



**Friends of Chances Park Meeting
Thursday 10th July 2025 at 6.30pm-8.30pm
St Lukes Church Morton Carlisle**

Minutes - FINAL

Present

Ray McCreadie	Chair
Val Nixon	Secretary
Peter Brown	
Margaret Brown	
Adele Carter	Morton Manor
Catherine McCreadie	

Apologies

Iris Rogan	
Christine Connelly	
Kim Fitzmaurice	Council Green Spaces Team
Garry English	Morton Manor

Agenda Item 1: Welcome

Ray welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda item 2

Apologies noted.

Agenda item 3: Minutes from previous meeting 10.04.2025

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

Agenda Item 4: Chairs Announcement

- Resignation of Treasurer - The group would like to formally acknowledge the resignation of Emma Richardson from her role as Treasurer. We extend our thanks for her time in office both as chair and treasurer.

Action 12 – Role of treasurer to be advertised – **Ray**.

- Committee members are encouraged to approach potential candidates who may be interested in taking on the role, and to submit their names for consideration at the next meeting. Please ensure that consent has been obtained from anyone being nominated. In the meantime, Ray will continue to serve as Acting Treasurer

Agenda item 5 – Action Log – Matters arising from last meeting

Action 1 - Tree Survey completed – **copy attached. Complete**

Action 2 – Notice board is now fixed and back in Georgian Gardens. **Complete.**

Action 3 – Copy of email list sent to Iris and Ray for validation. **Complete.**

Action 4 – Ray and Val are now both on the Lloyds Bank account. **Complete.**

Action 5 - The Labyrinth 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 – **see agenda item 8**

Action 6 – More fundraising ideas are to be considered to raise funds for plug planting and Christmas Concert. Raffle prizes have been donated that can be used at the concert – **see agenda item 8.**

Action 7 – Plug planting days have taken place in May & June with the help of local schoolchildren. The cost for the plants was £320.00 (excluding VAT) and payment was made on 2nd June 2025. **Complete.**

Action 7A – Silver Birch tree was planted during the Cumbria in Bloom visit. A plaque is not being sought as it is no longer allowed – **Complete**.

Action 8 – Ray to discuss future events with Adele to ensure better communications. **Complete**.

Action 9 – Ray requested the café to be open to owners with dogs but there are no plans to change as no finance available. The lease is up for renewal from August 2026. Carryout is available from the café, need a sign for takeaway. The Friends of Chances Park may be able to assist with funding. **Complete as at the present time**.

Action 10 – The white Chances Park sign has not been cleaned so Adele will follow up with the council - **Adele**.

Action 11 – No response from advert so Adele will try once more to sell the pews - **Adele**.

Agenda Item 6 – Secretary Report

- Val read out the letters received from Eden Manor Care Home, Newlathes and St Bede's schools expressing their opinions of the park. These letters are being used as part of the fund-raising activity. **Copies attached**.

Agenda Item 7 – Treasurers Report

- Ray reported that both he and Val now have access to the bank account in the absence of a Treasurer.
- Bank balance is £30,962.16 of which £26,200 is ring fenced for the Labyrinth project. Free funds £4,762.16
The latest bank statement as of 1st July 2025 – **Copy attached**

Action 13 – The 2024 Accounts still need to be prepared and signed off. **Ray & Val to seek resolution**.

Agenda item 8 – Projects which Require Funding

Project 1 - Labyrinth:

- Catherine presented a funding summary sheet for the Labyrinth project, shortfall against firm commitments £15,081. **Copy attached**
- The Council has agreed to pay the contractor for the work, and FoCP will reimburse the Council for the net amount excluding VAT, resulting in a cost-saving.
- Iris and Catherine have been busy trying to raise more funds for the Labyrinth and have contacted Cumbria Community Foundation for a £10k grant, Cumbria Waste Management for £15k grant and Fred Story has agreed to do something to help. Carlisle South Link road has turned us down. The lottery grant has to be used by May 2026.

Action 14 - Contact Judith Smailes at CVS for advice re approach to Martin Tinkler at Stobart's. **Catherine**

Other projects:

Project 2 - Chainsaw sculpture on standing tree stem:

- Looking to get a quote for doing a chainsaw sculpture on the standing tree stem and will report this figure to FoCP to see if something you are interested in doing.

