

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK & TOWNSFIELD CHARITABLE TRUSTS

**Council Offices
50 Main Street
Keswick
CA12 5JS**

Email: townclerk@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk

7th January 2021

A meeting of the Charitable Trusts listed below will be held via the Zoom app on **Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7.30 pm.**

The link for the meeting will be made available on request – please email townclerk@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk



Lynda Walker
Town Clerk

HOPE PARK	Registered Charity	503465
FITZ PARK	Registered Charity	520327
TOWNSFIELD	Registered Charity	520295

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2. Declarations of Interests**
To receive any declarations of interests in respect of items on this agenda.
- 3. Minutes**
To authorise the Chairman to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2020 (page 9-11).
- 4. Chairman's Report**
To receive the Chairman's report.
- 5. Hope Park Café Clock**
To receive an update on options for repair of the clock on the Café Hope building (Councillor Miller to report) and to consider possible funding.
- 6. Parks Manager's Report**
To consider the report of the Parks Manager.
- 7. Clerk's Report**
To consider the report of the 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.'

- 8. Legal – Renewal of Leases**
To consider the report of the Clerk.
- 9. Contracting – Games at Fitz Park 2021**
To consider the report of the Clerk.
- 10. Legal – Hospital Field**
To receive an update from the Clerk.

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK & TOWNSFIELD CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the meeting of Fitz Park, Hope Park & Townsfield Charitable Trusts held using the Zoom app on Thursday 12th November 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Chairman
Councillor Adam Paxon

Councillors

Alexandra Boardman
Allan Daniels
Sally Lansbury
Peter Terry

David Burn
Alan Dunn
Tony Lywood
Paul Titley

Markus Cambell-Savours
Steve Harwood
Duncan Miller

Also in attendance were Lynda Walker (Trust Clerk), Christine Fawcett (Parks Manager), Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer), 1 member of the press and 1 member of the public.

48. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

49. Declarations of Interests

Declarations of interest were received from:

Councillors Harwood and Titley – item 13 – members of Keswick Athletics Club

Councillor Lansbury – item 13 – member of Keswick Tennis Club

50. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2020 (pages 6 - 8).

51. Chairman's Report

The Chair reported that he had been in discussions with the Cricket/Athletics and Bowling Clubs since the last meeting regarding the lease renewals.

52. Sundial Replacement

Consideration was given to a proposal to replace the sundial at Hope Park put forward by a local resident who was present at the meeting. He was thanked for his efforts and his offer to meet or contribute to the costs of the replacement depending on which design was chosen.

RESOLVED that the sundial at Hope Park be replaced by the 'Classic' design supplied by Robert Foster Sundials, to be funded by donation and to carry an inscription of the town motto 'Montes Unde Auxilium Meum'.

53. Tree Carving

An offer from a local resident to fund a tree carving at Upper Fitz Park was considered together with options for a possible design.

RESOLVED that the offer to fund the carving be gratefully accepted and the resident be thanked for his generosity, and that the owl design be approved.

54. Parks Manager's Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Parks Manager.

RESOLVED:

- i) that the proposed work to the 'Cornus Contraversa' tree at Hope Park be approved

- ii) that the quote from F. Younghusband and Sons in the sum of £8,330 plus VAT be accepted for repairs to the potting shed roof at Hope Park, with £8,000 to be funded from the Development and Equipment fund and the rest from the budget for repairs to buildings
- iii) that the cost of repairs to the toilet in the staff building at Fitz Park (£542.24) be met from the contingency budget

55. Clerk's Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk.

Note: Councillor Campbell-Savours declared an interest in this item as a member of Allerdale Borough Council.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Townsfield Trust be merged with Fitz Park Trust
- ii) That further discussions take place with Allerdale Borough Council regarding possible alternatives to the proposed grant agreement for Fitz Park, and that information be obtained regarding funding of parks elsewhere in the Allerdale area, with a further report to the January Trust meeting
- iii) That Hope and Fitz Park charities be put forward as 'good causes' for funding from the proposed new Allerdale Lottery.

56. Draft Budgets for Hope and Fitz Parks 2021-22

The draft budgets for Hope and Fitz Parks for the next financial year were considered.

RESOLVED that the draft budgets be approved with the following amendments:

- i) Management costs to be divided equally between Hope and Fitz Parks
- ii) The relevant CPI increase to be applied to the Hope Park Games fee for 2021-22 as per the Licence agreement
- iii) The contribution of £10,000 to the Fitz Park Sinking fund be omitted
- iv) £1,000 be allocated to the Hope Park Building Fund

57. Hope Park & Fitz Park Budgets – 2nd quarter 2020-21

RECEIVED for information the 2nd quarter budget comparisons.

