



Friends of Chances Park – Quarterly Review Meeting

Thursday 9th July 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	
Peter Brown	
Margaret Brown	
Ian Hodgson	

Welcome & Introductions - There were no new attendees at the meeting.

Apologies

Christine Connelly
David Pennington

Agenda item 3: Minutes from previous meeting on 16th April 2026.

- Taken as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Agenda item 4 - Chairs Report

- The Chair thanked everyone for helping bring the Labyrinth project to completion. The fencing has now been removed, and the public are using the facility. However, concerns remain about the pathway construction, and Kim and the Council Green Spaces Team are seeking a second opinion on the remedial work required.

Action 1 - Hold the 10% retention monies until the required remedial work has been completed – Kim, Ray

- The new FoCP website is almost complete, and a Teams-based training session is being planned for early August. This will enable the FoCP editing team to update content and add / remove photos and videos etc.

Action 2 - Organise training session - Ray.

Agenda Item 5 – Secretary Report

- The Secretary has created and distributed a purchase order (PO) template.
Action 3 – Once expenditure has been approved at a FoCP meeting, Val will issue a PO number and record the details on a spreadsheet. All members should use the purchase order process when requesting funding for projects, general expenditure etc - All.
- The Secretary thanked group members for their work on the website updates, noting that the content is informative and useful for visitors.

Agenda Item 6 - Treasurers Report

- **The Treasurer presented the finance report which had been circulated before the meeting. The report has since been updated to include the funding required for Iris's proposed small projects. All projects were agreed in principle, subject to matched funding being secured from Cumberland Council and the bank balance does not fall below £2,000. The revised report dated Wednesday 5th August 2026 is included in Schedule 1.**

Action 4: Going forward the Treasurers reports should show the current bank balance, projected income, ringfenced funds, planned project spend and general expenditure for the next six months. The group agreed that the bank balance should not fall below £2,000 – David.

Action 5: David to work with Val to ensure the PO process is aligned with the finance control procedures.

Action 6: All projects which require an approval at FoCP meetings need to be backed up by at least one written quotation - All.

- David was unable to find a new bank account offering free banking, so it was agreed that the group would continue banking with Lloyds Bank.
- The Centrepiece for the labyrinth has been approved and paid.

Agenda Item 7 – Police Report

Action 7: As Cumbria Police were again unable to attend, the outstanding actions will be carried forward. Ray will contact Cumbria Police / Ryley McDowell to request police attendance at the next meeting or, alternatively, a police incident report for future FoCP meetings.

Action 8: Anti-social behaviour in the park is increasing, including damage to trees, park furniture and information boards, alongside disruptive behaviour by teenagers. Reporting incidents online or by calling 101 remains difficult – Ray, Police.

Action 9: Ryley to confirm the legislation covering the use of eBikes and eScooters in the park – Ray, Police.

Action 10: Request Cumbria Police funding for repairs to vandalised information boards; park signage on the legal use of eBikes and eScooters; sensitive motion lighting for the Family Centre; and a dedicated teenage play area – Ray, Police.

Action 11: Ryley to confirm the dates and times of the monthly police liaison meetings and share the Facebook page details showing seized eBikes and eScooters being destroyed with the group.

Agenda Item 8 – Fundraising Projects

Action 12 - Labyrinth: Labyrinth fencing has now been removed from the area - Iris and Catherine to finalise the funder completion paperwork for the Labyrinth project.

Action 13 - Labyrinth: Arrangements are to be made for £500 of low maintenance aromatic plants to be added to the border of the Labyrinth by Cumberland Council

– Kim advised that the Council were currently short staffed and she will try to organise with volunteers, if possible, to plant them.

- Iris advised that the local schools would help to maintain once planted, however, nothing will happen until September 2026.

Action 14 - Labyrinth: Signage for the second information board (finger Labyrinth) agreed, quotes obtained from BSG and Little Stringers – Iris raise PO in line with new purchasing procedure.

Action 15 - Labyrinth: There was a suggestion for shrubs at the Labyrinth area and Lee Lewis is to be contacted about planting ideas and to have a walk around the park with Kim, Iris, Ray

Action 16 – Small Projects: Iris presented a list of projects for committee consideration, alongside a funding opportunity from Jamie at Cumberland Council. The proposed projects are updating the nature trail by repairing or replacing existing posts; owl sculptures; and fairy trail pieces. Iris and Catherine to progress the funding application, with Iris to obtain quotations for all three projects. Iris will discuss the outcomes with Ray and check the financial position with David to ensure the bank balance remains within the £2,000 cap.

