

## **Friends of Bridge of Allan**

### UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH ON 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018.

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

In attendance: Douglas Neilson (chair), Mary Cram, Carol Drewery, Margaret Edwards Alex Galloway, Graham Russell, Mike Watson & Bill Young.

Apologies: Murray Airth, Elizabeth Rankin & Norma Scott.

#### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

On a motion proposed by Alex Galloway and seconded by Mary Cram, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

#### 3. Matters arising

- i. The chair confirmed that we are now compliant with the new Data Protection Legislation (see item 5.i from the last meeting).
- ii. The web-site is now operational (see item 6 from the last meeting). Any photographs which can be used on the web-site should be given to the Chair. Members were reminded that the web-site can be accessed at [www.friendsofbridgeofallan.co.uk](http://www.friendsofbridgeofallan.co.uk)

#### 4. Treasurer's report

The treasurer reported that we had a healthy balance.

We have received £1500 from Stirling Council for rebuilding walls at Blairforkie Drive.

We have received £2355 from the Merchants for hanging baskets – this is down from last year due to a number of empty shops and the need for scaffolding around other premises. This is sufficient to pay Homesteads for filling the baskets.

The plant sale/coffee morning made a profit of £1170.

The cans in the shops/bars/restaurants in the village bring in an income of around £1700 each year.

#### 5. On-going Work

##### (a) Blairforkie Drive.

We have received a grant to cover the work on the wall and raised beds and this work must be completed by April 2019.

The beech hedge has been planted with around 400 plants. Although a small number have died the hedge has improved the area quite considerably.

Bill Jack has sprayed weed-killer on the relevant areas.

##### (b) Memorial Park

It was reported that Stirling Council had earmarked £50,000 for parks but had allocated none to the Memorial park.

New 'no dogs allowed' signs have been put in place at the tennis courts. It is hoped these signs will help to eradicate dog fouling in the tennis courts.

Following our concerns about the 'wild planting area' expressed at our last meeting (see item 7b), Stirling Council have agreed that the area should be returned to normal grass.

There will be no inspection for a green flag awards this year as it costs £500 to apply for the

award. (Not sure where this came from but Park has been awarded Green Flag again this year – possibly arose because MW was opposed to spending this amount of money??)

The committee were pleased that Stirling Council has planted the flower beds with summer bedding but expressed their disappointment with the lack of variety and colour in the 16 main beds.

Stirling Council have agreed that the ‘bark chippings path’ (from Keir Street just east of Fidra) can be edged with timber.

Stirling Council will be asked to provide more soil for the embankment along Keir Street at the eastern end of the park.

(c) Station

Following on from our last meeting, it was reported that:

- it will be possible to extend bedding along the south bound platform;
- there are at least two possible methods to get water on the north bound platform but we will have to wait till next year by which time the electrification will be completed.

The shrub which we planted for John Yellowlees retirement has died following its removal for work on the electricity sub-station. It will be replaced.

(d) Provost Park

Following a reminder from the chair, Stirling Council have planted the front beds with summer bedding.

(e) Millennium Garden

It was reported that the mono-block paving needs weeding and that the wooden surround requires to be replaced.

Mike agreed to look into ways of accessing grants to replace the surround.

6. Baskets and planters

Every member of the committee agreed the baskets were looking very good this year. Graham reported that one trough at the Provost Park has been damaged and will need to be watered from above for this year.

There was some discussion about the variation in the plants in the planters. It was explained that each planter is planted up by different volunteers. It was agreed to consider the planting arrangements for the planters in the autumn.

7. 10 year celebration

As reported at the April meeting the date for the 10 year celebration is 15<sup>th</sup> September. There was no consensus on how we should celebrate our tenth Birthday. The working group of Norma, Mary, Graham and Bill will meet in August to make suggestions for the committee to consider.

8. List of assets

Graham tabled a document with a list of our assets. It was agreed that the YOI benches and the Memorial Park benches be added to the list.

9. AOCB – none

10. Date of Next Scheduled Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> August at **7.00 pm** in St Saviour’s church hall.