58. Requests for use of the Parks

- i) Theatre by the Lake – story walks and Christmas trail in Hope Park - 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.'

59. Contracting – Vehicle replacement

Consideration was given to the report of the Parks Manager.

RESOLVED that the replacement of the ATV be deferred pending investigations into alternative sustainable options by a working group comprising the Parks Manager with Councillors Lansbury, Lywood, Terry and Titley.

60. Lease Renewals

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

- i) that the Heads of Terms for the new leases provide for a five year rent review and that minor structural remedial works be carried out at the Bowling Bower before the new terms come into effect (amount of expenditure to be agreed at the next Trust meeting)

- ii) that the terms of the proposed Licence for the Tennis Club be amended to provide for a fixed fee (to be negotiated with the club annually) rather than a percentage of maintenance costs.

61. Legal – Land at Hospital Field
RECEIVED an update from the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Chairman

Date

Parks Manager's Report January 2021

Christine Fawcett

Lots of wet days over two months have meant that progress in the Parks has been difficult at times to get tasks completed. Thanks must go to the parks' staff for their hard work and to the three ladies within the office of Keswick town council for their hard work too.

Hope Park

All of the herbaceous borders have been cut back and will be mulched in the new year. We are in the process of resetting the edging stones on the main footpath next to Crow Park. These edging stones



have in some places sunk or been damaged by delivery wagons in the past and we intend to reuse the existing stones and level them all back into place. I am led to believe these stones came from Lower Castle many years ago. All the hedges have now been cut back and the annual tree inspection will be carried out in the near future.

The potting shed roof is in the process of being replaced, however inclement weather has held up the planned work.

Three new memorial benches have been fitted within Lady Hope's Garden and the remaining wooden memorial benches are being brought in, sanded down and repainted. The existing recycled plastic memorial benches are being pressure washed and cleaned free of moss and tree sap/residue. A memorial tree "*Prunus yedoensis*" has been planted on the fairway in the existing group of trees.

The stream through Lady Hope's Garden has been cleaned out by hand, removing some of the overgrown bullrushes and irises. This is to allow water to flow through when the water table is high. All plant material has been left at the side of the water for a number of days to allow wildlife to return to the stream.

The bridge over the stream in Lady Hope's Garden is going to need replacing in the near future and options are being looked at.



Townsfeld

Unfortunately, the wall near the main gate of Townsfeld has been damaged again and a quote has been sourced to repair the damage. At this point in time, we do not know who did the damage to the wall.



The quote for the repairs is £500.00 plus vat including all plant and materials.

Lower Fitz Park

The playground perimeter fence has had several fence posts replaced and repaired and a top- up of play bark will be carried out in the January. The centre raised bed has been refurbished and reduced in size



to allow space for a disabled access ramp to be installed. The existing wooden sleepers had been in place since the play area was built in 2010 and have been replaced with new sleepers.



The picnic seating area outside the play area has been refurbished. The grey dust surface has been removed and replaced with paving slabs to create a more hard-wearing surface. The picnic table will be brought in in the near future and a replacement table top fitted.



A large hungup branch has been removed from a dead tree on the boundary of the railway line embankment. This hungup branch had the potential to fall onto the Brundholme footpath within the park. The branch is now safely at ground level on the embankment.



The Community Sports Area fence had become loose in places due to wear and tear. Several perimeter fence posts have been re-enforced and concreted back in place to strengthen the fence. The remaining posts will be monitored and strengthened when required.



A basketball backing board was broken over the weekend of 12th December and has been replaced with a new board.

Upper Fitz Park

Parks staff have completed pruning back shrubs within Fitz Park and have reduced another shrub bed to encourage regeneration.



Mulching of the shrub borders is now being carried out and new spring flowering bulbs have already begun to show themselves through the surface, including daffodils and snowdrops.

Leaves have been removed from the fine turfed areas to allow grass growth from the few daylight hours we have at this time of year. With the high amounts of rainfall in October and November we have seen a lot of moss growth in the grass sward. This moss growth will be reduced in the spring with an application of lawn sand.

An application of Mossoff will be applied to the tarmac footpaths when weather conditions allow. This is a natural non chemical treatment that is safe to use near people, animals, plants and water. It dries to form an invisible biodegradable micro-coating that stops moss growth.

