

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 21st June 2021
Time	7pm
Location	Via Zoom
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Alex Galloway (Treasurer), Mike Watson, Sheila Hutton, Elizabeth Rankin, Sheila Gebbie.
Apologies	Tony Bradshaw, Murray Airth.

Agenda Ref

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1.	Welcome. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2.	Apologies. As above.
3.	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the meeting in May were agreed as a true record. They were proposed by SH and seconded by ER.
4.	Matters arising not on the agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MW stated that he had been unable to contact anyone at Stirling Council regarding the lights at the tennis courts. • Extra gravel for Cosy Cott has still to be arranged by the Chair. • Nick Nairn had been contacted by Gavin Drummond and had given permission for the Friends to use of his outside tap for the watering buggy. • The Secretary now has access to the bank account. • The Chair is still awaiting another quote for the work to be undertaken at Cawder Gardens. The Secretary should email Housing at Stirling Council again to obtain agreement for the placing of the benches.
5.	General report by the Chair. GR stated that the group had been very active during May and June. All the baskets, barrels and planters were completed in a week, and everyone was to be congratulated on this achievement. A discussion then took place regarding the two hanging baskets at the Allan Centre. It was felt that, as the Allan Centre was not being used at present, it would make sense to remove the hanging baskets to another location. It was decided that the south facing wall of the toilets at the Provost's Park would be the ideal place. GR and DN to deal with this. GR informed the meeting that a total of 133 baskets had been put up in the Village. This included one spare basket which had been put up at Good Choice Stirling (zero waste shop) to welcome them to the Village. They were delighted with this. It had been decided to plant up the bedding area at the front of the Provost's Park as the Council would not be doing it. It was felt that the 'Shop Local' banner on the railings should

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	<p>be removed as it had been up for a long time and there were another four displayed in the Village. MW said he would speak to Douglas Ross regarding this.</p> <p>GR stated that the other areas in the Village including Cosy Cott, Blairforkie Drive and the Rockery were all looking good. He also said that there had been no response from the Council regarding the clearing of the drains on Coneyhill Road. It was also noted that the Millennium Garden required some weeding and the benches required painting.</p> <p>MW informed the meeting that the weeding of the area around the Allan Centre was in hand.</p> <p>Our page on Facebook has had a lot of views.</p>
6.	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <p>AG stated that he had received the bill from Homesteads for both the hanging baskets and the plants for the planters, barrels etc. This amounted to £4500. We had received £2570 from the merchants for the baskets and some of the barrels. Having paid the bill, we are still left with a healthy balance in our account. We also continue to hold £5000 for Douglas Ross on behalf of the merchants. Thanks, must once again go to Tom Morgan for collecting the monies from all the businesses.</p> <p>AG noted that the insurance was due to be paid in July.</p> <p>The small watering buggy used on route 3 was now in a very poor state and should be replaced. A brief discussion took place regarding watering buggies, and it was agreed as a temporary measure that we would purchase another pull trolley which could be used to the end of the season when a replacement would be looked at again. GR to purchase replacement trolley for £150.</p>
7.	<p>Memorial Park.</p> <p>GR met with Dorothy McGowan, Sheila Flaws and Susan Jackson and thanked them for the excellent work they were doing around the shrub beds. It makes the Park look much tidier. Joanne Chisholm can carry out voluntary work through her employment and will weed the beds around the cherry trees. She has also weeded the beds at the side of the steps.</p> <p>Stephen Robertson from Stirling Council arranged for John Neil a supervisor to meet with us at the Park. GR and DN to attend.</p> <p>The grass cutting has once again been giving cause for concern and Douglas Dodds had contacted Stirling Council. The following day the grass was cut at the Park and the Fountain although the standard of work was appalling. GR contacted David Rae, Stirling Council grass cutting officer and met with him at the Park. Stirling Council are only allowed to cut the grass 14 times a year. It was also noted that the grass cutting machines had damaged 3 of the memorial plaques. GR to contact Stirling Council regarding this.</p> <p>Douglas Dodds has requested a meeting with Bruce Reekie and Colin McKay, Senior Managers in Land Services to discuss the grass cutting.</p>

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	It was noted that clinical waste had been in placed in the compost heap in the Park. This matter has now been resolved. ER has been in touch with RHS regarding planting in the Park and they have requested photographs so that they can provide advice.
8.	AOCB. GR informed the meeting that the Rotary Club would like put planters at the three entrances to the Village. They would require to be maintained by the Friends. The matter was discussed, and it was the view of the committee that the planter would differ from the existing ones in the Village, and we would not support this initiative.
9.	DONM. Monday 27 th September 2021.

Actions.

4.	Gravel for Cosy Cott.	GR
4.	Secretary to email Housing Dept. again re Cawder Gardens.	DN
5.	Move baskets from the Allan Centre to the toilets at the Provost's Park.	GR/DN
5.	Contact to be made with the Merchants Assoc. to remove the shop local banner.	MW
6	Purchase of watering trolley.	GR
7.	Meet with John Neil at the Memorial Park.	GR
7.	Contact SC regarding the grass cutting.	GR
7.	Send photographs of the Memorial Park to RHS for advice.	ER