

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK & TOWNSFIELD CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the Meeting of Fitz Park, Hope Park & Townsfield Charitable Trusts held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Council Offices, 50 Main Street, Keswick Thursday 13th July 2023 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Chair
Councillor Jean Murray

Councillors		
Louise Dunn	Steve Harwood	Chris Houghton
Claire Houghton	Denstone Kemp	Benita Laphorn
Tim Parsons	Lorraine Taylor	

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

15. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lansbury and Paxon.

16. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2023 (pages 1-3).

17. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

18. Trustee Reports and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

Trustees considered the reports and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023. Trustees asked Frances Clark, from Keswick Accountants a number of questions regarding the accounts. Discussion was also had over whether to merge Hope Park Trust and Fitz Park Trust into one charity, but ultimately was dismissed.

RESOLVED that the Trustee Reports and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 for Hope Park, Fitz Park and the Townsfield be formally approved.

19. Chairman's Report

Councillor Murray gave a brief update to Trustees, though most of what she would say was covered within the Parks Manager's report.

RECEIVED the Chairman's Report.

20. Parks Manager's Report

Trustees considered the report from the Parks Manager.

RECEIVED the report of the Parks Manager for July 2023.

Councillor Claire Houghton arrived at 8.00pm

21. Clerk's Report

Trustees received the report from the Trust Clerk. Trustees discussed the provision of shelter by the play area in the park, agreeing that while it was not suitable for this year, the Parks Manager would look at options for building an area which could be added into the budgets for next financial year. An approach to Travis Perkins could also be made to find out if they were interested in sponsoring materials.

RESOLVED that:

- i) vandalism in Fitz Park to be monitored (Action – Parks Manager);

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- ii) a shelter not be provided by the Fitz Park Play area this year, however Parks Staff will look at the possibility during the next financial year (Action – Parks Manager); and
- iii) the Cricket Club be given permission for their picnic benches to be placed in the park on condition that a) dates will be provided, by the Trust, when the grass cutting in Fitz Park will take place and if the benches are not moved prior to the contractors arriving on site then the Cricket Club be responsible for grass cutting in that area; b) a request be made that the benches match the recycled furniture in Fitz Park; c) confirmation must be provided that the benches are covered on the Cricket Clubs insurance and d) the Trust would not be liable for any claims arising (Action – Clerk).

22. Townsfield merger with Fitz Park

Consideration was given to the report from the Financial Officer.

RESOLVED that the merger of Townsfield into Fitz Park Trust go ahead and that the bank/investment accounts be closed (Action – Financial Officer).

Further **RESOLVED** that the Clerk ascertain if Townsfield is registered with Land Registry and the status e.g. Charitable Trust or Village Green (Action – Clerk)

23. Requests for use of Keswick Parks

Consideration was given to the report from the Trust Clerk.

RESOLVED that:

- i) RSPB be allowed to have a stand in Hope Park and that a donation be requested if possible (Action – Clerk);
- ii) the request for trishaws to go through the staff working area in Hope Park be refused (Action – Clerk); and
- iii) Ragged Edge Productions be allowed to use Fitz Park for their audio adventure (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.'

24. Legal – Hospital Field

Trustees received an update from Councillor Harwood.

RECEIVED the update from Councillor Harwood.

25. Developments at Fitz Park

Consideration was given to a report from Councillor Harwood.

RESOLVED that:

- i) the recommendations contained within the report be approved, and if necessary, an extraordinary meeting be called (Action – Working Group and Clerk); and
- ii) it was recommended that the Trustees sit down and start work on preparing a short, medium and long term plan for the parks, in order to appropriate budget for any future works. Further **RESOLVED** that a flood resilience plan be worked on, in order to consider a cap on the amount held in the Sinking Fund, so that anything over and above this amount could be further used on assets. (Action – Clerk).

26. Café HNW

Consideration was given to a report from the Trust Clerk.

RESOLVED that the request be agreed in principal, with conditions as discussed i.e. a break clause and rent review (Action – Clerk).

27. Deed of Easement

Consideration was given to a report from the Trust Clerk.

RESOLVED that Trustees awaited any update to the Clerk or Financial Officer.

28. Parks Report

Consideration was given to a report from the Parks Manager. Discussion was had over the benefits of electric vehicles over more traditionally fossil fuelled vehicles.

RESOLVED that:

- i) the Parks Manager go ahead with replacing the existing petrol utility vehicle with a diesel utility vehicle, as it was felt that an electric vehicle was not fully suitable for the use at this time, to be taken from the Development and Equipment fund (Action – Parks Manager);
- ii) that the Parks Manager replace a petrol Dennis mower with an electric Dennis Mower for use in Hope Park, with the funds to be taken from Max donations (Action – Parks Manager).

29. Clerk's Report

Consideration was given to a report from the Clerk.

RESOLVED that an overspend in the staffing budget be agreed, in order to be able to recruit during this financial year (Action – Parks Manager).

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

J. Murray

Chair

28/9/23

Date