Action 15 - Cumberland Council to source a quote for the chainsaw sculpture project. **Kim**

Agenda item 9 – Park Maintenance

An email update was received by the group from Kim updating the meeting on the Park Maintenance.

- Trees - No major H&S tree issues found so no work planned this winter currently. Ash tree with ash die-back on site - monitoring.
- Play area - aerial runway down seat off, due to frayed wire - new one on order, kids have been digging holes for informal bike jumps - getting dealt with as & when seen.
- Plug planting - happened on meadow, but due to dry time of year, poor survival rate. If done again, need to consider weather conditions more, schools need to be flexible on dates
- Goal post – the fixings were changed - to stop it being pushed over
- Path edging - No capacity from Grounds until winter for this job.
- Path entrance/around manor- still needs topping up with stone.

Action 16 – Cumberland Council, path entrance topped up with stones, replace seat on aerial runway and check holes dug by bikers. Further discussion needed regarding tree sculptures. **Kim**

Agenda item 10 – Police update

- The police have served 7 'It's your choice' forms as stage 1 of reprimanding. There has been a report of catapult shooting at nesting birds. Drug paraphernalia has receded slightly.
- There is a Police desk at Morton Manor once a month.
- Tree vandalism – It is difficult to find the culprits without the help of the public.
- Off road bikes/scooters – the riders need permission to use the land therefore it is illegal to use on public paths. The Police are not allowed to chase as there is a risk of accidents.

Action 17 - Ryley is going to update the group when funding becomes available from the PCC fund.

Action 18 - The drone is to be flown around Chances Park and film where Off road bikes/scooters go. **Ryley**

Agenda item 11 – Events

- Monday 7th July 2025 - Cumbria in Bloom(CinB) Event. Three judges attended from CinB, event well attended by FoCP committee members – see post on Facebook. The Cumberland Council grounds team have been working on the site ahead of the event. Big thank you to all concerned.
- Saturday 12th July 2025 - Health & Well-being Day and Morton Manor have provided a table free of charge for the FoCP to highlight what we do and encourage more people to join. Adele raised an issue regarding proposed FoCP raffle.

Action 19 – **Adele** to clarify the rules of engagement regarding the raffle and inform Ray on Friday 11th July.

- Thursday 31st July 2025 - Operation Respect is taking place
- Tuesday 9th December 2025 – provisionally booked for Christmas Carols at Morton Manor.

Action 20 – Ray to discuss with Iris to confirm that the proposed date suits all regularly attending groups and will then inform Adele whether the Morton Manor hall is needed. **Ray**

Agenda Item 12 – Payment of Account

- Hire of St Lukes Hall is £40.00, and an invoice has been requested for the payment made on 22nd April 2025.

Action 21 - Peter to contact Dorothy to check if payment made and request a copy of the invoice. **Peter**

Action 22 – Going forward all requests for payments to be brought to these meetings together with an invoice. If a speedy payment is required, please contact the treasurer again with an invoice.

Agenda Item 13 – Matters Arising

- Social Media – The group needs a Social Media person to help with Facebook, Website etc.

Action 23 – We need to recruit and social media “specialist” to assist. Please can all seek nominations. **All**

Action 24 – Ray & Catherine to discuss with Iris which social media platforms are used by FoCP & access protocols.

Agenda Item 14 – Any other Business

- Safeguarding Policy v2 - Catherine presented an updated copy of the policy following discussions with CVS. Proposed by Peter and seconded by Val, signed by Ray – **Copy attached.**

Action 25 – Catherine to review other FoCP policies for correctness and confirm if any further updates are required.

- Ray thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The next meeting is planned for Thursday 9th October 2025 at 6.30pm at St Lukes Church. Meeting closed at 8.30pm



Issue date: 1 July 2025

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001429 PDOEA02-20250702-04877-001613
 FRIENDS OF CHANCES PARK
 10 MATTY LONNING
 THURSBY
 CARLISLE
 CUMBRIA
 CA5 6PQ



31800 C

2025

TREASURERS ACCOUNT

FRIENDS OF CHANCES PARK

Our records indicate that your business is eligible for FSCS deposit protection. Further details can be found on the Useful Information page.

