were given to Councillor Houghton for the detailed work which he put into this paper. It was considered to be an excellent starting point for discussion. The feeling was that this would streamline the process, and encourage the commercial

events to ensure that they gave something back to the community, rather than merely take advantage of the honeypot destination which Keswick is.

RESOLVED that this matter be referred back to the Commercial Group to be looked at and brought back to the November Trust meeting, and that Councillor Peat, as the final member of the Visitor Management Working Group also be invited to attend (Action – Clerk).

48. Commercial Group Minutes

RECEIVED for information the minutes of the Commercial Group meetings held on 22 July 2026, 10 August 2026 and 1 September 2026.

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

Chair

Date