

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

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

Agenda Ref

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1	Welcome. The Chair welcomed everyone to the Allan Centre and to the first face to face meeting of the committee in nearly two years. He hoped that we could continue to make use of the facilities.
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 AG and seconded by SG.
4	Matters arising not on the agenda. The AGM was held by Zoom on 24 th January 2022 with a good turnout of members. The Chair has attended monthly meetings of Visit Bridge of Allan. Plans are moving forward with this group and they are currently looking for a web designer. At a previous meeting a suggestion was made that the money ringfenced for the Memorial Park tree fund should be incorporated into the general fund. It was agreed in principle, subject to the agreement of other committee members. As there had been no adverse comments to this, a proposal to this effect was put forward by the Chair and seconded by the Secretary. This proposal was passed unanimously.
5	General report by the Chair. Work in the Village continues but has been weather dependent. We have two new members in Eddy Fotheringham, Station Manager of the local Fire Station and Georgina Neave who was previously a student at the University. Both are willing workers and most welcome. Recent rain has caused slight damage to the rockery with gravel being washed out. Otherwise, the rockery was looking good. A start has been made to empty the compost bin at the Memorial Park and it has been found that the posts and some of the slats are rotten. It was agreed at the meeting that the compost bin should be removed in its entirety and replaced with a shrub. A further discussion took place regarding general planting in the Park with an emphasis on more colour.

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	<p>Stirling Council workers were in the Park in November and they had tidied up the circular beds. It is understood that these beds will be filled with bedding plants this summer which members at the meeting were delighted with. The Council have still to grass over the beds at the Peace Garden as previously agreed.</p> <p>The daffodils in the Park are beginning to show through and this has identified some gaps which will require to be filled this autumn.</p> <p>The area around the Toll Stone has been cleared and tidied up with the fence being given a fresh coat of preservative. The area is, once again, looking good.</p> <p>Due to the abundance of chickweed in the planters and barrels all the compost has been removed to a depth of 6 inches and they will be refilled with compost in the spring.</p> <p>The area outside the barbers and Chinese Takeaway is a mess and it was agreed that tidying up this area could be taken forward as a project in the spring. Further areas like the archway at the Co-op Funeral Parlour and the Allan Centre could also be tidied up. It would be good for the group if the general public saw us working in the centre of the Village.</p> <p>The areas in Blairforkie Drive that we attend to are looking good.</p> <p>Due to recent rain and snow the Allan Water flooded over Cameron's Haugh but did not cause any damage to the picnic benches we had placed there.</p> <p>With deep regret the Chair informed the meeting of the death of Johnny Cunningham the local Council refuse worker. Johnny was of great assistance to the Friends, always willing to assist us in different ways. He was very proud of his work and crucial in keeping the Village looking great. His jovial manner and willing work ethic will be sadly missed.</p> <p>The Friends sent a card to his family and donated £50 to the ICU at the Royal Forth Valley Hospital in Johnny's name. The Chair, Secretary and Gavin Drummond attended at the Council Depot in Kerse Road to pay their respects, along with Council workers, as the cortege passed.</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <p>Funds are healthy at the moment taking into account the tree fund and the community grant from Stirling Council towards the work at Cawder Gardens (later in the minutes). The invoice for this work has just been received and will be paid soon.</p>
7	<p>Cooperative funding.</p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that the Friends were one of three local groups to benefit from this funding. We have been allocated Saturday 23rd April 2022 to attend at the local Co-op store to promote our cause. We will create a display with photographs of past work and have membership forms available. A rota of volunteers will be drawn up.</p> <p>A discussion then took place on whether the funding could be used for a specific purpose or be absorbed into the general fund. It was agreed that a specific project in relation to a picnic bench with wheelchair access would be an excellent use of the funds.</p>

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8	Plant Sale and Coffee Morning. A discussion took place regarding the Plant Sale on Saturday 14 th May and it was agreed that the Coffee Morning could now go ahead given that the various covid restrictions had been eased. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that we have sufficient volunteers, particularly for the Coffee Morning.
9	Cawder Gardens. Mo-lawn Limited had completed the slabbed area in Cawder Gardens as requested. The benches now require to be built and placed in situ. This will be done in the next few weeks.
10	AOCB There was unanimous agreement that we should celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee by, once again, planting a magnolia tree in the triangle park. As we now have some new members ER suggested that we revisit the use of disclaimer forms to confirm that members are happy to carry out physical work at their own risk. This was agreed. ER also raised the subject of the path in the Provost's Park which is badly in need of repair. It was agreed that this is something Stirling Council should be taking responsibility for. GR informed the meeting that the Community Council had suggested that we take on ownership of the Christmas lights. It was understood that they had been in discussion with the UCP regarding storing and maintaining the lights. It was unanimously agreed that this was not a task which the Friends of Bridge of Allan should be involved in.
11	Date of next meeting Monday 28 th March at 7pm in the Allan Centre.

Actions

4	Tree fund money to be incorporated into general fund.	AG
5	Compost bin to be removed.	GR/All
5	Additional daffodil bulbs required for the Park in the Autumn.	GR
5	Tidy up areas around Turkish barbers, the Chinese takeaway and other areas .	All
7	Identify area for a picnic bench with disabled access.	GR/DN
8	Ensure sufficient volunteers for Plant Sale and Coffee Morning.	ER
9	Benches to be installed in Cawder Gardens.	GR/DN
9	Complete paperwork in relation to the Community Grant for Cawder Gardens.	DN
10	Magnolia tree for Triangle Park.	GR

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10	Revisit disclaimer form.	DN
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