Account summary

Balance On 30 May 2025	£31,300.08
Total Paid In	£0.00
Total Paid Out	£337.92
Balance On 01 Jul 2025	£30,962.16

Account activity

Date	Payment Type	Details	Paid In (£)	Paid Out (£)	Balance (£)
30 May 25		STATEMENT OPENING BALANCE			31,300.08
02 Jun 25	DD	PREMIUM CREDIT LTD 04ADOQ9070/016/103		8.96	31,291.12
02 Jun 25	CHQ	000001		320.00	30,971.12
01 Jul 25	DD	PREMIUM CREDIT LTD 04ADOQ9070/016/104		8.96	30,962.16
01 Jul 25		STATEMENT CLOSING BALANCE	0.00	337.92	30,962.16

The "Details" column in your statement shows the date that a Debit Card payment went into or came out of your account only if that happened on a weekend or a Bank Holiday.

Payment types:

DD - Direct Debit CHQ - Cheque

100900142900010002 PNG20X73100000

Friends of Chances Park - Labyrinth Project Financial Summary Dated: 10th July 2025

Ref	Grant Type	Requested £	Approved £	Confirmed £	Comments
1	Applications				
2	Cumbria County Council	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Yes	
3	Lottery - Awards for All (Ends May 2026)	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	Yes	
4	Charities/ Trusts - Partnership West	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	Yes	
5	Charities/ Trusts - Hadfield Trust	£2,200.00	£2,200.00	Yes	
6	Riverside (promised on completion)	£9,999.00	£9,999.00	Yes	Not Received
7	App 1 - Charities/ Trusts - Cumbria Community Foundation	£10,000.00	£1,000.00	Yes	
8	Total Project Finance - Confirmed	£46,199.00	£37,199.00		
9					
10	App 2 - Charities/ Trusts - Carlisle South Link Road (CSLR)	£5,000.00	£0.00	Submitted	03-Jul-25
11	App 3 - Charities/ Trusts - CWMET	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	Submitted	02-Jul-25
12	Charities/ Trusts - Hadfield Trust TPC for CWMET	(£1,500.00)	(£1,500.00)	Agreed	
13	App 4 - Charities/ Post Code Lottery	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	Submitted	02-Jul-25
14	App 5 - Story Construction			WIP	8th July 25 - £ &, Manpower, Matl
15	App 6 - Cumberland Building Society			WIP	
16	Total Project Applications - Live	£67,199.00	£53,199.00		
17					
18	Project Cost, Revised Estimate - Kim 1st July 2025	£52,280.00	£52,280.00		Excluding VAT, Cumberland Pay VAT
19	Shortfall Against Firm Comittments	(£6,081.00)	(£15,081.00)		
20	Excess Over All Live Applications	£14,919.00	£919.00		
21					
22	Thursday 10th July 2025 - Bank Balance	£30,962.16	£30,962.16		
	Ring Fenced Funds Already Received				
23	Cumbria County Council	(£1,000.00)	(£26,200.00)		Ring fenced
24	Lottery - Awards for All	(£20,000.00)			Ring fenced
25	Charities/ Trusts - Partnership West	(£3,000.00)			Ring fenced
26	Charities/ Trusts - Hadfield Trust	(£2,200.00)			Ring fenced
27					
28	FoCP Resources, Fundraising and Donations	£4,762.16	£4,762.16		



Safeguarding Policy v2

Audience	Friends of Chances Park
Creator	Friends of Chances Park Chair
Date of issue	10 July 2025
Date of Review	10 July 2026
Description	This document details how Friends of Chances Park is committed to safeguarding children, young people vulnerable adults and older people

1. Introduction

This policy is concerned with the protection of children, young people, vulnerable adults, and older people in Chances Park. This policy covers the wide variety of incidental contact that Friends of Chances Park volunteers may have with people who fall under one of those categories.

2. The Policy

Friends of Chances Park believes that everyone we encounter regardless of age gender identity disability sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Friends of Chances Park will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by volunteers, its associated personnel or by anyone within our communities. Although the Friends of Chances Park is not a child or adult protection, investigative or intervention agency, it will provide support and assistance to the Cumberland Safeguarding of Children and Adults teams.

