

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

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| Date | Monday 24th June 2024 |
| Time | 7pm |
| Location | Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan |
| Attendees | Graham Russell (Chair), Sheila Hutton, Mark Everett, Judith Everett, Jenny Smith, Sheila Gebbie, Elizabeth Rankin. Murray Airth, Mike Watson |
| Apologies | Douglas Neilson (Secretary) Robin Kleinman |

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 ER and seconded by ME. |
| 4. | Matters arising. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plaque at Beech in Royal Garden - still awaiting wording from Sheila McG. • Storage at tennis courts Opening delayed – carry forward. • Refuse bin at Cosy Cott -RK advised all compactor bins are being withdrawn, however bins in this area will be emptied daily. Rodent scarers now installed. • Drop kerbs at BFD Alasdair Tollemache has raised again re excessive delay - work now due by end July • Succulents in stump at Royal Garden – ER to pursue • Homesteads – supply of bedding plants for 2025 – keep getting different stories GR and ER have list of plants used in 2024 in case we need to look elsewhere. • Sunnyslaw Meadow committee. GR has written to Amanda Coulthard saying there were no volunteers from Friends to sit on this committee. |
| 5. | <p>General report by the Chair.</p> <p>June has been an exceptionally busy month. 136 hanging baskets have been put up, with a lot of help from volunteers and some of Eddy Fotheringham's fire fighter colleagues. In addition, 3 Troughs at the Provost's Park were hung on the railings and 47 other planters filled with bedding plants. In addition, the areas at the steps of the Memorial Park have been planted with bedding plants as has the area around the Provosts Lamp in the Provosts Park. This has been a very successful exercise thanks to the many volunteers who have contributed.</p> <p>The watering and feeding has now commenced, with a few new and some returning volunteers added to rota.</p> <p>Stirling Council has topped up the soil and seeded the former bedding areas at the Memorial Park and have treated the open spaces and round the trees and shrubs in the grass areas with weedkiller.</p> <p>An intensive period of tidying up, recutting and lifting grass was undertaken prior to the Centenary Picnic. Karen McGregor spent some considerable time clearing weeds along the Henderson Street and Keir Street boundaries with help from Robert Franks, who also keeps an eye on Garth's Rockery.</p> <p>Other works last week included cutting back shrubs which were encroaching on the</p> |

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| | <p>pavement and grass areas. David and Carol Byres have done a great job clearing weeds etc from Alexander Drive; Alison Archibald and Ellison Hudson continue their good work in the town centre. Archie Purdie has been cutting back overhanging bushes in Blairforkie Drive. The area at the Turkish Barbers has been weedkilled by Ross Muirhead. Charlie Flaws has cut grass at Well Road, Blairforkie Drive, the Fire Station and the Royal Garden. The grass area around the Fountain was cut, very poorly, by Stirling Council on 1 June. Robin Kleinman and Gordon Wilson raked up and bagged 4 builders bags of grass which were removed by Charlie Flaws who then recut the grass – properly this time and cleared all the cuttings. Angus Robertson continues to look after Blairforkie Drive and Cosy Cott which are both developing nicely. ER advised some additional plants had been planted at the Millennium Garden and driftwood had been placed in the Allanvale Road Triangle. A big thanks to all involved</p> |
| 6. | <p>Treasurer’s report. ME reported we had a healthy balance with all outstanding invoices paid. Despite handing out around 20 Membership Forms at the Picnic in the Park, none have been returned. Virgin Money have acknowledged they did not handle the change of Treasurer process well and have agreed to pay us £250 compensation.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Centenary Picnic in the Park Review. After a huge amount of effort in planning, organising and preparation for this event, it was great that it all came together so well on the 15th. The sub committee of Liz, Sheila H, Robin and me with lots of help from others, had pulled a very successful event together. We had excellent support from particularly St Saviour Church, schools, scouts, guides, Active Stirling, the Dr Welsh Trust, Discover Bridge of Allan, the Bowling and rugby clubs, yoga group, silent disco and others. The fire engine from Stirling proved a popular attraction. Thanks to Derek Blair for the sound system and our entertainment from pipers Murray and Morven McNeish, Ceilidh singers Rob Griffith and Pam Wallace, the superb Saltire Steel Band and an excellent final singer in Barry Honeyman. The ice cream van and coffee trailer did well as did the churches with their tea, coffee and home baking. The treasure hunt was very well received, and the Bridge of Allan Primary School time capsule proved a big attraction. Slightly disappointing was the attendance from invited guests, however this was more than made up for by enthusiastic support from the public. St Saviours Church collected over £300 from donations for tea etc which they are offering to us. After discussion, it was agreed to a 50:50 split. It was a great event and there are suggestions to make it an annual one. We agreed to give this some thought.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Marketing of Friends of Bridge of Allan. It was agreed to consider items 8 and 9 under the same heading. After some discussion, it was agreed to review our overall approach to marketing and increasing membership till after the summer. It was clear that handing out membership forms at various events did not generate any significant increase in membership and that most new members so far were only subscribing members and not volunteers.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Increasing the membership. – see above.</p> |

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| 10. | <p>AOCB. Our insurance cover is due to renew on 1 July. It was noted we could not get cover for operating machinery without having operator training and certification which is not practically possible. Meeting agreed to an increase in premium of £60 to cover additional watering trolley, higher turnover and increase in number of full time equivalent volunteers. Also agreed to revisit disclaimer for all volunteers to sign. Green waste disposal. GR intimated correspondence from Waste Disposal Co-ordinator expressing his concern about quantity of waste being taken to Polmaise. GR has responded with reasons why this is being done, i.e. Land Services no longer uplift it! Agreed we would continue to operate as we are and any attempt to limit our activities would be strongly resisted.</p> |
| 11. | <p>Date of next meeting. Monday 30th September 2024 at 7pm within the Allan Centre.</p> |

Actions.

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| 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. | Possibility of succulents and ferns in stump of tree in Royal Garden | ER |
| 7. | Picnic in the Park – consider whether to repeat | All |
| 10. | Revisit disclaimer for all volunteers | GR/DN |