Agenda Item 9 – Forthcoming Events

- **Monday 13th July 2026** - Local school children will meet and walk the Labyrinth with Iris & Catherine. The schoolteachers from St Bedes & Newlathes to provide risk assessments sheets to comply with the FoCP risk policy – Iris.
- **Friday 4th Dec 2026** – Christmas Concert, St Lukes Hall has been booked – Iris, Margaret, Peter, review plan at the next meeting.
- **Saturday 3RD April 2027** – Body, mind & soul event at Pirellis Social Club – Iris, has room for 20 stalls at the event with a potential hire of £50 per stall.
- **Saturday 1st May 2027** - World Labyrinth Day - Iris

Action 17 – The Rotary Club have offered more crocus bulbs (500+) for planting. – Catherine to confirm availability of bulbs, Kim, Iris volunteers will be needed for planting

Agenda Item 10 – Website

Action 18 – The link to the new website (agreed at the January 2026 meeting) distributed before the meeting. Ray to send Val the £600 website invoice so that a purchase order number can be raised for payment.

Action 19 – Add a Donate button to the website to enable online donations, using JustGiving or a similar platform to receive payments – Ray to discuss web architecture with the web designer, David to seek out requirements for a JustGiving account or similar.

Action 20 – Permission is to be sought from the schoolteachers / parents before photographs of children are added to the website – Iris

Agenda Item 11 – Proposition – Consideration of FoCP applying for charitable status.

Action 21 – A special meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th September to discuss charitable trust status and allow time to complete the relevant paperwork. David to lead session, Val to book the St Lukes Hall – **now rearranged by Val / David to Beaumont – Val to confirm lift arrangements.**

Agenda item 12 – Policies & Procedures

Action 22: First Aider – Costs are to be sought for a First Aid Course for more than one person as it is a requirement for public events organised by FoCP that a qualified First Aider is on site – Catherine to speak to CVS, Val to check with her place of work.

Agenda item 13 - Park Maintenance Report

Action 23: Tree planting will proceed in Nov/Dec with distinct options for trees & cradles. It will be council funded – Suggestions to be passed to Kim by the end of September 2026 for types of trees preferred. Kim, Iris & Catherine

Action 24: Iris requested a maintenance plan and map of the park to prevent the plants being cut down during routine maintenance of the park as previously done with other plants - Kim.

Action 25: The council is unable to provide any funding towards bulb and plug planting so the full cost will need to be met by the FoCP group – Iris & David to discuss.

Action 26: The Labyrinth is nearly completed and will be included in the 3 weekly maintenance plans.

Agenda Item 14 – Matters Arising

Action 27: Information board has been vandalised in the Georgian Gardens on several occasions, and it has been decided that it is no longer repairable as the frame has also been damaged. Iris is to seek costs for replacement, in the region of £750 – Iris, Ray to discuss.

- Motorised invalid scooter parked at the rear of Morton Manor for a couple of weeks. Reported to the police. This has now been removed.

Agenda Item 15 – Any other business

- Ray and Iris attended the Pride in Place meeting organised by Julie Minns, but no FoCP representative from this area was accepted onto the Pride in Place board.

Date of Next meeting will be on Thursday 8th October 2026 at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Friends of Chances Park
Income and Expenditure Statement 26 July 2026
Current Financial Position
Total Funds Held

Date	Description	£
26-Jul-26	Funds held at Lloyds Bank	£11,795.89
	Petty Cash (Treasurer)	£53.00
Total Funds Available		£11,848.89

Date	Description	£
26-Jul-26	General Fund	£2,605.89
	Designated Funds	£9,243.00
Total Funds Available		£11,848.89

Date	Description	Fund	Accruals Income	Accruals Expenditure	Payment Type
26-Jul-26	Labrynth Project FoCP - Council 10% retention	Labrynth		5,228.00	Trf
	BSG 2nd Labrynth Information Board	Labrynth		1,542.00	Trf
	Labrynth Information Board Art Work - Little Stringers	Labrynth		1,300.00	Trf
	Planting	Labrynth		500.00	Trf
Sub Total				8,570.00	
	Cumberland Council Community Investment Fund	Designated	1,422.00		Trf
	Repairs to Information board - Georgian Garden	Designated		978.00	Trf
	Nature Trail Repairs	Designated		721.00	Trf
	Owl Tree Sculpture	Designated		417.00	Trf
	Fairy trail door (One Trial Door)	Designated		113.00	Trf
New Projects Sub Total				2,229.00	
	Web site hosting 5 x £24	General		120.00	DD
	Licences small events	General		40.00	Trf
	Premium Credit Insurance 5x £8.96	General		44.80	DD
	St Lukes Hall	General		40.00	Trf
	Lloyds Service Charges 5 x £4.62	General		23.10	DD
Direct Debit Sub Total				267.90	
Accruals Total			2,844.00	11,066.90	

Date	Summary - Financial Position Projection @ 31st December 2026	General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Total Funds £
26-Jul-26	Funds	2,605.89	9,243.00	
	Less Expenditure Accruals	(267.90)	(10,799.00)	
TBC	Less Planned Expenditure Murray Printers Xmas Raffle - Concert -	(30.00)		
TBC	Less Planned Expenditure Xmas - Wine - Programme	(120.00)		
Sub Total		2,187.99	(1,556.00)	
Income Accruals - Cumberland Council Community Investment Fund			1,422.00	
31st Dec 26	Projected Outturn Available Funds	2,187.99	(134.00)	2,053.99