3. The Aim of this Policy

The aim of this policy is to facilitate the best possible professional practice with regard to safeguarding by the volunteers acting on behalf of the Friends of Chances Park

4. The Scope of the Policy

This policy covers all of the Friends of Chances Park functions and services as well as the operations of partners, contractors, voluntary and third-party organisations, which deliver services on its behalf. Those third parties must maintain or develop their own child and adult protection policies to reflect this

document. There may be circumstances where the Friends of Chances Park are involved in delivering activities with schools , clubs, or private organisations or where activities take place on Council land where there is no direct contractual arrangement with the organisers. Child and Adult Protection issues will be addressed as a matter of fact and degree.

5. Safe working practice for volunteers

It is important that all volunteers always act in a professional manner and in ways in which their behaviour cannot be misinterpreted or lead any reasonable person to question their suitability to work with children, young people, vulnerable adults, or older adults.

6. Monitoring and Implementation

The Friends of Chances Park will make available resources to maintain this policy and for an action plan for the application of the policy as well as making sure that arrangements are in place to monitor compliance.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed when the Friends feel it is appropriate in the light of changing needs, changing legislation and guidance. It will be reviewed at least annually.

8. Links with other policies

The Friends of Chances Park adhere to guidelines in the Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership, Cumbria County Council Multi Agency Policy and Procedure and the statutory guidance within the “Working Together to safeguard Children 2018 (publishing service gov.uk) alongside the relevant provisions of the Children’s Act 2004. The policy adopts the statutory duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the Children Act 2004.

The Friends of Chances Park will refer to the multi-agency procedures and guidelines developed by the Cumbria Safeguarding Adult Partnership when dealing with concerns in respect of vulnerable adults.

When necessary, Friends of Chances Park will seek advice on policies and procedures from these county wide teams.

9. Declaration

The Friends of Chances Park is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of children, young people, vulnerable people, and older people by protecting them from physical, sexual, and emotional harm. By being made aware of this policy, it

is the Friends intention to ensure that all volunteers are proactive in providing a safe environment for people with whom they come into contact.

10. Adoption of the Policy

This policy was adopted by the members present at the quarterly committee meeting of Friends of Chances Park held on:

Date: 10th July 2025

Signed: R Mcard (Chair)

Review Date 10th July 2026.



Cumbria in Bloom Portfolio - July 2025.

Friends of Chances Park, Carlisle.

The Georgian Gardens.



Chances Park - Tree Survey Results June 2025

Formal site, don't chip spread in wooded areas, or leave wood piles. All wood to be removed off site.

1. Cherry- prune back branch tips from around sign to give ~1m clearance
///drain.rings.dunes
2. Ash-branch with fungus -Fell tree & stump grind ///lasts.submit.wisely
3. Beech-check over bracing and provide report/advice- does it needs adjusting or replacing? Only quote for this job #3 on Chances if have bracing qualifications/experience, otherwise leave out of quote but make me aware either way please ///bolts.venue.moment
4. Sycamore- hanger to remove ///poems.fixed.piper
5. Fell ash & stump grind ///cross.figure.smooth
6. Sycamore- remove deadwood over path ///unable.wing.glaze
7. Sycamore- prune to clear streetlight by 1.2m ///those.scars.bossy
8. Oak- de-limb and reduce to a standing stem of 3m (looking into option of chainsaw sculpture) ///most.apron.bonus
9. Cherry- reduce branch extending by bench ///fleet.jumpy.palace
10. Tree with two small hangers- pole saw height, remove ///loved.hers.rods
11. Aspen with two small hangers, remove ///having.spider.arrive
12. Stump- stump grind ///comic.shack.magma
13. Ash with hangers to remove ///eager.flips.take
14. Branch on ground by goal post- remove (if still on site when doing work)
///pilots.repair.total
15. Tree with hanger- remove ///sang.rail.cages
16. Birch-one snap out to remove ///casino.remind.boats
17. Birch- fell & stump grind ///visa.landed.logs (49 on emily list)
18. Birch-two hangers to remove ///toxic.loved.unique
19. Tree- one hanger to remove - ///elite.tile.decent
20. Small uprooted hawthorn- to remove ///until.losses.blend
21. Scots pine- small hanger to remove ///field.sector.buyers
22. Lime-one hanger to remove ///rather.privately.boil
23. Pine- one snap out to remove ///mean.slug.kinds
24. Ash X2 crown raise over path & bus shelter to provide 2m clearance from bus shelter & ~7ft clearance above path ///long.perfer.cake
25. Tree with one hanger to remove ///jaws.always.nurse





