

**Friends of Bridge of Allan**  
**Minutes**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2023</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>7pm</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan.</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Alex Galloway (Treasurer), Robin Kleinman, Elizabeth Rankin, Sheila Hutton, Judith Everett, Mike Watson.</b>
<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Sheila Gebbie, Murray Airth.</b>

**Agenda Ref**

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<b>1</b>	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone to the meeting.
<b>2</b>	Apologies. Apologies noted as above.
<b>3</b>	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record and proposed by SH and seconded by RK.
<b>4</b>	Matters arising not on the agenda. GR reported that a new refuse bin had been installed at the Provost's Park. A discussion then followed regarding the Provost's Park and it was confirmed that the Friends would assume responsibility for the planting and maintenance of the shrub beds as it was obvious that the Council were going to do very little. RK was tasked with establishing the possibility of an outside tap being installed at the toilets to assist with the watering. GR noted that the centenary of the War Memorial had passed without any commemoration. Criminal Justice Officers have still to be contacted regarding the painting of the metal benches in the Village.
<b>5</b>	General Report by Chair. GR stated that the coronation tree planting had gone very well with a good turnout of members of the public. The magnolia tree, kindly donated by Judith and Mark Everett, had been planted by the Provost. The Royal Garden signs had been installed and looked good. GR thanked everyone involved for making it such a success. Later that afternoon several members of the committee had attended the Scout event at the Games Park however there was a poor turnout of members of the public mainly due to the poor weather. The Friends had continued with the weeding and trimming around the bases of the trees and shrubs in the Memorial Park. Replacement plants have been purchased and planted in the Provost's Park. It was noted that the steps of the park were in poor condition with the edge of the concrete crumbling and that the Gazebo was rusting quite badly. Also the surfacing, particularly on the ramp, was in poor condition and needed attention.

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	Additional plants have also been purchased for Blairforkie Drive. GR and DN had installed the wheelchair access sign at the picnic area. The kerb lowering has still to take place as has the marking of a disabled bay.
<b>6</b>	<p>Treasurers Report.</p> <p>AG informed that there was a good balance in the accounts with a profit of £1582 from the plant sale. We paid £7.10 in bank charges last month. A donation of £75 had been made to the church for the use of the hall and car park. The new watering trolley had been purchased at a cost of £1520 and a bill of £592 for plants from Craigmarloch had been paid. It was also noted that the insurance for the Group was due to be paid in July.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p>Plant Sale and Coffee morning.</p> <p>The plant sale was very successful again this year with a particularly good supply of plants donated by Murray Airth, Ian Neilson, Donald McLean and others. A nice email was received from Sylvia Broomfield regarding the assistance we provided to the Episcopal Church for their plant sale. It was noted that the money raised from the tombola at the coffee morning was poor and a brief discussion took place regarding the future format. It was also agreed that it would be beneficial to have a meeting before next years sale to discuss any likely issues.</p> <p>It was agreed that we should supply compost to those who have supplied the many plants as it is obviously considerable outlay that they have to make.</p> <p>Our thanks to the Co-op for supplying items for the coffee morning and for manning a membership stall. A particular thanks once again this year to Sheena Malcolm for supplying the lovely scones and to all the volunteers in general who helped to make the event a success.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p>Hanging baskets and planters</p> <p>The baskets were due to be delivered to the Royal Hotel car park on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The shops and businesses are taking a total of 77 baskets making a grand total of 132 overall. Eddie Fotheringham had checked the condition and security of all brackets and this is maintained on a spreadsheet. Thanks again to Tom Morgan for attending to all the businesses.</p> <p>The plants for the barrels and planters will be delivered to ER's garden on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June to be uplifted by volunteers. Volunteers would be asked to pay particular attention to their barrels and planters to ensure that weeds did not take hold. ER informed the meeting that perennials had been purchased for the promenade planters outside the Turkish barbers and Chinese takeaway.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p>Watering.</p> <p>GR advised the committee on the situation regarding the motorised buggy and that Gavin Drummond, Gordon Wilson and Bill Young had withdrawn their names from the watering</p>

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	<p>rota. A new rota was now in place. The new buggy would be stored behind the Allanwater Café and the pull trolley at the rear of the Hideaway Café. The Co-op have to be contacted regarding their logo for the new buggy. ER suggested that the old, motorised buggy could be donated to the Braehead Community Garden as they are finding difficulty with their watering. This was agreed by the committee.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Projects.</b> The Millennium Garden had been cleared out and ready for new planting. The wooden surround had been given two coats of paint but it was noted that more was required. ER informed the meeting that soil and stones for the garden were being delivered. It was noted that the wider area around the garden was a mess and the only real option was to remove it all and grass over the area.. This suggestion was put to Stirling Council who agreed to look at it. RK informed the meeting that he would contact the Council regarding the poor grass cutting. GR informed the meeting that the raised triangle area at Allanvale Road / Union Street had been sprayed with weed killer and that follow up work could be an autumn project.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>AOCB.</b> A memorial bench for Frances Hamilton would be positioned at the rear of the Provost's Park to replace one of the wooden benches which were now in a poor state. JE suggested that we should raise our profile more on Facebook, she also suggested the possibility of a social event during the summer.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>DONM.</b> Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023.</p>

**Actions**

<b>4</b>	<b>Establish the possibility of an outside tap at Provost's Park.</b>	<b>RK</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Contact Criminal Justice re bench painting.</b>	<b>GR</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Assist with delivery and erection of hanging baskets.</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Uplift plants for barrels etc from ER.</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Perennials to be planted in promenade planters.</b>	<b>ER</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Motorised buggy to Braehead Community Garden.</b>	<b>GR/DN</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Millennium Garden painting and planting</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Council to be contacted regarding poor grass cutting.</b>	<b>RK</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Raise our profile on Facebook.</b>	<b>JE</b>

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