

FITZ PARK, HOPE PARK & TOWNSFIELD CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Minutes of the meeting of the Charitable Trusts held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 50 Main Street, Keswick on Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Chair
Councillor Jean Murray

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

41. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dunn, Lansbury, Nelson and Paxon.

42. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 (pages 7-9).

43. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

44. Chair's Report

The Chair updated Trustees on the staff ideas day, stating that she was impressed with the high quality of suggestions given. She intended to dedicate the Trust meeting on the 11th January solely to producing ideas for development of the park.

The Clerk added an item requesting that Cumberland Council be given permission to work on the drains within the boundaries of Fitz Park, which was agreed. The Clerk updated Trustees on Cricket Club County match dates recently received.

RESOLVED that:

- i) the Trustee meeting on 11 January 2024 be dedicated to the Parks development, and
- ii) permission be given to Cumberland Council to work in the parks (Action – Clerk).

45. Parks Manager's Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Parks Manager.

RESOLVED that the fantastic work that the Parks staff had undertaken in the parks be publicly acknowledged, and that they deserved the accolades for Cumbria in Bloom as much as the cafes. The Parks Manager will look into making the certificates more visible with both parks.

46. Correspondence

To consider the Hope Park Trust response to correspondence received, with supporting report provided by the Financial Officer. The Chair reported that she had been to investigate the area, and the balconies that have had balls aimed at them are where a large ash tree canopy and branches have previously been removed by Castles and Coasts on their land due to ash dieback, leaving an obvious gap.

RESOLVED that

- i) the old gate which leads to Greta Gardens be removed, and it be replaced with fencing (Action – Clerk); and
- ii) the Clerk write a letter to Castles and Coasts Housing Association, explaining our position, and recommend that they plant fast growing trees such as silver birches to fill the gap made when work took place on the ash tree. (Action – Clerk).

47. Draft Budgets for Hope and Fitz Parks 2024-25

Trustees considered the draft budgets for 2024/25, and thanked the Financial Officer and Parks Manager for their hard work and thorough explanations.

RESOLVED that:

- i) With the addition of an extra £10,000 to be put into the Sinking Fund contribution (increased to £22,500), that the budgets be agreed for 2024/25 (Action – Financial Officer); and
- ii) For future budget setting, the medium and long term strategies (to be developed) for the Parks be taken into consideration (Action – Clerk, Financial Officer and Parks Manager).

48. Hope Park & Fitz Park Budgets – 2nd quarter 2023-24

RECEIVED for information the 2nd quarter budget comparisons.

49. Flood Strategy

Trustees considered a report from the Trust Clerk.

RESOLVED that the Sinking Fund be capped at a maximum of £100,000 with any remaining funds being moved to the designated Future Development Fund and invested as previously agreed (Action – Financial Officer).

50. Fitz Park Development

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk and verbal update from Councillor Harwood. Councillor Harwood hoped that in three weeks time the Trust would be in a position to see estimated costs related to this project. The next two proposed stages of the project were:

- Completion of drawings/specifications for submission of Building Regulation application to Cumberland Council for the next staff/equipment store building, the work on which is well advanced, and;
- Obtain cost from preferred builder, which is in progress pending final details in item 1.

It was confirmed that this work can take place under permitted development rights by LDNPA.

The future plans for renovations to the Kiosk to retrofit it will need planning permission, but that will be progressed with the aim of doing the work next winter.

RESOLVED that:-

- i) an extraordinary meeting take place when the costs are obtained; and
- ii) the parking permit as supplied be approved, for the specified parking area in Lower Fitz Park.

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.'

51. Crosthwaite Road Car Park

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED that the Trustees are happy to go ahead with the enforcement charges as set out in the report, with no charge for disabled parking (Action – Clerk).

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.


Chair

11 January 2024.
Date