

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 29th April 2024
Time	7pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Robin Kleinman, Sheila Hutton, Mark Everett, Judith Everett, Jenny Smith, Sheila Gebbie, Elizabeth Rankin.
Apologies	Murray Airth, Mike Watson.

Agenda Ref

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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 SG and seconded by RK.
4.	Matters arising. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plaque for the copper beech tree in the Royal Garden will be supplied and installed by the Friends. Sheila McGregor has still to supply the wording. • Regarding the dropped kerb at the Blairforkie picnic area, RK has established from Stirling Council that this will be carried out during the current financial year. • The roughcast on the wall of the Howff has been repaired by Stirling Council and will be painted by Gordon Wilson. • Rats have been reported in the Cosy Cott area and, indeed, a couple saw 8 rats at a discarded fish supper carton. RK has contacted Stirling Council but they do not see it as an issue. RK will now try to have the Council install more suitable, secure bins. • Debris from a cherry tree in the Memorial Park has been removed. • The dead conifer also in the Park has still to be felled by the Council. • Regarding the issue of storage in the area of the tennis courts, this will be followed up by RK after the courts have been officially opened.
5.	General report by the Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The round bedding areas in the Memorial Park have been filled with soil by The Council but will require to be topped up and the area seeded. The cherry trees were planted with the help of the Council. A discussion ensued regarding the planting of these beds and a decision was reached that there should be no planting around the base of the trees and the beds should just be kept tidy. • Some of the paths in the Park have been edged and this work will continue. Over a tonne of turf has been removed from the paths and taken for recycling. • The grass in the Park received its first cut on 22nd April which is 2 weeks later than scheduled. • Debris has also been removed from the area surrounding the tennis courts.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GR noted that Charlie Flaws had been cutting the grass at the Royal Garden which was followed up a few days later by the Council cutting the same area. • After a recent walk around the Memorial Park with Land Services a number of matters were raised which are now being followed up with the Council. It is hoped that weed spraying of the beds will take place in May. • We are still awaiting word from Land Services as to whether they will be able to supply us with basket trees and baskets from other Council areas where no planting will take place. • Blairforkie Drive area was still looking good with particular thanks to Angus Robertson. • ER raised the issue of chickweed in planters and GR stated that he had recently sprayed these areas and the weed should quickly die off. • Garths Rockery requires attention and ER informed the meeting that she would provide advice on the work necessary
6.	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <p>ME produced two reports for the meeting. The first one outlined the various transactions which had taken place over the past month including the purchase of a new watering buggy, miracle gro plant food and stone for the triangle. We still maintain a healthy balance. The second report outlined the problems experienced in gaining access to online banking with Virgin Money. These problems culminated in ME and GR submitting formal complaints. The report also proposed changes to the membership form, namely increasing the minimum membership fee to from £5 to £10 per annum and allowing for members to pay monthly or annually. After discussion these amendments were agreed.</p> <p>ME also saw the upcoming plant sale as a great opportunity to increase our membership and indicated that his daughter would supply helium balloons with various logos to attract membership. This was readily agreed.</p>
7.	<p>Memorial Park Centenary.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that planning was well underway for the centenary celebration and picnic which would take place in the Park between 11am and 3pm on Saturday 15th June 2024. Discussions are taking place with various groups including Stirling Council, the Community Council, the local churches, schools as well as the scouts and guides to obtain their views on the format. It was also intended to involve the Dr Welsh Trust and Discover Bridge of Allan. There will be entertainment for the children together with displays by local groups and a pipe band and ceilidh band to provide the music.</p> <p>GR produced a briefing paper outlining the subgroup's work so far under the following headings. – Participants, Facilities, Entertainment, Activities, Publicity and Invited Guests. The meeting noted the substantial amount of work that had been undertaken by the subgroup.</p> <p>Full details of arrangements so far are held on file.</p>

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8.	<p>Projects.</p> <p>SG raised the issue of the poor state of the bed at the Crook steps, particularly an overhanging bush. SG was informed that we should take whatever action is necessary to tidy the area.</p> <p>The stones had been placed in the triangle at Allanvale Road and the area was now ready for planting.</p>
10.	<p>AOCB.</p> <p>The plant sale on 18th May was briefly discussed and it was hoped that as many volunteers as possible would be available on the day. Notification should be sent to all volunteers.</p> <p>GR reported on a recent visit to the Guala Factory which is due for closure. There are no plans as yet for the site.</p>
11.	<p>Date of next meeting.</p> <p>Monday 27th May 2024 at 7pm within the Allan Centre.</p>

Actions.

4.	Wording of the plaque for the copper beech tree at Royal Garden.	SMcG
4.	Speak with Gordon Lawrie of Stirling Council re a possible storage facility at the tennis courts in Keir Street.	RK
4.	Contact Council regarding a new refuse bin for Cosy Cott.	RK
5.	Tidying of Garth's rockery.	ER and others
5.	Follow up on issues in Memorial Park which have to be addressed by Land Services.	GR
10	Notice to be sent to all volunteers regarding help at the plant sale.	GR
10	Posters to be displayed on noticeboards and in shops re plant sale.	DN