



Friends of Chances Park Meeting
Thursday 9th October 2025 at 6.30pm-8.30pm
St Lukes Church Morton Carlisle

Minutes - FINAL

Present

Ray McCreadie	Chair
Val Nixon	Secretary
Iris Rogan	Fund Raising
Catherine McCreadie	Fund Raising
Peter Brown	
Margaret Brown	
Adele Carter	Centre Manager, Morton Manor
Garry English	Chair of the Trustees, Morton Manor
Kim Fitzmaurice	Council Green Spaces Team
Nina Orchard	St Lukes Church
Ian Hodgson	
David Hallett	

Apologies

Christine Connelly	
Dave Pennington	
PCSO Ryley McDowall (late)	Cumbria Police

Agenda Item 1: Welcome

Ray welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made to the new members.

Agenda item 2

Apologies noted.

Agenda item 3: Minutes from previous meeting 10.07.2025

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

Agenda item 4: Chairs Announcements:

- To address a gap in committee representation, Ray proposed a constitutional amendment to the FoCP Management Committee structure. The proposal, which will be formally presented at the next AGM, responds to the current situation where only two elected members are in post, contrary to the constitutional requirement of a minimum of three. Ray's suggestion to establish a Vice Chair role as a fourth officer was accepted.

Action 1: Role of Vice-Chair - Iris was proposed and seconded for the by Ray & Val

Action 2: Proposal to amend the constitution to be put to AGM - **Ray**

Action 3: Amendments will be required to the minutes of AGM held 30th January 2025 due to incorrect "ring fencing" paragraph - **Ray** to provide a formal minute at the AGM.

Action 4: We still have the following vacancies (1) Treasurer (2) Social Media person (3) Gardening Coordinator & Gardeners. **Ray** to seek help via (1) CVS (2) Advertise again

Action 5: **Ray** to discuss role of Treasurer with David Hallett.

Action 6: Gardening Group - **Kim** will try to arrange some volunteers via their group.

Action 7: Insurance to be checked for volunteers under the Employers Liability cover by **Ray**.

Agenda item 5: Secretary Reports

- The attendance to the quarterly meetings by friends of Chances Park members is still low and the group would like to see more members at the meetings.

Action 8: A poll of members will be taken to see if a change of day and / or time would make the meeting more accessible - **Val**

Agenda item 6: Treasurers Report

- Lloyds bank balance as at the end of September - **£30,876.64**
- Total Includes Ring fenced funds - £26,200.00
- **Pledged funds - £24,499.00**
- **Target of £52,280.00 for the construction of the Labyrinth has now been met – well done**
- **Contribution from FoCP account - £1,581.00**
- **Free funds in bank now £3,095.64**
- The hire of the hall is £40.00; invoice has been paid for October meeting.

Action 9: A cost code is being set up by Cumberland Council to allow for the payment of the Labyrinth money. **Kim** to chase.

Agenda item 7: Fundraising Projects Report

- Following the success in raising the funding for the Labyrinth the group are now looking for funding for signage and/or a centrepiece.
- It is World labyrinth Day on 1st Saturday in May so the group are considering having an open day to invite all concerned parties to the opening of the new Labyrinth.
- Fundraising ideas discussed included an outdoor gym or a tree sculpture.

Action 10: A site meeting is to be arranged with the Labyrinth contractors - **Kim**

Action 11: Applications for the additional funding to be sought - **Iris and Catherine**

Action 12: **Kim** is to arrange a quote for a stand for art work and also enquire about costs for an outdoor gym.

Agenda item 8: Park Maintenance Report

- A tree trail which will be adult and child friendly was suggested. The costs for the chainsaw sculpture were £200 for install and approx £1380 to carve images.
- The seat on the aerial runway has been repaired.
- Drainage works on the park have been completed.

Action 13: The ash trees have deteriorated so the park will be losing 5 this year. There will be more tree planting taking place in Winter.

Action 14: The holes at the bottom of the park will be filled in w/c 13th October 2025 - **Kim**

Action 15: Members are asked to report any holes in case they are missed - **All**

Action 16: Path entrance is still to be topped up by Council - **Kim**.

Agenda item 9: Police Report

- An email was received as Ryley from Cumbria Police who was able to attend the meeting due to personal reasons.
- Regarding the issues with the bikes, this is not an issue that we are going to wholly resolve without some clarity from legislation, however colleagues of mine in the Neighbourhood Policing Team have been using drones on at least two occasions since our last meeting after calls regarding these bikes. Work continues to identify people who are riding them as well as selling them with some success.

- Operation Denote is a dedicated operation to tackle these incidents that I have mentioned at the meeting before and is continuing to achieve results. If you take a look at Carlisle Police Facebook page, we tend to post photos and brief summary of the circumstances as to why we have seized vehicles.

Agenda item 10: Forthcoming Events Report

- Cumbria in Bloom prize giving is on **Tuesday 14th October 2025** at Dalston Victory Hall. Representatives from the group will attend and take photos which will be put on Facebook.
- Christmas Concert – **Friday 5th December 2025** at 6.30pm – everyone invited. Costs for catering and gifts will be around £200. The event will be hosted by Val Armstrong and feature the Yewdale School Choir along with the Ukelele Club. A prize raffle will take place, tickets available now, with lots of prizes including a luxury hamper.

Action 17: Iris to seek “donation” from Council

Action 18: A Santa suit and Christmas Tree are required – Iris to arrange

Action 19: St Lukes Church to be booked for Concert – Val to email Dorothy.

Agenda item 11: Social Media Report

- The Facebook hits are up 28%
- Current website not operational, links broken & cannot be fixed.
- A quote of £500 has been received for new Website.

Action 20: Second quote to be sought, Iris to speak to her contact.

Agenda item 12: Payment of Accounts:

- Payment has been made for October meeting and invoice requested for AGM in January 2026.

Action 21: A donation will be made to St Lukes Church for allowing the Christmas Concert to be held there - Ray

Agenda item 13: Matters Arising

- More plug planting will take place next Spring in the Meadow.
- The group thanked the council for clearing the branches away following Storm Amy.

Agenda item 14: Any Other Business

- Children are to be more involved once the Labyrinth is finished via local groups / nurseries / schools.

Action 22: More options for FoCP Social Media are to be explored by Ray & Val.

Agenda item 15: Date of Next Meeting:

18:30 Thursday 15th January 2026 - followed by normal FoCP meeting