Two replacement trees have been planted and include the replacement tree for the Scouts. The Scouts original tree was located at the top of the park behind the tennis courts and was badly damaged. The new tree "*Juglans nigra*" has been planted in a shrub bed with plenty of space to grow and the original plaque will be reinstated in due course.

Staff Development

A member of the parks staff has successfully completed his PA1 and PA2 training and has now gained his certificate of competence in chemical application.

Retirement

It is with great regret that we will be saying a fond farewell to our current Town and Trust Clerk, Lynda Walker. In the last four years I have been here you have been a fantastic help to all the staff and together we have transformed the parks back to the glory they were before storm Desmond. You will be greatly missed by all of us, as your dedication to your job and your staff has been the best. We wish you a very happy retirement and will look forward to still seeing you and Ian in the parks on leisurely walks.



KESWICK PARKS CHARITABLE TRUSTS MEETING
14TH JANUARY 2021

CLERK'S REPORT

Grant to Fitz Park from Allerdale BC

At the last meeting it was agreed that further discussions should take place with Allerdale BC regarding possible alternatives to the proposed grant agreement for Fitz Park, and that information be obtained regarding funding of other town parks in the Allerdale area. The Allerdale officer dealing with the matter has said that she will raise the issue again, but she does not think anything will have changed in terms of the reasoning for having a grant agreement that is reviewed regularly.

The issue would appear to be that although we received a letter from the then Chief Executive (see attached) stating that the Borough Council would continue to fund the maintenance of Fitz Park 'and it is proposed that this funding continues in perpetuity', there is no signed document on record confirming this.

In terms of support for other parks in towns in the Allerdale area, ABC owns and maintains Curwen Park in Workington at their own cost and also Harris Park in Cockermouth.

Trustees are asked if they wish to authorise signature of the proposed annual grant agreement presented at the last meeting.

Clock at Café Hope

Following a report in the Keswick Reminder a couple of expressions of interest have come in regarding the repair of the clock on the Café Hope building (see item 5 on the agenda). For information, the turret and clock were installed in 2012 and following an inspection by a local specialist clock company, it appears that no replacement parts for the system are available. A new clock system would cost in the region of £1,160 plus VAT and if restoration of the dial were carried out at the same time, this would cost an additional £430 plus VAT.

Cornus Contraversa Tree at Hope Park

Again, following discussion at the last Trust meeting and a report in the Keswick Reminder, an offer has been received from a local landscaping company to donate a new like-for-like 'Wedding Cake tree' at Hope Park should the remedial work carried out by the Parks Manager fail to revive it.

Allerdale and Lakeland Lottery

Following the last meeting I registered Fitz Park as a 'good cause' with the Allerdale and Lakeland Lottery. Our first supporter has now purchased a ticket (not me!) and hopefully more will follow. The money raised (50p for each ticket sold) is paid directly into the Fitz Park Trust account by the lottery operator.

LW
060121

Our Ref: IF/JW

Your Ref:

This matter is being dealt with by:

Mr I Frost, Chief Executive

Direct Line: 01900 702975



17 July 2013

Lynda Walker
Clerk to Keswick Town Council
Council Offices
50 Main Street
Keswick
CA12 5JS



Dear Lynda

Grant allocation 2013/14 onwards

Following our letter to you on the 10 January 2013 I can confirm that on the 6 March 2013 Council approved a 50% reduction in concurrent grants for 2013/14.

It was originally intended that a phased removal of concurrent grants be implemented with the remaining grant removed in 2014/15. The Portfolio Holder for Finance has agreed a further review on the impact this will have on Parish Councils for 2014/15.

Your input to this review would be welcomed and if you have any particular concerns about the impact on your Council please let us know before a final decision is made. We ask that you forward your concerns in writing to the Head of Financial Services by the end of the consultation period. The period of consultation will end on Friday 20 September 2013.

Allerdale Borough Council will continue to fund the maintenance of Fitz Park Keswick. A grant of £20,739 has been approved for this purpose for 2013/14 and it is proposed that this funding continues in perpetuity.

You will be contacted separately with full details in due course following the close of the consultation period.

Yours sincerely

**Ian Frost
Chief Executive**



**Allerdale - a great
place to live,
work and visit**

**Allerdale Borough Council
Allerdale House
Workington
Cumbria CA14 3YJ
Tel: 01900 702702
Fax: 01900 702507**