

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 25th April 2022
Time	7pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan.
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Alex Galloway (Treasurer), Sheila Hutton.
Apologies	Elizabeth Rankin, Mike Watson, Sheila Gebbie.

Agenda Ref

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1	Welcome. On opening the meeting GR informed members of the sad passing of Ian McLaren, a long-time member of the Friends of Bridge of Allan. He will be sadly missed and this was echoed by those at the meeting.
2	Apologies. As above.
3	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the March meeting were agreed as a true record and were proposed by SH and seconded by AG.
4	Matters arising. GR informed the members that the WhatsApp group for volunteers had been updated. GR also informed those present that the bed at the side of the steps near The Crook had not yet been looked at to establish the work involved and this would be carried out shortly.
5	General Report. GR stated that the main focus of efforts in the past month had been in the Memorial Park with the pruning and leaf clearing of the dogwood bed. Also, work had commenced in tidying up the circles around the cherry trees. The Council have turfed over the two beds in the Peace Garden as agreed and this has improved that area. The local Cub group have asked the Friends if we could accommodate them with a task on the evening of 10 th May. It was agreed that litter picking in the area of the Memorial Park would be useful. GR and DN had met with Homesteads to establish cost of filling the baskets this year. As expected, prices have increased and the decision to increase the cost to shops etc to £32.50p. per basket and £22 per barrel was agreed. Tom Morgan will, once again, approach the shops and businesses with the offer. New volunteer, Alison Archibald, has cleared the area outside the Barbers and Chinese Takeaway of weeds and this has improved the area greatly. She will continue with other areas in the village on a Tuesday morning.

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	<p>Angus Robertson has continued to work in the Blairforkie area and has recently been pruning some of the shrubs. GR has watered the new beech hedging which were planted earlier this year.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that the Council have not been working in the Provost's Park for quite some time and the area was looking poorly. It was agreed that a team should be formed to tidy it up in the next week or so.</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's Report.</p> <p>AG informed the meeting that we are still holding £5000 for Visit Bridge of Allan. Our own funds remain healthy particularly after receiving £458.93p from the Co-operative Charities fund. We have also received several donations.</p>
7	<p>Jubilee Celebration.</p> <p>SG suggested the date of Saturday 4th June for the planting of the magnolia tree in the triangle park. She has arranged with Murray Airth for his grandson to play the pipes that day. She has also contacted the Provost's Office and this has been placed in a file for the new Provost who will be in post by that time. She informed the meeting that the Deputy Lord Lieutenant was also available. A poster has been designed as have handouts informing the public of the event. The local press will be informed and information will also be placed on our Facebook page and our website. All members of the Friends, past and present, will be invited.</p> <p>SG and SH were thanked for their work so far.</p>
8	<p>Co-operative funding.</p> <p>There was a good turnout of volunteers at the display in the Co-op on Saturday. Contact with the public was not great but we managed to hand out membership forms and raised a good amount in the collecting can. The Co-op manager was pleased with our display and our efforts.</p>
9.	<p>Plant Sale and Coffee Morning.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that arrangements for the Plant Sale were well in hand and DN suggested that, although there are no Covid restrictions, it should follow a similar format as last year with the trolleys behind our table which seemed to make serving easier.</p>
10	<p>AOCB.</p> <p>No matters were raised.</p> <p>Date of next meeting Monday 30th May 2022 at 7pm in the Allan Centre.</p>