

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 27th November 2023
Time	7pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Alex Galloway (Treasurer), Sheila Hutton, Elizabeth Rankin, Robin Kleinman, Judith Everett, Sheila Gebbie, Murray Airth Jenny Smith (Observer)
Apologies	Mike Watson.

Agenda Ref

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1	Welcome. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and remarked on the good turnout.
2	Apologies. As above.
3	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as a true record and were proposed by ER and seconded by GR.
4	Matters arising not on the agenda. The tennis courts in Keir Street are more or less complete although there are final touches to be carried out in the Spring. RK informed the meeting that he had replaced Douglas Dodds on the group looking at the maintenance of the Multi Games Area (MUGA) next to the tennis courts. He is reviewing the work to date and looking at methods of funding the work which is required. RK also stated that the trees around the tennis courts are being looked at again. GR informed the meeting that the summer bedding had been cleared by Stirling Council. ER stated that she had purchased the soil and membrane for the triangle bed at the bottom of Union Street and it would be delivered on 29 th November. Some work was still required to the bed before delivery. GR is still awaiting a response from Stirling Council regarding the plaque for Jimmy Gauld. GR informed the meeting that 2024 was the centenary of the planting out of the Memorial Park and it was felt that this should be commemorated in some way. He asked for suggestions. DN suggested that one way to commemorate it would be the placing of two basket trees at the Keir Street entrance to the Park. JE suggested that the group look into QR codes which would allow people to find out information about the Park and the Memorial. A date for this commemoration should be decided. A discussion then ensued regarding updating the map of the Park and ER stated that she would find out who produced the current map showing the specific trees etc. ER suggested a drone view of the Park would be useful and RK stated that he would speak to Gordon Wilson in this regard. RK left the meeting at this point to attend another meeting.

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5.	<p>General report by the Chair.</p> <p>The grass in the Memorial Park was cut and tidied by volunteers prior to the Remembrance Service. There was a very good turnout for the Service.</p> <p>A branch had split off a mature tree in the Park and it had been removed by Gordon Wilson. Some debris was still required to be removed. A dying conifer has still to be felled.</p> <p>A total of 85 wreaths were supplied by MoLawn and put up in the Village. We have been well supported by local businesses.</p> <p>The Christmas lights on the dual carriageway small conifers had been put up along with lights at the howff and on the trees outside Baynes. The gazebo lights, artificial trees and the Nativity Scene have still to be put up. The Christmas tree will be delivered on 30th November.</p> <p>The end of season celebration at the Brewhouse was well attended and enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Douglas Ross for the welcome drink and pizzas and to Gillian at the Allan Water Café for the Ice Cream.</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <p>AG informed the meeting that our account was currently very healthy as we had received the Community Fund grant from the Co-op and all the subscriptions for the year had been paid in. He had paid the invoice to Gilchrists for the soil and membrane etc for the triangle bed. The wreaths had still to be paid.</p> <p>It was agreed at the meeting that some of the Co-op money would be used to purchase another watering buggy after the success of the one purchased last year. A substantial amount would also be required for possible ongoing projects, such as the basket trees if agreed and work on the beds at the Millenium Garden.</p>
7	<p>AGM</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that the AGM would take place on Monday 22nd January 2024. AG stated that he wished to resign from his role as treasurer and a discussion ensued regarding succession planning for the Group as a whole. It was agreed that SH would take on the role of treasurer and shadow AG once she had relinquished the treasurer's role with another group.</p> <p>DN pointed out that we currently had 10 members although the constitution allowed for 12 plus 3 who could be co-opted. In order to get fresh blood into the committee everyone was tasked with looking for suitable candidates. Jenny Smith agreed to join the committee at the future AGM.</p>
8	<p>Storage.</p> <p>We currently store our equipment etc in a unit at the UCP factory however this is due to close in the not-too-distant future. A discussion then ensued regarding suitable places and</p>

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	the possibility on having a garage next to the tennis courts was raised by DN. The old Burgh Council had a building there to store equipment that was used in the Memorial Park and tennis courts, the concrete base for which still remains. There are issues regarding it being a conservation area but it was agreed that this should be examined in the future. Everyone was tasked with trying to identify suitable premises or sites for storage.
9	AOCB ER stated that the Paterson Clock required refurbishment at that it should be raised with the Community Council and Stirling Council.
10	Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be the AGM on 22 nd January 2024.

Actions

4	Awaiting response from Stirling Council re plaque for Jimmy Gauld.	GR
4	Suggestions required for commemoration of the centenary of the Memorial Park	All
4	Look at feasibility of QR codes for the Memorial Park.	ER
4	Establish who produced the recent map of the Park.	ER
4	Speak to Gordon Wilson regarding a drone view of the Park.	RK
5	Christmas lights, tree etc to be put up.	GR/DN and others.
7	New members for the committee.	All
8	Identify suitable premises or places for storage of equipment.	All