Eden Manor Care Home

Langrigg Road,
Carlisle,
Cumbria,
CA2 6DT

01228 479 445
lovettcare.co.uk
enquiries@lovett-care.com

FAO Ray McCreddie
Friends of Chances Park
Carlisle

3rd July 2025

Dear Ray

We just wanted to write to let you know how much our residents enjoy going for their daily walks round Chances Park.

We have several residents who enjoyed gardening whilst they were still in their own homes, and the Georgian Gardens are a particular favourite. They enjoy looking at the displays and appreciate the benches which enable them to have a breather mid-walk!

Our residents frequently comment on the fact that there is always something going on in the park - even the residents who do not get out love to "people-watch" from their rooms. Our top-floor conservatory is also well-used by our residents due to the wonderful views over the park.

Many thanks to you and your colleagues for the upkeep of the park & gardens which we feel make a positive contribution to our residents' wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of

Eden Manor Activities & Wellbeing Team



Inspirational Learning, Aspirational Children.

*Newlaithes Junior School
Langrigg Road
CA2 6DX
Tel: 01228 512768
e: admin@newlaithes.com
web: www.newlaithes.com*

Headteacher: Mr R Clark

Thursday 26th June 2025

Dear Friends of Chances,

Friends of Chances have invited Newlaithes Junior School over to Chances Park each year, for a significant number of years. Our pupils are welcomed over to create their own wildflower patch, planting a number of plugs to leave a beautiful stamp on their local park. Due to the planting and nature trail experiences provided, we take learning outside of the classroom. As a result, children learn respect and appreciation for the beautiful nature in Chances Park. Children get to make a real difference to their community and view themselves as individuals that can make a positive change to their environment, creating a sense of ownership. In addition, the year 3 curriculum teaches about functions of plant parts and their role in the lifecycle, so being able to see that first-hand supports children's learning. Our trips to Chances Park also inform our persuasive and descriptive writing units in year 3, and it is so valuable to have that hands-on experience to generate vocabulary and ideas.

Children are excited to return to the park with their families to play and, in dry periods, some children have been in their free time to water the flowers that they have planted. In a world where children are surrounded by technology, it is so important to encourage this outdoor exploration and play.

Chances Park is helping us build a generation of young people who genuinely care for the environment and are equipped and inspired to make a positive change.

The impact of having a stunning, natural area like Chances Park right on the doorstep of Newlaithes Junior School is summed up beautifully in the following quote -

"If children don't grow up knowing about nature and appreciating it, they will not understand it. And if they don't understand it, they won't protect it. And if they don't protect it, who will?" – Sir David Attenborough

Kind regards,

Alexandra Foster

Year 3 Teacher

Newlaithes Junior School





ST BEDE'S R C PRIMARY SCHOOL
Strathclyde Avenue
Carlisle CA2 7DS

☎ 01228 528274

e-mail: secretary @ stbedes.cumbria.sch.uk
website: www.stbedes.cumbria.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs F Winter

Dear Friends of Chances Park,

Thanks so much for inviting us to plant the plugs! in the meadow.

We had such a lovely day - it was really fun!

We learned loads about the different plants and how to look after them. It was cool finding out what they need to grow and why they help nature. It's great that we get to learn these things outside, not just in the classroom. It made learning fun and exciting!

We also went on trails and saw so many different trees. The Park is so pretty and peaceful. We loved exploring and spotting different plants and animals. Some of us said that we want to come back with our families because the park is brilliant even when we are not at school!

Thank you again for everything. We had the best time and we hope we can come again soon!

From,

Leo

and St. Bede's School