



## Friends of Chances Park

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 6.30pm – 8.30pm

St Lukes Church Morton Carlisle

### Minutes

#### Present

Ray McCreadie	Chair
Iris Rogan	Vice Chair
Val Nixon	Secretary
David Hallett	Treasurer
Kim Fitzmaurice	Council Green Spaces Team
Catherine McCreadie	Fundraiser
Peter Brown	
Margaret Brown	
Ian Hodgson	
Paul Seidel	

#### Welcome & Introductions

The members welcomed Paul Seidel from the Royal Scot to the meeting, and everyone introduced themselves.

#### Apologies

Christine Connelly	
David Pennington	
Ryley McDowell	Cumbria Police

#### Agenda item 3: Minutes from previous meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Taken as a true record and signed by the Chair.

#### Agenda item 4 - Chairs Report

Chair has updated the constitution with the changes agreed at the AGM and passed a copy to Ian for further review.

Chair has passed all financial papers to David Hallett, Treasurer, who now has access to the FoCP Lloyds bank account.

**Action 1:** David to look for a new bank account that offers free banking.

#### Agenda Item 5 – Secretary Report

It was confirmed that only email addresses are held as a record for members and when emailed have an option to be removed if they no longer wish to be contacted.

#### Agenda Item 6 - Treasurers Report

The Accounts for 2025 have been audited by our auditor, Lynne Gauntlett, and signed off as correct. Copies were made available for all attendees to view.

**Action 2:** Auditor to be contacted by David regarding 2026 audit.



**Action 3:** Centrepiece of Labyrinth to be approved and paid following a visit by Ray on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**Action 4:** Val to create a template for purchase orders to be used for all purchases in future.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Police Report**

There was no attendance by Cumbria Police, so the actions remain outstanding from the last meeting.

It was reported that anti-social behaviour is on the increase in the park concerning children on e-scooters and vandalism. Difficulties have been experienced reporting incidents via the online or telephone 101 service.

**Action 5:** Funding to be sought via Cumbria Police for sensitive motion lights for the Family Centre.

**Action 6:** Ryley to email dates and times of the monthly meetings and forward a copy of the Facebook page showing the details of the seized electric bike to the group.

**Action 7:** Kim to provide email for 101 responses.

**Action 8:** Ryley to confirm legislation concerning the use of e-scooters / electric bikes on the park. **Can the police provide a sign?**

### **Agenda Item 8 – Fundraising Projects**

The Labyrinth opening ceremony planned for Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 had had to be cancelled. There are issues with the pathway gravel not bonding correctly, it is noted that the pathway construction is not in line with the written specification. Drainage is also causing problems. Cumberland Council has confirmed (1) their commitment to completing the project in line with the “spirit and intent” of the original design (2) ongoing maintenance of the site including any drainage issues.

**Action 9:** Fencing is to stay in place until project signed off - Kim.

**Action 10:** The Contractor, Tomans, are on site week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 - Kim

**Action 11:** Council to complete inner landscape next week - Kim

**Action 12:** Retention monies (10%) are being held until construction work completed – Ray, David.

**Action 13:** Information board to be delivered to Council depot & installed – Iris / Kim

**Action 14:** Funders Labyrinth project completion paperwork still to be finalised – Iris, Catherine

**Action 15:** Arrangements are to be made for £500 of low maintenance aromatic plants to be added to the border of the Labyrinth by Cumberland Council – Iris, Kim, David



### **Agenda Item 9 – Website**

New website currently being created as agreed at the meeting in January 2026.

**Action 16:** The draft website layout was agreed albeit the pictures on the website need to be of Chances Park and additional drop-down menus required. Current FoCP logo to be retained. Ray to go back to web developer and confirm revised brief.

**Action 17:** Forms to be editable online - Ray.

**Action 18:** Val suggested all correspondence relating to meetings are to be password protected.

### **Agenda Item 10 – Proposition – Consideration of FoCP applying for charitable status.**

David provided a statement to the group outlining the details regarding the rules of becoming a charitable status. Any groups fundraising over £5k per annum needs to be registered as a charity. The group approved this in principal and further discussions will take place at the next meeting. Becoming a charitable status also offers safeguards against members being responsible for any financial losses.

**Action 19:** David & Ian to obtain all the forms to bring together a constitution for a foundation model and work out the costs.

**Action 20:** Trustees are to be voted in with a minimum of 3 required with up to 8-10 trustees on the board. It was agreed, in the first instance, that all the management committee members would be put forward as trustees – David to provide paperwork or online instructions.

### **Agenda item 11 – Policies & Procedures**

**Action 21:** Ray has updated the constitution in line with discussions at the AGM in January - Ian for further review.

**Action 22:** Ian to review health & safety paperwork.

**Action 23:** Risk assessments to be circulated and signed for all FoCP events - Ian.

**Action 24:** First aider is required for events – Val to check on availability of training courses.

### **Agenda item 12 - Park Maintenance Report**

**Action 25:** Tree planting will proceed using cradles. Add this topic to the July meeting agenda to confirm locations and species - Kim.

**Action 26:** The council has been asked to consider funding for bulbs and plug plants, with FoCP also contributing - Kim, Iris, David

**Action 27:** The burnt-out van has been removed. Kim to confirm with the grounds team that all glass has been cleared from the park.



### **Agenda Item 13 – Forthcoming Events**

**Action 28: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026** – World Labyrinth Day. Informal "Walk the Labyrinth" event to be organised by Iris in place of formal opening event. Invites to be sent out to 10 / 15 members of the local Health & Well Being community.

**Action 29: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026** – It was suggested that we organise a Labyrinth community day on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Iris to confirm details.at next meeting.

**Action 30: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2026** – Christmas Concert, St Lukes Hall booked – Iris, Margaret, Peter

### **Agenda Item 14 – Matters Arising**

**Action 31:** Planter to be planted out at Morton Manor as agreed with Ray and Adele following the loan of the gazebo. Ray to organise.

**Action 32:** A post is missing on the nature trail near the community centre - Iris to obtain costs for replace.

**Action 33:** Information board has been vandalised in the Georgian Gardens – Iris & contractor on the job. David to confirm costs.

**Action 34:** Motorised invalid scooter parked at the rear of Morton Manor for a couple of weeks. Reported to the police.

### **Agenda Item 15 – Any other business**

A special Thank You to Richard and Sue Dixon for cleaning out the bird boxes on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Your help is appreciated by the group.

**Date of Next meeting will be on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 6.30pm**

Meeting closed at 8.30pm