

FRIENDS OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN

Minutes for the 29th April 2019
St Saviours Church Hall 7PM

In Attendance: Douglas Neilson. Graham Russell. Elizabeth Rankin. Alex Galloway. Mary Cramb. Mike Watson. Sheila Gebbie. Sheila Hutton.

The Minutes . Graham Russell proposed that the minutes of the meeting on the 25th February be approved. This was seconded by Sheila Gebbie.

Matters arising:

The Chair reported that there had been no work on the wall repairs at Blairforkie Drive as yet. Douglas will contact Jean Cowie of Stirling Council to ask for an extension of the Grant monies.

The committee agreed that an alternative Christmas Tree would be their preferred option for the Provost Park site in the Village. Mike Watson will take this proposal to the next Community Council meeting to ask for their opinion and ideas and report back at our next meeting. E.R to look online for suitable trees to be considered at next meeting. Action :- MW, ER

Graham reported that garden plants offered by a local resident were not suitable for planting in any of the area we maintain.

Wallage High pupils to commence visiting the Memorial Park again in May. Austin Cavanagh is the contact for this venture.

Treasurers Report:

Alex reported that the Insurance cover for this year had been paid.

The money for the baskets was almost all now in the Bank and the Amberol account had been settled.

We had received an invoice inclusive of V.A.T from the Council for our contribution towards the latest tree planting in the Memorial Park.

Graham agreed to contact Derek Leitch to ask that the V.A.T be removed from the invoice.

Action GR

Our finances are much the same as the always are at this time of the year before basket and planting purchase.

General Report:

The wildflower area in the Park has been cut and will continue to be done routinely.

Graham securing and removing tree supports as required.

The new tennis net promised some time ago for the M.U.G.A has not yet appeared. Mike Watson to follow up. Action:- MW

General agreement that the Tennis Court area is a mess, but we do not have volunteer numbers to allow us to help keep it at least debris free.

Courts not yet set up for the season.

Graham and Elizabeth to look at the raised bed in Allanvale Road to see if it could be improved in a way that takes little maintenance. Action:- ER, GR

Lots of weeding needed in all areas. Volunteers to feel free to do at any time if unavailable on a Thursday.

E.R arranging for plaque for Garth to be made and is in touch with the family.

Plant Sale Coffee morning.

Everything in place for this event on the 18th May.

Douglas to organise flyers, banners and advertising.

Action DN

Alex will see if we can have something on Central FM.

Action AG

Stirling Observer will advertise.

Usual plant growers to be reminded of the date.

E.R to contact Church secretary about charges

Action ER

Plants will arrive at the Church on the Friday night at 5.30 pm email will be circulated for help to unload.

Baskets and Planters:

Baskets have all been checked over and delivered to Homesteads.

Should be ready for hanging the beginning of June. Notice will go out to all concerned when we have a definite date.

Awaiting news on grant application for new Promenade planter for Henderson Street.

Friend of Mine frontage not suitable for brackets so unable to provide hanging baskets. They have offered to sponsor two baskets for elsewhere in the Village.

Homesteads will hold a variety of plants of similar colours to those used in the baskets for use in the tubs and planters.

E.R to contact volunteers who plant up in Carols absence.

Action ER

Benches at the Mine Woods need algae removed. Graham suggested suitable product to use.

Project Planning:

The plan previously circulated by Graham was discussed. Village approaches were discussed for inclusion however it was felt that this was a Council issue and should be added to this year's deep clean list.

It was agreed that the Village notice board was a Community Council issue.

The Nativity Scene is on its last legs and the general feeling was that it was time to scrap it. The

group however felt that it did have an attachment to some of the Community and perhaps if an appeal was put out via the Community Council news sheet someone may volunteer to make a new one using the existing one as a template

Action: MW.

Station:

Sheila H and Sheila G reported seeing Giant Hogweed in two areas at the Station . Roy Sexton to be contacted re spraying.

Action. E.R G.R.

The date for the Adopt a Station lunch has been agreed and both S.H and S.G will attend.

One other person who would help with watering during the season would be helpful especially if as hot as last year. Volunteers to be contacted via email to see if any help available.

New water butt on the North platform. Douglas and Graham will arrange to fill all of them over the next few weeks.

A small watering buggy would make things a little easier.

The grass at the Station is well overdue cutting and E.R reported that she had a rather unsatisfactory reply from Adopt a Station office when she asked for a contact in order to discuss the situation. Agreement form all that individuals to be encouraged to report and complain about this situation to try to get some action. ER will continue to seek a response from A.A.S .

AOCB :

Photographer from the Stirling Observer will be in the Park on Thursday at 10am to take photographs for an article on our group. All who are free please come along.

Mike Watson asked if we were doing anything active about encouraging bees. Reply that we always have bees in mind when choosing plants and that hopefully the baskets and planters provide pollen in the Village itself.

Douglas will contact the three DO Edinburgh volunteers to suggest thing they might do. Watering in the Village or Station best option.

Action DN

Suggestion to plant Spring bulbs in the grass at Station entrance. With the current grass problem, it was decided to wait and see how that will be resolved.

D.O.N.M 27th May **AT 7PM**

Meeting was closed at 8.30pm.