

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 11 January 2024 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Chair
Councillor Chris Houghton

Councillors		
Louise Dunn	Steve Harwood	Claire Houghton
Denstone Kemp	Sally Lansbury	Benita Laphorn
Rob Nelson	Adam Paxon	Lorraine Taylor

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

52. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Murray.

53. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Lansbury declared a personal interest with regard to any discussion on the Tennis Courts, as she was a member of the committee for Keswick and Braithwaite Lawn Tennis Club. She would remain in the room and discuss any items.

54. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2023 (pages 10-11).

55. Future ideas for the Parks

The Chair led a discussion about the list of staff ideas which were produced, and to be discussed. He confirmed that the staff had given the ideas a good deal of thought.

Councillor Paxon arrived at 7.07pm

Many of the topics discussed originated from the staff's list.

Fitz Park

- Tennis courts – the tennis club pay a licence of approx. £1400 p.a. to use the course after 6pm on Monday-Friday, and after 2pm Saturday and Sunday. There was increased demand on the use of the courts. A discussion could be had with Café HNW with regard to use of the courts. A suggestion was made that there could be free access for residents of Keswick. It was noted that the café closed at 7pm, and that there was time afterwards when the tennis courts could be used. Perhaps a booking system could be looked at, with also looking at Penrith Tennis Courts and whether a charity such as the Hadfield Trust could help with this. A suggestion for a local discount card, where you could buy ten games in advance.
- Discussion was had over merchandise. It was agreed that it would be difficult, as you would be competing with established markets in Keswick and the profit margin, if any, would be small. However, looking at one or two items like reusable coffee cups or tumblers could be an option, to help promote sustainability. Another item to look at was a water fountain.
- Goal posts could be put close to the MUGA, to allow people to play 5 a side. It was also suggested that a noticeboard could be put into Fitz Park, giving members of the public a place to see what matches and events were coming up in Fitz Park.
- A suggestion was made about putting a coat of arms on the iron railings in Fitz Park once they have been painted, which would need costing out.

- A suggestion was made regarding treetop nets, and whether they could be used where trees are clumped together.
- One of the Trustees brought up lighting, and whether lighting could be put into Fitz Park. This had been looked at previously, but dismissed for costing too much, and in a high flood risk area.
- The play area was discussed a great deal, and future plans which could be made for the upgrading. There was disagreement over the best surface for the toddler area. It was suggested that signage could be designed to help 'nudge' visitors to the play area donate to its upkeep.
- A suggestion was made regarding putting a splash park on Hospital Field, however it was felt that it would overburden the residents in Keswick in paying for something which would be taken advantage of by visitors.
- Elizabeths Wood could be declared a nature reserve, complete with signage and partnership funding. A circle of silver birches had been deliberately created which could be used as an outdoor forest classroom. A management plan was being developed, which would be brought to March's trust meeting.

Hope Park

- Discussion was had about the blank wall at the back of the staff building – could we link in with a local school to design something for the space?
- Efficient water provision was brought up. The Parks Manager would like to build some kind of storage solution to gather Cumbrian water in order to make use of it on the golf course.
- It was suggested that renewable energy could be looked at, with solar panels and a windmill being the main sources.
- Discussion was had over whether weddings could be held in the parks, however it was felt that it was not a viable idea, due to the regulations involved, as well as having weddings in tourist parks (not to mention the weather in Cumbria).
- A suggestion which was made was to look at specific lotteries/raffles to work with the parks, which could raise consistent money. Also suggested was how we can work to get legacies from wills – something to bring back to a future Trust meeting.

Townsfild

- An event could be put on in Townsfild for the locals, as well as possibly some goal posts, and some benches.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.

Chair

Date