

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024</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), Robin Kleinman, Murray Airth, Sheila Hutton, Elizabeth Rankin.</b>
<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Mark Everett, Judith Everett, Sheila Gebbie, Mike Watson.</b>

**Agenda Ref**

Ref	Minutes
1.	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2.	Apologies. As above.
3.	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record and were proposed by RK and seconded by ER.
4.	Matters arising. A reply was still awaited from Stirling Council regarding the plaque for Jimmy Gauld which is to be placed on a bench in the Memorial Park. New premises for storage have still to be identified given the imminent closure of the UG factory. RK suggested that we should revisit the possibility of a storage shed next to the tennis courts. ER suggested that an advert be placed on our Facebook page.
5.	General report by the Chair. The dogwood bed in the Memorial Park has been pruned. The damaged tree in one of the other beds has still to be removed. Garth's Rockery is requiring some maintenance but this can be done in March. The large conifer in the Royal Garden which had fallen has been cleared but there were still signs lying about the area. Sheila McGregor has informed GR that the copper beech tree in the Royal Garden had been planted by young people on the 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. She thought it would be an idea if this could be marked by a plaque and asked if the Friends would be willing to pay for it. This was agreed. The bed next to the Crook steps has been tidied up by Sheila and Douglas Gebbie. Blairforkie drive was looking well thanks to Angus and some pruning will be required in the Spring. Christmas went well and the lights switch on organised by the Community Council was well attended. The Friends had tidied up the Provost's Park beforehand. The Friends, once again, supplied and lit up the tree and gazebo as well as providing Christmas wreaths to businesses in the village. These wreaths were eventually returned to Mo-Lawn for recycling.

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<b>6.</b>	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <p>In the absence of the treasurer GR gave a brief summary. Little action had taken place in the account. The Christmas tree and wreaths have been paid and money from the collection cans had been paid in. We currently have a healthy balance.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p>Memorial Park Centenary.</p> <p>GR reminded the meeting that 2024 is the centenary of the planting out of the Memorial Park and that it was hoped that an event could take place to mark this. A discussion then ensued and it was agreed that a subgroup should be formed to take this forward. The subgroup will consist of GR, SH, RK and ER.</p> <p>The diagram of the Park layout required to be updated and GR had been in touch with Border Signs and they have estimated the cost at £822. It was agreed that this should be progressed.</p> <p>It was agreed that we should look again at the possibility of erecting hanging basket trees at the Keir Street entrance to the Park and that Stirling Council should be contacted to establish if there were any basket trees no longer in use.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the round beds in the Park as it is apparent the Stirling Council will not be planting any summer bedding. A suggestion was made that more cherry trees could be planted. GR to contact Craigmarloch.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p>Projects.</p> <p>We will continue to work on the triangle bed at Union Street / Allnvale Road. We are replacing the compost in a number of barrels and the old compost will be spread and dug into the bed. Homesteads will be contacted for compost and the bed will be planted in the Spring.</p> <p>ER stated that the Council had not carried out the clearing of the large beds at the Millennium Garden despite their agreement to do so. ER suggested that Gardner Plant be contacted to establish if they could carry out this work. It was agreed that Stephen Robertson of Stirling Council be contacted to ascertain the current situation. The wood around the raised bed required to be repainted.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p>AOCB.</p> <p>GR had been contacted by a member of the Friends who suggested that we should lend our support to the community buy out of the land at Sunnyslaw which is currently for sale. It was agreed that the process of an attempted community buy out was well underway and that, as a group, we should not get involved.</p> <p>GR attended a workshop regarding interpretation boards for the new Drumbrae forestry area.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that he had been contacted by a leader of Bridge of Allan Squirrels Group looking for an area suitable for caterpillars and butterflies. GR indicated that we would be happy to assist.</p>

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<b>10.</b>	Date of next meeting. Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm within the Allan Centre.
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**Actions.**

<b>4.</b>	<b>Contact Stephen Robertson re plaque.</b>	<b>GR</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Identify storage.</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Revisit possibility of storage at tennis courts.</b>	<b>RK</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Place advert re storage on Facebook.</b>	<b>GR</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Damaged tree in MP to be removed.</b>	<b>DN/GR</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Contact SC re signs still lying at Royal Garden.</b>	<b>RK</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Inform Sheila McGregor of agreement to purchase plaque for UN tree.</b>	<b>GR</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Pruning at Blairforkie Drive.</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Progress diagram of MP.</b>	<b>GR</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Contact SC re possibility of supplying hanging basket trees.</b>	<b>RK/GR</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Contact Craigmarloch re cost of cherry trees.</b>	<b>GR</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Obtain compost from Homesteads.</b>	<b>DN</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Contact Stephen Roberston regarding the Millennium Garden.</b>	<b>GR</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Inform member of Friends regarding committee decision regarding Sunnyslaw.</b>	<b>GR</b>