

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	2 nd March 2020
Time	7pm
Location	Westerton Arms
Attendees	Graham Russell, Douglas Neilson, Alex Galloway, Elizabeth Rankin, Tony Bradshaw, Sheila Gebbie, Sheila Hutton.
Apologies	Mike Watson, Carol Drewery.

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1	<p>Welcome.</p> <p>GR welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new committee and thanked DN for his chairmanship over the past 3 years and ER for performing the role of secretary over that period.</p>
2	<p>Previous minutes.</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting of 30th September 2019 were proposed by ER and seconded by SG.</p>
3	<p>Matters arising.</p> <p>Any matters arising are covered in the agenda.</p>
4	<p>General report.</p> <p>GR provided a general report on work undertaken over the winter period: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanging baskets removed and emptied. Thanks to all volunteers involved. • Daffodil planting undertaken in Memorial Park with aid of local schoolchildren. • Wreath laid at Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. • Millennium Garden – old wooden surrounds replaced by SC. Friends will stain timber and replant sensory garden. • All old wooden barrels have been replaced with the exception of the Station. New planters have been placed in Henderson Street and the triangle park in Keir Street. Gained a prize of a stone effect planter which is currently in the triangle park, this will be repositioned in another area if the Village and replaced with a new barrel. • End of season meal in October was well attended and very successful. Tanks to ER for organising. • Christmas event went well, tree was excellent and new lights much brighter. Switch on event at Provost's Park organised by CC. Friends assisted CC in putting up sponsorship plaques on lampposts. Christmas wreaths were well supported once again. • Have been contacted by Alloa in Bloom looking for advice on hanging baskets etc. • Have been asked if we could assist CC and Dunblane CC in work on the Darn Walk/Glen Road. Awaiting further details.
5	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership fees are all in providing us with a healthy balance. • Received a £50 donation towards maintenance of a bench. • Collecting cans still provided a good income.

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6	<p>Charitable status. GR suggested that we, once again, look at charitable status. Benefits include 25% gift aid on donations. We would also be able to claim under the small donations scheme up to £2000 per year. After discussion there was general agreement and GR will start the process.</p>
7	<p>Replacement picnic benches. Three recycled plastic picnic benches will replace the old wooden ones in Cameron's Haugh. SC will lay the bases for them.</p>
8	<p>Memorial Park Steering Group. GR provided details of the recent meeting: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC not applying for Green Flag status due to cost. • Peace garden in a poor state. SC will remove overgrown shrubs and turf over area. • Memorial stone and plaques will remain in place. • Ideas sought on redesign of the garden. • Conifer felled by SC and wood removed from park. Stump to be ground down and Korean fir from Murray Airth to replace it. • Summer bedding will be planted by SC. • SC pricing up shrubs. • 16 obelisks to be purchased for round flower beds. • Edging of the footpath has been carried out by SC. • MUGA has been successfully cleaned by McNab Sports.
9	<p>Station Maintenance. Continue to wait and see if Scotrail improve their grass cutting etc. Will keep it tidy in the meantime and make a decision soon regarding continuing our work there.</p>
10	<p>Provost's Park. GR raised this subject as the shrub beds are in a poor state. Agreed that CC should be raising this with SC. In the meantime, we will continue to prune etc on an informal basis.</p>
11	<p>Hanging baskets, barrels and planters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbish baskets and transport them down to Homesteads. • Brackets to go up at Robertson's Funeral Parlour and Physio Focus. • Gavin Drummond has agreed to continue with the watering rota. • Volunteers for outlying baskets to be contacted by ER. • Coordinate the planting of the barrels and planters with the hanging baskets.
12	<p>Equipment storage. We will continue to use the storage container provided by UCP. May be provided with a space at the Games Park to store our trailer if required.</p>
13	<p>Plant sale/coffee morning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheena Malcolm has been contacted regarding the scones. • Church Hall has been confirmed. • Homesteads to be contacted and reminded of date. • Members to be emailed regarding raffle prizes. • Terry Gourlay to be contacted to run raffle.
14	<p>Fund Raising. Co-op no longer accepting our collecting cans due to a Head Office directive as the company are only supporting one national charity. GR spoke to Manager of the local Co-op and delivered a letter of appreciation. Awaiting outcome. We can apply to their local community fund in March.</p>

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15	Communications. Expand the current FoBoA WhatsApp to include all regular volunteers.
16	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowdrop planting. Contact Murray Airth re snowdrops at Lecropt. • Open day in Henderson Street at the end of August in an effort to attract new members. • Review website and start a Facebook page.
17	DONM Monday 6 th April 2020, venue to be ascertained.

Action Points.

Ref	Action points	Owner
6	Start process of charitable status.	GR
7	Contact SC re laying bases for picnic benches at Cameron's Haugh.	GR
8	Purchase of obelisks for flower beds in Memorial Park.	ER
10	Have CC contact SC regarding maintenance of Provost's Park.	GR
11	Brackets to go up at various locations. Volunteers to be contacted re watering outlying baskets.	DN/GR ER
13	Contact Homesteads regarding Plant Sale date. Terry Gourlay to be contacted regarding the raffle. Members to be emailed regarding raffle prizes.	GR ER DN
14	Apply to Co-op local community fund.	GR
15	Add volunteers to existing FoBoA WhatsApp.	ER
16	Murray Airth to be contacted regarding snowdrops. Website to be reviewed. Facebook page to be set up.	ER TB TB