

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 19th April 2021
Time	7pm
Location	Via Zoom
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Alex Galloway (Treasurer), Elizabeth Rankin, Mike Watson (CC Rep), Murray Airth, Sheila Gebbie.
Apologies	Sheila Hutton, Tony Bradshaw.

Agenda Ref

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1	Welcome. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that everyone had appeared to have mastered Zoom.
2	Apologies. Apologies as above.
3	Minutes of last meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record. They were proposed by ER and seconded by AG.
4	Matters arising not on the agenda. The blocked drains in Coneyhill Road, which appear to be a cause of flooding, have been reported to Stirling Council. It was agreed that if there was no action soon Councillor Dodds should be contacted. In relation to the flooding of the rockery at the bottom of Coneyhill Road, a baffle plate has been fixed to the railings of the steps. This is very substantial and should prevent a recurrence. It has been established that payment has not been received from local businesses for 5 wreaths. They were due to be paid by bank transfer and is obviously an oversight. Tom Morgan will be tasked with contacting the relevant businesses. ER stated that 'North Berwick in Bloom' maintain 30+ beds with sustainable planting. She has arranged to meet with the Chair of that group and be shown around. ER will feedback to the Friends.
5	General report by Chair. GR stated that things were beginning to get busier with the growing season starting. A lot of work had been carried out at Blairforkie Drive and Cosy Cott with pruning, weeding and clearing of leaves etc. Mulch had been placed on a few of the beds and this will continue with the other beds. 20+ beech hedging plants had been planted to replace those that had died. A young Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteer will continue to work at Blairforkie. SG confirmed that she would keep a check on the area to establish any work required. ER informed the meeting that Cosy Cott required more plants, and it was agreed that she could go ahead with their purchase. GR stated that he had been offered some hostas and it was noted that they could be planted there. The rockery at Coneyhill requires more soil and pea gravel to replace what had been washed away. GR and DN had visited the Sports Club and liaised with a representative there. ER stated that volunteers from the Sports Club had carried out some remedial work at the Keir Street

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	tennis courts last year but had left behind an old wheelbarrow which was now rusting and dangerous. MW agreed to contact the Sports Club to have this removed.
6	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <p>The balance in the account has remained similar to last month as there has been little spend. There is still a good reserve in the Park tree fund.</p> <p>The Bank have been provided with the Secretary's details and they should be in contact shortly to allow access to view the account.</p>
7	<p>Plant Sale.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the plant sale which is scheduled to take place on Saturday 15th May. It was noted that the easing of covid restrictions should allow it to go ahead. Contact will again be made with the Church to ensure that we can use the car park for the sale and, if possible, the vestibule to store the plants on the Friday evening.</p> <p>MA informed the meeting that he had plants which were flowering already and should be sold before the plant sale. ER agreed that her driveway could be used again, similar to last year.</p> <p>Due to there being no coffee morning with the sale this year the banners will require to be checked to see if they can be altered to suit. Other signs can be placed throughout the village and messages on Facebook.</p>
8	<p>Hanging baskets and tubs.</p> <p>The mats and wicks in the baskets will require to be checked and replaced where necessary. It was noted that the barrels at the Health Centre were still there although one had been moved to accommodate a bench. The area does not appear to be well maintained.</p> <p>ER raised the subject of the damaged raised round beds at the rear of the Allan Centre. This had been caused several years ago by a builder's lorry and had never been repaired. MW will look into this.</p> <p>A letter to businesses regarding the baskets and tubs had been drafted and will be printed off. They will be delivered by Tom Morgan.</p>
9	<p>Memorial Park.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that he had emailed the local councillors in an effort to garner support for our request to have the Council plant bedding plants in the Park. They were all supportive but could do little more to help. He also informed Derek Leitch that we intended looking at sustainable planting in the beds for the future and that several options would be provided for the Park Steering Group.</p> <p>TB had received information and a rough estimate of costs from Speyside Nursery to plant heathers in the beds. This estimate was found to be very reasonable.</p> <p>The Council require to carry out some heavy pruning in the Park and at the Triangle Park. The local Scout Group will be coming out on several nights over the next month to carry out litter picking and other roles in the Park and surrounding area. We will supply the 'litter pickers' and refuse bags.</p> <p>It was noted that the wreaths require to be removed from the Memorial.</p>

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	<p>AG pointed out that plastic flower holders and other items had been left at a few of the memorial trees. It was agreed that this was not in keeping with the Park and there had been no arrangement with the Council or Park Steering Group to allow this and they should be removed.</p> <p>GR noted that it was the Centenary of the Park in 2023 and we should endeavour to have the Park looking at its best for then.</p> <p>Fencing required to be removed from some of the magnolias near Keir Street due to potential damage which it could be caused to the trees. Ian McLaren to be informed.</p>
10	<p>Cawder Gardens.</p> <p>There had still been no reply from Housing regarding the siting of benches in Cawder Gardens despite three emails. Further contact will be made.</p> <p>Local companies appear to be reluctant to quote for the work as they all appear to be busy after lockdown.</p> <p>This project can be continued to the next round of Community Grants.</p>
11	<p>Millennium Garden.</p> <p>Ian Anderson has the paint for the benches and will start work once the weather improves. ER to obtain receipt from Ian so he can be reimbursed.</p> <p>ER had contacted Laura Scott regarding maintaining the garden but had received no response.</p> <p>A planting plan will be required for the raised beds.</p>
12	<p>AOCB.</p> <p>MA raised the subject of the raised beds at the steps at the top of Allanvale Road. They have become very overgrown.</p> <p>MW mentioned the Pollinator initiative by Stirling Council and enquired if the Friends had been contacted regarding this. He was informed that we had not. As the Community Council had not been informed either he agreed to raise this matter.</p>
13	<p>Date of next meeting.</p> <p>Monday 24th May at 7pm via Zoom.</p>

Actions

4	Councillor Dodds to be informed if drains not cleared.	GR
4	Meet with Tom Morgan re payment for wreaths.	GR/DN
4	Meet with Chair of 'North Berwick in Bloom' and report back.	ER
5	Purchase plants for Cosy Cott.	ER
5	Offer of hostas.	GR
5	Soil and pea gravel required for rockery.	GR
5	Contact Sports Club to remove wheelbarrow from tennis courts.	MW

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7	Contact Church re plant sale.	DN
7	Plants ready to be sold prior to plant sale.	MA/ER
7	Examine plant sale banner to see if it can be amended.	GR
7	Other signs for plant sale to be made for throughout Village.	DN
7	Message re plant sale to be put on Facebook.	GR
8	Check and replace hanging baskets mats and wicks.	DN/GR
8	Damage to round beds at rear of Allan Centre.	MW
8	Print off letters to businesses re hanging baskets and tubs.	DN
9	Local Scouts litter picking in Park.	GR/DN
9	Wreaths to be removed from Memorial.	GR/DN
9	Plastic flower holders etc to be removed from Memorial trees.	GR/DN
10	Re contact Stirling Council Housing for permission to place benches in Cawder Gardens.	DN
12	Raised beds at top of Allanvale Road.	MA/ER
12	Lack of communication from Council regarding the Pollinator Initiative.	MW