

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 26th September 2022
Time	7pm
Location	PE Room, Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Sheila Gebbie, Mike Watson (CC Rep), Elizabeth Rankin.
Apologies	Tony Bradshaw, Alex Galloway (Treasurer), Sheila Hutton, Murray Airth.

Agenda Ref

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1	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone to the meeting after the summer break.
2	Apologies. As Above.
3	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the meeting of 27 th June 2022 were accepted as a true record and were proposed by SG and seconded by MW.
4	Matters arising not on the agenda. GR informed the meeting that the presentation of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service had been very well attended. The Lord Lieutenant made some very kind remarks about the work of the Friends in his speech prior to the presentation of a domed glass crystal and certificate. The group then adjourned to the Meadowpark Hotel to celebrate the presentation of the award. It was agreed that the crystal and certificate should be placed in the library beside the Best Small-Town Award. GR and DN will visit Chris Turner to let him see them prior to this. The garden party organised by the Lord Lieutenant had been cancelled due to the death of HM The Queen.
5	General Report. Memorial Park – GR informed the meeting that Stirling Council had cut the grass with a cut and lift machine which had proved very successful. However, this machine had now been returned and grass cutting had continued as normal causing the same problems again. No weeding had been carried out by Stirling Council due to the unavailability of labour. The Friends took over the weeding of the circular beds which are still looking good. We also weeded the larger shrub beds after they had been sprayed. Some dead branches had been pruned from the trees and it was noted that another of the conifer trees had died and will require to be felled. ER mentioned that the edges of the tarmac paths required to be trimmed back as the grass was encroaching on the paths. There was agreement that the Park Steering Group requires to be reconvened. We have been delighted to see several new volunteers attend at the Park in the past month. Triangle Park – Friends have carried out some tidying up of the shrub bed. A price is being obtained from Advance Signs, Alloa for a 'Royal Garden' sign for the park. This led to ER raising the issue of signs for other areas in the town e.g. The Howff, Cosy Cott and Cameron's Haugh. It was agreed that prices would be sought.

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	<p>Millennium Garden – Stirling Council had sprayed the paved area and the path edges. The raised beds require to be cleared out and replanted as it was becoming overgrown with larger plants and shrubs.</p> <p>Blairforkie Drive – A dead shrub has been removed and a Smoke Bush donated by SG has been planted in its place. A new wheelchair access picnic bench has been placed on the slabbed area which was laid by Stirling Council. The bench has still to be secured in situ. We are still waiting for the Council to drop the kerb and mark a disabled parking bay on the road. We will look at a wheelchair access sign for the picnic bench.</p> <p>Hanging Baskets and planters – The hanging baskets and planters have looked very good this year with lots of favourable comments from the public. We have stopped the watering and the baskets will require to come down shortly. Arrangements will be made for this. The planters can remain at present.</p> <p>GR thanked Gavin Drummond for maintaining the watering rota and all the waterers for their hard work during the season.</p> <p>ER thought that the baskets and planters were overplanted this year which caused some plants to grow over others preventing some from being seen. This will be discussed before next year's planting.</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's Report.</p> <p>We currently have a bank balance of £3432. As from July this year we will now be subject to bank charges in any month when we have more than 10 transactions, the charges being £6.50 plus 30p each extra transaction. In the past month we have received a donation of £100, collection cans of £180 and a new subscription of £50.</p>
7	<p>Millennium Garden.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that the beds were now overgrown with large plants such as bamboo and required to be cleared out completely and new sensory plants planted. This was agreed.</p>
8	<p>Hanging basket supplier.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that he had been approached by a local firm who asked to be able to tender for the hanging baskets. A discussion took place and it was decided to remain with the current supplier who has always supplied very good quality plants not only for our baskets and planters but also for our plant sale.</p>
9	<p>Watering buggy.</p> <p>It was noted that, for some time now, the motorised watering buggy has been requiring repairs mainly due to its age. It was also apparent that not everyone is comfortable using it. The other issue is that mechanically propelled vehicles are not normally allowed on the pavement although the legislation surrounding this particular type of cart is rather vague.</p>

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	<p>While there have been no reported accidents while using the buggy it is felt by the current committee that we should not leave ourselves open to any liability if an incident did occur. It is questionable if our public liability insurance would cover us as we have no servicing or training records nor have we carried out any type of risk assessment.</p> <p>It was agreed by the committee that we should make enquiries into purchasing a new, preferably custom made, watering buggy.</p>
10	<p>AOCB</p> <p>GR asked for the committee's approval to purchase a wreath for Remembrance Day. This was agreed.</p> <p>It was also agreed that we should endeavour to hold a Christmas meal although it was noted that there were likely to be capacity issues with premises in Bridge of Allan. ER to investigate.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that he had been contacted by the Secretary of the CC regarding the railway station as he had been tasked with writing to ScotRail to complain about the lack of grass cutting and the general state of the area. GR had replied on the committee's behalf.</p>
11	<p>DONM</p> <p>Monday 31st October at 7pm within the GP room at the Allan Centre.</p>

Actions

4	QAVS domed glass crystal and certificate to be shown to Chris Turner before being place in the library for viewing by the public.	GR/DN
5	Contact Stirling Council in an endeavour to have the Park Steering Group re-convened.	GR
5	Prices to be sought for signs for the various areas throughout the town.	GR
5	Disabled access bench in Blairforkie Drive to be secured.	GR/DN
5	Cost out a wheelchair access sign for the bench.	GR
5	Hanging baskets to be removed and placed in storage	GR/DN
7	Millennium Garden to be cleared and replanted over the winter.	All
9	Make enquiries regarding a new watering buggy.	GR/DN
10	Purchase wreath for Remembrance Day	GR
10	Investigate premises for Christmas meal.	ER