

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	Monday 26th June 2023
Time	7pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan.
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Alex Galloway (Treasurer), Sheila Hutton, Sheila Gebbie, Judith Everett, Elizabeth Rankin.
Apologies	Murray Airth, Robin Kleinman.

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1	Welcome. The Chair welcomed everyone to the last meeting before the summer break.
2	Apologies. As above.
3	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the meeting of the 29 th May 2023 were accepted as a true record and proposed by Elizabeth Rankin and seconded by Sheila Hutton.
4	Matters arising not on the agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding the outside tap at the Provost's Park, Stirling Council agreed that one could be fitted provided it was paid for by the Friends. It was decided that as we have keys for the toilets then we would just continue as we do at present. • GR now has the website for Criminal Justice and will contact them to see what assistance they can provide. • The motorised buggy has now been delivered to Braehead Community Garden and they are delighted with it. ER suggested that the Community Garden would be worth a visit and this was agreed. ER to arrange. • RK contacted the Council regarding the state of the grass cutting and it was agreed that it was not up to standard. The Council are also looking at eco-friendly ways of weed control e.g., burning. GR informed RK that this was not acceptable in the Memorial Park. • We are still awaiting delivery of the memorial bench for Frances Hamilton. • A brief discussion took place regarding Facebook and the ability of members to update it. It was agreed at present that anyone who wishes to provide information for the Friends' Facebook page should send it to GR.
5	General report by the Chair. The main activity for the month was putting up the hanging baskets, planting the containers and commencement of watering operations. All went fairly well with plenty volunteers along to help. 131 baskets put up on Tuesday 6 June with 1 on hold for new dentist. After much delay, they don't yet have planning permission. GR still holds this basket. They are happy to leave it at that and use their payment for the basket at their old premises. Watering started on the Wednesday. Teams on Routes 1 and 2 were shown the new buggy and accompanied on their first visit to check the watering points. Most of Route 3 teams

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	<p>were also accompanied on the first visit. There has been general approval of the new arrangements with some minor modifications being carried out. Discussions with Co-op about putting signs on the new buggy to acknowledge their support. GR ordered 3 from Advance Signs in Alloa and will get a photo shoot organised when they arrive.</p> <p>Works in Memorial Park continue, but still waiting for Council to weed kill tree and shrub bases and beds. Council planted bedding plants last week so we will keep an eye on them and weed as necessary.</p> <p>Garth's Rockery is looking really well.</p> <p>Tidy up visit to Royal Garden keeps it looking good. GR met with some local residents to discuss what could be done and ask for any ideas. Still to follow up. ER suggested planting geraniums around the perimeter of the triangle bed to add colour.</p> <p>Provosts Park needs further visit to weed and prune. Additional planting carried out to replace plants which had outlived their usefulness. The concrete step has been repaired.</p> <p>Blairforkie Drive – additional plants now planted and being well maintained. Contacted Council about the drop kerbs and disabled bay – it's in the programme but unlikely to be completed soon, unfortunately.</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <p>AG informed the meeting that we had received £170 from collection cans and a £200 donation from the Allan Centre. Our insurance of £233 has been paid along with various invoices amounting to £566. The invoice from Homesteads for £4378 had just been received and has still to be attended to. Once paid we should still be left with a healthy sum in our account.</p>
7	<p>Grass cutting.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that one of our members, Charlie Flaws had been cutting grass at various locations in the Village and this really improved the look of these areas. RK had previously written to Colin McKay, Head of Land Services at the Council to establish if the Friends can continue to cut the grass at these and other locations. It was felt by the Council that there may be insurance and liability issues but that a meeting would be very useful. This has still to be progressed.</p>
8	<p>Projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Millenium Garden has been completed and looked really good however JE informed the meeting that weeds had started to become a problem. It was agreed that a weed control membrane should be laid. • The planting at the Crook steps had been completed and much improved this area. • The spraying of the weeds in the raised bed at Union Street/Allanvale Road had been successful but they now appear to be coming up again. Require to be further spayed. ER informed the meeting that Gilchrist Landscaping had large pieces of marble which, if stood on their end would make a nice focal point in that bed. A

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	discussion took place as to whether this would cause a problem with motorists' line of sight at the junction. It was suggested that a meeting with The Roads Department of the Council would be useful. ER will contact Gilchrist to establish the dimensions of the marble.
9	AOCB. ER raised the issue of weeds around the outside of the Tennis Courts and that the Council had just strimmed them rather than trying to eradicate them. She also informed the meeting that the lights at the MUGA were on despite the light summer evenings. GR will speak with Douglas Dodds regarding these issues. It was noted that plants in one of the barrels at Leanne, Hairdressers was looking very poor. It was felt that it may be too late to get replacement plants. ER also informed the meeting that the two beds at the Avenue archway were completely overgrown. GR informed the meeting that he had ordered more fluorescent vests in various sizes.
10	DONM. Monday 25 th September 2023 at 7pm.

Actions

4	Meeting with Braehead Community Garden.	ER
4	Any information for Facebook to be sent to GR for inclusion.	All
5	Geraniums for triangle bed at the Royal Garden.	ER
5	MA to be contacted regarding pruning at the Provost's Park.	GR
7	Meeting with Land Services regarding grass cutting to be progressed.	GR/RK
8	Membrane to be purchased for Millennium Garden.	GR
8	Raised bed at Union Street/Allanvale Road to be resprayed.	GR
8	Roads Department to be contacted re possible meeting at Union Street/Allanvale Road.	GR/RK
8	Contact Gilchrist regarding dimensions of marble.	ER
9	Contact Douglas Dodds regarding issues at tennis courts.	GR