



Friends of Chances Park Meeting v3

Thursday 10th April 2025 at 6.30pm-8.00pm

St Lukes Church Morton Carlisle

Minutes

Present

Ray McCreadie	Chair
Val Nixon	Secretary
Kim Fitzmaurice	Council Green Spaces
PCSO Ryley McDowall	Cumbria Police
Iris Rogan	
Peter Brown	
Margaret Brown	
Catherine McCreadie	
Adele Carter	Morton Manor
Garry English	Morton Manor

Apologies

Christine Connelly	
Emma Richardson	Treasurer

Agenda Item 1: Welcome

Ray welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies noted.

Agenda Item 2: Apologies & Introductions

Apologies noted. New attendees introduced themselves.

Agenda item 3: Minutes from previous meeting 30.01.25

Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as an accurate reflection of the discussions.

AGM Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as an accurate reflection of the discussions.

Agenda Item 4: Action log

Matters arising from Previous Meeting

Tree Survey

A tree survey will be completed in May 2025

Action 1 – Kim, present results of survey at next meeting.

Notice-board

The notice-board is currently in the workshops being repaired. The Perspex is to be replaced.

Action 2 – Kim, when work is completed place notice-board back in the Georgian Gardens.

Bird Boxes –

Iris contacted RSPB – who put the word out & together with Richard guidance who joined Harmony and Andy to show them where the boxes are the report was mixed as one box was already in use 5 other cleaned and ready for use this year, two damaged or replaced – Andy offered to replace any boxes should they need it, suggested we get a couple of boxes to have in reserve. Thanks to the RSPB team.

Agenda item 5 – Reports/Correspondence

Secretary - Copies of minutes sent to all members on the email contact list. Each person was asked if they wished to continue receiving the minutes and the current list has been updated to show the positive responses. All negative responses will result in the details being deleted as per GDPR Regulations.

Action 3 – Val, to send copy of original to Iris and Adele for validation purposes

Treasurer – Emma was not present at the meeting. She has since provided a hard copy of the accounts. Current bank account is £31,339.04 as at 18.04.25. Ring fenced funds for the Labyrinth are currently £30,000. The bank account has been changed, and a request has been made by Emma for others to be added to the account as signatories.

ACTION 4 – Emma, to contact both Val and Ray in order to be added to the bank account.

Agenda item 6 – Fundraising

Labyrinth – Iris advised that she had not received any responses to the letters she has sent out or from the newspaper plea. Iris has received a donation of £10 from a park user during a walk around the park. The deadline to raise the funding is to be at the end of September 2025.

Funding already promised from Awards for all £20,000, Riverside promised £9,999, Partnership West promised £3,000 and our own fundraising £3,000 = £35,999

ACTION 5 - The fund is currently around £15k short so Iris will follow up with various funding options. Catherine will go through the funding list with Iris and develop a plan.

Plug planting and Christmas concerts

ACTION 6 – Iris, more fundraising needs to be considered to fund these events

Agenda item 7 – Park Maintenance

Drainage

There is a drainage issue behind the play area and the council are going to repair a collapsed drain.

Goal Posts

The fixings are to be changed to prevent the goal posts being pushed over.

Path-edging still needs addressing, there has been a problem with Probation People insurance which now is sorted. They managed to do some weeding under the benches, but they are now in high demand on other parks so not sure when they will get back to Chances Park.

Elder trees growing in the redwoods Iris to send picture to Kim as she thought this job had been completed.

Tree Planting

A Silver Birch, kindly donated by Capsticks Nursery, is to be planted in memory of John Bell (Councillor). This will be done by Morton Manor staff and a plaque can be added later. It may be possible to review the tree planting for winter later in the year.

Paths

The path where the Park Runners meet will be topped up with stone. Thank you to Garry for moving the cones so the Park Runners do not run over the plants as previously the Crocus have been trampled on.

Plug planting

Iris and Kim to arrange plug planting in May. The plants are to be purchased by the Friends group via Cumberland Council and planted under supervision by local schoolchildren.

ACTION 7 – Kim and Iris to confirm costs & arrange planting days.

Agenda item 8 – Police update

PCSO Ryley McDowall introduced himself as the new PCSO to replace Jo Garrard who is moving on to pasture new. He was keen to hear from the meeting of issues that need to be addressed around the Manor & Chances Park.

Drones are still being used to look for people on electric bikes who use the area as a rat run. The Police need to know where these riders live so if you have any information please report to 101.

Anti-social Behaviour – Reported at the meeting

There are smashed bottles and drug paraphernalia around the Manor. Some drugs have been found by dogs and have made them ill.

Report any anti-social behaviour to 101 by telephone or email 101Emails@cumbria.police.uk

Agenda item 9 – Events

Cumbria in Bloom – Morton Manor have applied for entry to the competition.

Morton Manor is holding a Health & Wellbeing Day on July 12th, 2025, and offered the Friends group a free table from 10am until 4pm. Ray & Catherine, Peter & Margaret have volunteered. It is to check on her availability and confirm. More volunteers are being sought. A Raffle may be possible but there will be no prizes of alcohol.

FOCP Communications – How do we better communicate with each other and non-committee members regarding these events?

ACTION 8 – Ray, to speak with Adele regarding these events and methods of communication.

Agenda item 10 – Matters Arising

Manor cafe

Adele advised that it is not financially viable to provide refreshments outside to dog walkers and others. The cafe is busy during the opening hours and staff do not have time to serve outside. Maybe offering a franchise the opportunity to provide hot drinks would be beneficial for this.

ACTION 9 – Ray to formally request to use the cafe with dogs.

Sustainability Policy & Constitution

The policies are to be looked at by Ray and Catherine.

Fly-Tipping

All reports of fly-tipping are to be made to the council and not the police.

Other items of concern

There is no litter bin at the rear of the Manor, so it needs to be reassessed. The Chances park white sign needs to be cleaned.

ACTION 10 - Adele is to request that the Council clean the sign. Photos are to be taken weekly of the litter at rear of Manor and passed to Kim.

Agenda item 11 – Any other business

ST Lukes Church is disposing of their old benches and will donate any money raised to the Friends group. Adele is willing help with the sale.

Action 11 – Adele to place advert on Facebook Marketplace.

Agenda item 12 – Date of next meeting - Thursday 10th July 2025 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.