

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 24th May 2021
Time	7pm
Location	Via Zoom
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Alex Galloway (Treasurer), Mike Watson, Sheila Gebbie, Elizabeth Rankin, Sheila Hutton.
Apologies	Murray Airth, Tony Bradshaw.

Agenda Ref

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1.	Welcome. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2.	Apologies. Apologies as above.
3.	Minutes of last meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record. They were proposed by SH and seconded by AG.
4.	Matters arising not on the agenda. As the drains at Coneyhill Road had still not been cleared Douglas Dodds had been informed and he will contact Stirling Council. Douglas Dodds has also been informed of the streetlights being permanently on in Coneyhill Road. Payment for the Christmas wreaths – 3 of the outstanding payments had been made; the other 3 will be followed up. When GR took up the offer of hostas for the Park it was found that they had gone elsewhere. ER mentioned that the lights at the tennis courts were still on winter timing. MW stated that he would inform the person responsible. MW stated that there had been no further action regarding the damaged wall around one of the beds at the rear of the Allan Centre. Items had been removed from memorial trees at the Park. It was established from Stirling Council that there should only be memorial plaques at the trees. There will be no further plaques on any other trees in the Park as the cherry trees have all been taken. The raised bed at Allanvale Road/Union Street requires to be totally cleared before any further planting can be done. It has not been maintained by Stirling Council. MW stated that the pollinator initiative would now likely involve Cameron's Haugh and the Hawes Park and not the area at John Murray Drive.
5.	General report. GR informed the meeting that all the areas in Blairforkie Drive were in good shape at the moment. We had used all the mulch that had been in the container. ER stated that more plants had been put into Cosy Cott and that she had planted perennials in the planters there. It was noted that more gravel is required around the benches. Everyone agreed that the plant sale had gone very well, and GR thanked everyone for their hard work. It was comforting to see that customers were happy to abide by the various covid related restrictions that we had to put in place.

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	<p>It was noted that our Facebook page was becoming popular and that this was a good medium for informing the public of our work. Nick Nairn to be contacted regarding the use of his outside tap for filling the watering buggy.</p>
6.	<p>Treasurer's report. AG informed the meeting that he had banked £1688 from the plant sale. To date we have received £1670 from businesses as payment for the hanging baskets and tubs. When all payments are made this total should be £2180. Overall, there is a healthy balance in the account which includes the ringfenced money for trees in the Memorial Park. A substantial portion of our income will be spent on plants for the large planters and tubs as well as the baskets on lampposts and basket trees etc. AG informed the meeting that the only access which the Secretary could get to the bank account is 'full access' and 'not read only'. It was unanimously agreed that full access should be progressed.</p>
7.	<p>Hanging baskets and tubs. With regard to the baskets, GR stated that we are likely to need 78 for the businesses and 53 others giving a total of 131. We currently have 134 in storage. We are currently awaiting word from Homesteads as to when the baskets will be ready, but it is expected to be about 7th June depending on the weather. Elspeth at Homesteads is currently working on a scheme for the planters and tubs. ER suggested that, as some of the tulips still had to die back it would be preferable to get the plants for the planters a bit later. When the conifers are removed from the planters in the dual carriageway they should be placed in a trench, possibly at the rear of the hedge at Blairforkie Drive. This could be done at the same time as planting the planters. GR stated that we had received an Amberol delivery of brackets, mats and wicks which should future proof us for some time. It was noted that Gavin Drummond was working on the watering rota. ER stated that Maggie Moss would again look after the baskets at the triangle park and that ER, and her neighbours would water the baskets at the Memorial Park.</p>
8.	<p>Memorial Park. We have had the local Scouts out on three occasions to help with litter picking and other works in the Park. They will be out for one final evening on 25th May. ER informed the meeting that she had met with representatives of North Berwick to learn what they do with their bedding areas. It was established that the formal beds are filled and looked after by the Council. The Group look after other beds in which they have used sustainable planting. They utilise Council hot houses and tap into the Royal Botanical Gardens for advice. Apparently, the Royal Botanical Gardens would be happy to send someone out to provide advice on planting. ER also learned that the Royal Botanical Gardens are looking for areas in Scotland where they could plant endangered species. It</p>

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	was felt that the Park may be suitable for this. ER suggested looking at the flower beds in the Park to see if the round beds could be joined up to make rectangular beds which would be easier to plant and maintain. ER also suggested a visit to Saughton Park in Edinburgh to view their planting regime. GR stated that the volunteers from last year would be willing to work in the Park again this year.
9.	Rockery. It was agreed that the Rockery was looking really good with additional planting and extra gravel. It was also helped with being weeded recently.
10.	Cawder Gardens. Nothing further had been received from Stirling Council Housing Dept. GR had obtained an estimate from one local company. A further one will be required before submitting an application for a Community Grant.
11.	Millennium Garden. It was noted that no-one was formally looking after the garden since Margaret Edwards had moved away. It was noted that the posts and benches required to be stained.
12.	AOCB. GR suggested that we keep Zoom going for at least another month or until we can meet together as a group. This was agreed.
13.	DONM. Monday 21 st June at 7pm.

Actions.

4.	Contact Council regarding the lights at the tennis courts.	MW
5.	Extra gravel for Cosy Cott.	GR
5.	Nick Nairn to be contacted regarding use of outside tap.	GR
6.	Full access to bank account by Secretary.	AG
8.	Contact Royal Botanical Gardens for advice on planting in the Park.	ER
8.	Arrange visit to Saughton Park.	ER
8.	Volunteers for the Park to be contacted.	GR
10.	Another estimate for Cawder Gardens.	GR