

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK & TOWNSFIELD CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the meeting of Fitz Park, Hope Park & Townsfield Charitable Trusts held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Keswick, on Thursday 12th September 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Chairman
Councillor Duncan Miller

Councillors

Alexandra Boardman
Allan Daniels
Sally Lansbury
Allan Todd

David Burn
Alan Dunn
Tony Lywood

Markus Campbell-Savours
Steve Harwood
Paul Titley

Also in attendance were Lynda Walker (Trust Clerk), Christine Fawcett (Parks Manager), Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer), Patricia Howells, Pete Sibley, and David Sawday (Keswick Ministries).

15. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paxon (work).

16. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the annual meeting held on 11th July 2019 (pages 1-3).

17. Declarations of Interests

Declaration of interests were received from:
Councillors Harwood and Titley – item 13 (members of Keswick Athletics Club).

18. New Plan of Fitz Park

The Chair introduced Pete Sibley and Patricia Howell who, working with the Parks Manager, had produced an up to date plan of Upper and Lower Fitz Park mapping the many tree species and facilities in the park. He congratulated them on doing a thorough and professional job and thanked them for all their work and interest in Fitz Park.

19. Trustee Reports and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019

Frances Clark of Keswick Accountants presented the Annual Reports and Accounts for Hope and Fitz Parks for the year ended 31st March 2019. The Responsible Financial Officer presented the Annual Report and Accounts for the Townsfield Charitable Trust. It was recommended that levels of reserves be reviewed and it was agreed to place an item on the agenda for the next Trust meeting together with a discussion on transfers to funds.

RESOLVED that the Trustee Reports and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019 for Hope Park, Fitz Park and the Townsfield be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Lywood joined the meeting.

20. Chairman's Report

RECEIVED an update from the Vice Chair on renewal of leases – report to be submitted to the next meeting.

21. Parks Manager's Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Parks Manager.

RESOLVED that consideration be given at the next meeting to renewal of the Obstacle Golf surface at Hope Park when quotes are available.

22. Proposed Footbridge from Fitz Park

David Sawday of Keswick Ministries presented a proposal to provide a new bridge across the River Greta to connect Fitz Park with the former pencil factory site which would become the new site for the annual Keswick Convention. A riverside walk would also be created within the site which would connect the corner of the park nearest to Crosthwaite Road with High Hill and avoid the need for pedestrians to walk on the road where there is no pavement. Informal views were being sought prior to a planning application being submitted. He confirmed that the footbridge and path would be available for use all year round and Keswick Ministries would take full responsibility for insurance and maintenance.

RESOLVED that the proposal be welcomed and further discussed at the next meeting.

23. Replacement of Boiler at Hope Park

Consideration was given to a report from the Town Council's Climate Change Action Group and the response of the Parks Manager on options for replacement of the boiler at the Hope Park greenhouse.

RESOLVED That Option 3 be pursued and a similar replacement boiler be purchased.

24. Four Key Green Steps

Consideration was given to the report of the Town Council's Climate Change Action Group and the response of the Parks Manager to a proposal to make four commitments in the management of the parks in 2020.

RESOLVED

- i) That peat free composts be used once the existing supply of multipurpose compost has been used up
- ii) That the use of weed suppressant spray containing Glyphosphate be eliminated
- iii) That the possibility of putting beehives in the parks be explored
- iv) That additional tree planting be considered on the area above the Cricket Pavilion ('Archery Field')

25. Waste Reduction Proposal for Keswick Parks

RECEIVED the report of the Town Council's Climate Change Emergency Working Group.

26. Clerk's Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED that permission be renewed for a further year for Keswick Bowling Club members to park at the rear of the staff/tennis/games hut in Upper Fitz Park on the same terms as in previous years i.e. five spaces at the rear of the building for Club use only at set times during the season (mid April to mid September) and with the proviso that Club members closely steward the movement of cars in the area.

27. Budget Comparisons

RECEIVED for information the first quarter's budget comparisons.

28. Requests for use of the Parks

RESOLVED that the request from Keswick Athletics Club for use of Fitz Park for 2 cross country events on Wednesday 2nd October 2019 and Saturday 30th November 2019 be approved.

Prior to the following business the Chairman moved the 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.’

It was agreed to defer item 14 on the agenda for consideration as the last item of business.

29. Contracting

Consideration was given to the report of the Parks Manager.

RESOLVED that the quote from Phil Dodd Heating for a Worcester Greenstar oil fired boiler be accepted.

30. Contracting

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to sign the contract with Cumbria Parking Services for management and enforcement of Crosthwaite Road car park for a period of 3 years from 19th August 2019.

31. Staffing

RECEIVED the report of the Clerk.

32. Legal

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED that the release of land for the purposes outlined in the report be approved in principle subject to meeting all the necessary requirements of the Charity Commission and satisfactory terms being agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Chairman

Date