

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	9th November, 2020
Time	7pm
Location	via Zoom
Attendees	Graham Russell, Douglas Neilson, Sheila Hutton, Elizabeth Rankin, Alex Galloway, Carol Drewery, Tony Bradshaw, Sheila Gebbie.
Apologies	Mary Cram, Murray Airth.

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies. GR welcomed members to the meeting and noted that everyone appeared to have mastered the Zoom software. Apologies from Mary Cram, Murray Airth.</p>
2	<p>Previous minutes. Minutes of the meeting of 2nd March 2020 were proposed by E.R. and seconded by S.H.</p>
3	<p>Matters arising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millennium Garden – new posts have been stained and the paved area cleaned up • Picnic benches in Cameron’s Haugh have been installed. Stirling Council were unable to provide bases, so we did it ourselves with donated slabs. • Station – we finally told ScotRail we were unadopting station. We removed the old wooden barrels and signs etc. They eventually got round to acknowledging we were ceasing work and thanked us for our efforts. Grass is again a total mess – only 2 cuts undertaken (again) this year so we have made the correct decision. • Plant sale and coffee morning were cancelled as was Open day planned for August. • Our equipment etc continues to be stored at UCP and Freda McFadyen’s. • Facebook page has been set up and is receiving plenty ‘likes’ and followers. • Website being updated regularly
4	<p>General report. (previously circulated)</p> <p>Activity during March to October 2020: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanging baskets were reluctantly cancelled. Baskets are being stored at Homesteads meantime. • Barrels and planters were planted up and maintained all summer with significant watering required. • New flexible signs have been purchased and fixed to barrels – some still to do due to heavy foliage. • Daffodil bulbs have been planted on verge leading up to Carse turn off <p>Memorial Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stirling Council has carried out minimal work in the Park (and elsewhere) all season. It was limited to grass cutting with large machinery and did not include the usual

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	<p>cutting along edges and round beds etc. Hedge cutting and cultivation of bedding areas was carried out in late autumn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other works were carried out by very willing volunteers who had been recruited by E.R. A special thanks to them. • The Peace garden was in a poor state; however, it has been upgraded by our volunteers over the summer and is now in reasonable condition. • Dead conifer was felled by SC and wood removed from park. Stump remains but Korean fir from Murray Airth has been planted and is growing well. Chippings have been utilised to mulch round trees and in shrub beds • Further Daffodil planting undertaken. • Wreath will be laid at Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. • Prices obtained for shrub planting at £600 approx. • 16 obelisks still to be purchased for the bedding plant areas. • MUGA has been well used since it was cleaned earlier in year. • Little progress on tennis courts. <p>Provost's Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrub beds have been maintained by FoBoA on informal basis, as has grass area. • Some (minimal) replacement planting to be done. • Christmas tree to be put up again this year. Await news of any proposed event. • Noted area at bottom of ramp is very unsatisfactory and surfacing is in poor condition. <p>Other areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blairforkie Drive and Cosy Cott now being looked after by 'Station Sheilas' with additional input as required. Some additional planting carried out and mulch to be spread. Hedge at BFD establishing well but some gaps need to be infilled. • Howff now has 4 large plastic barrels in place. • Garth's Rockery suffered damage due to heavy flooding coming down Coneyhill Road and washing out soil and stones. Sandbags in place pending more permanent fix. <p>Fund Raising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting cans continue to provide good income despite COVID restrictions. • Memorial trees providing useful income but only 6 left.
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	<p>Forward activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be putting up Christmas wreaths again this year – most shops and businesses are happy to support. Our usual supplier is unable to supply this year, so we have sourced through Gilchrists. Cost will be slightly higher, so we are making no margin, but we propose to go ahead on this basis, unless any objections? • Subject to committee approval on the expenditure, we hope to plant around 36 specimen shrubs to add to the autumn colour and variety in the Memorial Park. • It has been a quite different and at times difficult year, however, despite all the problems, our volunteers have done a fantastic job and kept the village looking good. We have even had ‘alternative’ hanging baskets, thanks to Sheila McGregor and others, which have added a touch of colour (and they did not need watering!) • My grateful thanks to all the committee and volunteers for their support and I hope next year will see a return to a more normal routine. <p>A motion was raised regarding the spend of £600 approx for the shrubs in the Memorial Park. Approval for this spend was put to the vote and was passed unanimously.</p> <p>A further discussion took place regarding the purchase of obelisks for the bedding areas of the Memorial Park. It was agreed that they should be of good quality and be able to last 10+ years. Sources will be researched again.</p>
5	<p>Treasurers report.</p> <p>A.G. presented a comprehensive financial report up to 30th October 2020. This is on file. It was noted that we are in a healthy position financially. There is a sum ringfenced from the money raised for memorial trees and it was agreed that the sum of £600 for shrubs could be taken from this amount.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the likelihood of less income this year and possibly next, however it was noted that our financial situation was such that we should be able to cope. We have not used any community funding from Stirling Council in the past year.</p>
6	<p>Charitable status.</p> <p>G.R. outlined the work he had progressed regarding the Friends potentially achieving Charitable status. A discussion took place on the various pros and cons of becoming a charity. As there were differing views it was put to a vote as to whether it should be progressed any further at this stage. The outcome was 6 votes to 2 that it should not be progressed.</p> <p>G.R. was thanked for all the work he had put into the research and it was noted that this could be extremely useful if it were decided in the future to go for Charitable status.</p>

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7	<p>AOCB.</p> <p>G.R. stated that he had been approached by members of the Community Council to ask if we could get the Christmas tree in the Provost's Park up earlier this year. They were looking at the week beginning 16th November. It had been customary that we put the tree up during the first week in December although, last year, we had brought it forward to the very end of November at their request. After discussion it was agreed that we should keep it the same as last year and that the tree would be delivered on or about 25th November and lit on 29th November. It was noted that there would be no official switching on of the lights as in previous years due to the coronavirus.</p> <p>D.N. informed the meeting that Blairdrummond were unable to do the Christmas wreaths this year and E.R. had sourced them from Gilchrists (as mentioned earlier). There will be no margin this year. D.N. had contacted Gilchrist with a potential order for 70 wreaths with the possibility of more being required. A total of 64 have been paid so far with a possible further 12 being required. They will supply them in the first week in December.</p> <p>E.R. informed the meeting that bulb planting in the planters and barrels would take place on Wednesday 18th November.</p> <p>E.R. raised the subject of a bench or planter for the central grass area in Cawder Gardens. It was felt that this idea was worthy of pursuing and E.R. will speak to Gaynor Hunter who lives there and have her canvass her neighbours. The idea would be that they should look after the bench or planter.</p> <p>E.R. also suggested the possibility of buying small conifers for the centre of the barrels and attaching battery operated fairy lights for the festive season. It was agreed that this matter be explored further and costed.</p>
8	<p>DONM.</p> <p>Monday 7th December 2020 at 7pm via Zoom.</p>

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Action points

Ref	Action	Owner
4	Explore flood prevention for the rockery at Coneyhill.	G.R.
4	Purchase of shrubs for the Memorial Park.	G.R. and E.R.
4	Research sources for good quality obelisks.	D.N. and E.R.
7	Contact Molawn and the C.C. regarding the Christmas tree.	G.R.
7	Update Gilchris regarding the number of wreaths.	D.N.
7	Planting of bulbs in planters and barrels.	Volunteers
7	Contact Gaynor Hunter regarding bench or planter at Cawder Gardens.	E.R.
7	Explore the purchase of small conifers and lights.	E.R.