

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 28th March 2022
Time	7pm
Location	Westerton Arms, Bridge of Allan
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Alex Galloway (Treasurer), Sheila Hutton, Sheila Gebbie, Murray Airth
Apologies	Mike Watson, Elizabeth Rankin, Tony Bradshaw.

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1	Welcome. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Westerton Arms for use of the venue. Future meetings will be held in the Allan Centre.
2	Apologies. As above.
3	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record and were proposed by SH and seconded by SG.
4	Matters arising not on the agenda. GR informed the meeting that disclaimer forms were in the process of being signed by all new members. GR together with Gordon Wilson had attended a meeting with members of the Community Council to discuss the Christmas lights. They made it clear to the CC that they were there to provide advice and that the Friends would not be involved in the storage and maintenance of the lights. SH then raised the subject of a picnic bench for disabled being situated in the village. It was accepted that any decision on the location for the bench should be made with input from disabled people.
5	General report by the Chair. GR stated that the weather had improved considerably compared to February and that volunteers had been able to carry out some tasks. Dogwood in the Rotary bed at the Memorial Park had been cut down to ground level to allow for new growth. This had taken a considerable amount of work. A 12-foot Japanese umbrella pine which GR had received from a neighbour had been planted in the Park near to Fidra. This is a lovely looking tree and it is hoped that it will thrive there. A new volunteer, Alison Archibald, has joined and worked with GR on Tuesday last week to clear the area outside the Chinese takeaway of weeds and debris. A discussion then took place about volunteers working on their own and it was agreed that they should all be added to our What's app group. They would then be able to message the group with where and when they intended to work and this would allow others to join them.

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	<p>GR informed the meeting that 50 beech hedging plants had been purchased and planted in Blairforkie Drive. This was to fill the gaps where previous plants had not survived. GR also informed the meeting that the two benches had been placed on the paved area in Cawder Gardens. The planter will be placed there later.</p> <p>A Magnolia tree (Daphne) had been purchased for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A decision required to be made as to the format of the planting and whether dignitaries and the local newspapers should attend. This was seen as being good publicity and SH and SG were tasked with taking this forward and bringing suggestions to the next meeting.</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <p>AG informed the meeting that all invoices had been paid to date and that our funds had a healthy balance.</p>
7	<p>Co-operative funding.</p> <p>A rota of volunteers was required to be drawn up for the 23rd April.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that he would supply a table as the Co-op table was used for a book stall. A question was raised as to whether we can have a display board and/or a banner. It was also suggested that we have flyers for the plant sale and a collecting can on the table.</p>
8	<p>Plant Sale and Coffee Morning.</p> <p>ER has arranged volunteers for the coffee morning.</p> <p>Homesteads to be contacted again to ensure that we will be able to obtain the bedding plants etc.</p> <p>MA requested more pots.</p>
9	<p>AOCB</p> <p>MA informed the meeting that the bed at the steps down to the Crook required attention. Shops and businesses will require to be contacted regarding the hanging baskets but prior to this Homesteads will need to let us know our cost per basket. A decision can then be made on how much to charge.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting regarding the future closure of the UCP factory and the effect that it will have on our storage facility. A watching brief will be kept in the meantime.</p>
10	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Monday 25th April at 7pm in the Allan Centre.</p>

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Actions

5	Add volunteers to our What's app group.	GR
5	Arrangements for the Platinum Jubilee.	SH/SG
7	Rota of volunteers for Co-op to be drawn up.	GR/DN
7	Table for Co-op.	GR
7	Display board and/or banner.	DN
7	Flyer for plant sale.	DN
8	Contact Homesteads regarding plant sale.	GR
9	Contact Homesteads regarding price of baskets.	GR
9	Bed at the steps to the Crook requires attention.	All