

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 25th September 2023
Time	7pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan.
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Alex Galloway (Treasurer), Sheila Hutton, Sheila Gebbie, Judith Everett, Elizabeth Rankin, Murray Airth.
Apologies	Douglas Neilson, Robin Kleinman, Mike Watson

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1	Welcome. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2	Apologies. As above.
3	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the meeting of 26 th June 2023 were accepted as a true record and proposed by Sheila Hutton and seconded by Elizabeth Rankin.
4	Matters arising not on the agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible visit to Braehead Community Garden to be postponed till spring. • Contact Criminal Justice carried forward. • Memorial bench for Frances Hamilton now installed in Provost's Park. • Discussion on posting to Facebook and agreed members would put ideas forward as appropriate. • Meeting held with Colin McKay regarding Friends using powered equipment. GR, DN and RK attended, and it was agreed that CM would consider how this could be achieved. • Tennis Courts upgrading has now commenced. Some concerns were expressed about lack of consultation with neighbouring properties especially around floodlighting. Agreed it was not a Friends issue and any concerns should be raised with Douglas Dodds. • The shrub areas at The Avenue archway had been tidied up by Gordon Wilson, prior to the Bridge of Allan Games. Subsequently, there has been further heavy pruning, presumably by Stirling Council.
5	General report by the Chair. Works in Memorial Park continue with ongoing maintenance to tree and shrub bases and beds with some considerable edging to overgrown footpath edges. Council had been asked to carry out herbicide treatment at end May and despite meeting and discussion, the areas that most needed it weren't done until early September. We started to cut back and remove the dead weeds last week, but it is a fairly extensive job. Bedding areas have been totally maintained by Friends this year and have provided a good display. Uncertain whether there will be any bedding planting next year. Yew hedge round War Memorial has been trimmed. Agreed Friends should trim the Hypericum hedge around the War Memorial, prior to the Remembrance Day event.

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	<p>Garth's Rockery has been well looked after. A couple of shrubs have died and will be replaced. Hopefully weedkilling has dealt with plantains.</p> <p>Royal Garden is being visited regularly and some further pruning of the conifers has been done. Coronation magnolia has established well and was even in flower last week!</p> <p>Geraniums still to be planted but we will wait till Photina is pruned.</p> <p>Follow up to meeting with residents didn't produce any ideas so we will continue to manage area as required.</p> <p>Provosts Park receiving some attention but further maintenance, pruning and replacement of overmature plants needed. Surfacing is in poor condition and gazebo is rusting badly. SC to be asked to look at.</p> <p>Blairforkie Drive - still no drop kerbs and disabled bay despite chasing up by Councillor Tollemache. Latest update is that the delay was due to UCI cycling event taking up a lot of resource and work would progress as soon as resources permit. AT to follow up at higher level. Also complained about poor grass cutting and not keeping to schedule but no response yet. New planting has established well, and area is looking great, apart from grass. Beech hedge is to be cut soon.</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <p>AG reported on significant expenditure since last meeting. Homesteads for the baskets and bedding plants; invoices for the materials for the Millenium Garden refurbishment and various other costs, including 2 lots of bank charges.</p> <p>Income from collecting cans and a very generous donation from a collection at Jimmy Gauld's funeral has resulted in a healthy balance.</p> <p>GR advised we can expect the payment from the Co-op Community fund within the next month or two.</p>
7	<p>Baskets and planters.</p> <p>Season has gone very well with great displays, much admired and commented on.</p> <p>New watering arrangements have worked out well, with very favourable comments about new buggy.</p> <p>Signs have been fitted to acknowledge support from Co-op Community fund and a photoshoot held at Co-op Funeralcare. This was well received and indications we should apply again to Fund. Allan Water café and Hideaway both thanked for their help with storage and water supply.</p> <p>Baskets to be taken down soon, later this week and early next, probably – Fairview are happy to allow use of Royal Car Park. Baskets will be checked and any repairs to chains, mats, wicks undertaken before taking to Homesteads for storage</p> <p>Planters, barrels etc to be cleared as they die back; most are still looking well.</p> <p>It was noted a few barrels were not as good this year e.g. Leeanne Kerr area. Compost will be replaced for next year. The newsagents and Indian takeaway barrels were excellent after having compost replaced, so will do rolling programme going forward.</p>

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	New planting of perennials etc. in Promenade planters at Turkish Barber/ Lees House has looked good all summer.
8	<p>Projects.</p> <p>Millennium Garden has established well – one plant type replaced but otherwise looking good. Decided not to lift plants etc and put membrane down and weeds now well controlled. Thanks Sheila. Timbers may need further coat of stain next spring? Crook steps also established well and looking good.</p> <p>Triangle at Union Street has now been weedkilled 3 times and most of the pernicious weeds are gone so we will be looking to plant up this area over the next few months. Last minutes said we would contact Roads Dept. about sightlines. Looking at the site and visibility, don't see an issue providing we plant low growing plants and keep them pruned.</p>
9	<p>End of season celebration</p> <p>ER agreed to research possible venues for target date around 17 November. Agreed to keep it within village.</p>
10	<p>AOCB.</p> <p>Meeting agreed to purchase wreath for Remembrance Day event</p> <p>Also agreed to order Christmas Tree with target date of 30 November, with lights switch on scheduled for 2 December.</p> <p>Discussion on Christmas Wreaths took place with agreement we should continue subject to agreeing price and quality with Mo-Lawn.</p> <p>Agreed we should progress with plaque on bench in Memorial Park and also to dedicate the Union Street project to Jimmy Gauld. GR to contact Margaret Gauld to discuss.</p>
11	<p>DONM.</p> <p>Monday 30th October 2023 at 7pm in Allan Centre PE room.</p>

Actions

4	Contact Criminal Justice	GR
4	Contact SC re Provost's Park	GR/RK
8	Progress Allanvale Road project	ER/GR
9	Check on possible venues/ costs	ER
10	Purchase Memorial Wreath	GR
10	Source Christmas Wreaths and Tree	GR
10	Progress memorial plaque for Jimmy Gauld and contact Margaret Gauld	GR