

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 30th September 2024
Time	7pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan,
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Mark Everett (Treasurer), Elizabeth Rankin, Robin Kleinman, Sheila Gebbie, Sheila Hutton, Murray Airth, Jenny Smith. Ian Anderson attended as an observer.
Apologies	Mike Watson, Judith Everett.

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1.	Welcome. GR opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. He started by paying tribute to one of the Friends founder members, Chris Turner, who passed away earlier this month. Chris loved working in the Memorial Park and until the last few years could be seen working there on a regular basis.
2.	Apologies. As above.
3.	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the June meeting were taken as a true record and proposed by ER and seconded by SG.
4.	Matters arising not on the agenda. We are still awaiting wording for the plaque for the tree in the Royal Garden from Sheila McGregor. The opening of the tennis courts has been delayed so the subject of storage in the area will be carried forward. The dropped kerb and disabled parking bay at Blairforkie Drive has been completed. The issue of planting succulents in the tree stump in Royal Garden is being taken forward by ER. It has been established that Homesteads will not be supplying bedding plants for the next plant sale. GR attended a meeting with the Community Council and Discover Bridge of Allan where the current position of the Local Place Plan was discussed. A disclaimer form for volunteers is in the process of being drafted and will be circulated.
5.	General report by the Chair. Since our last meeting in June, we have had pretty poor weather all summer. The hanging baskets and planters were slower to come to full bloom but eventually gave a colourful display and were much admired. Watering arrangements worked very well with a number of new volunteers. Baskets will be coming down this week; planters emptied as they die back. Baskets will be taken to container, checked and repaired as necessary before taking to Homesteads for winter storage Memorial Park – grass cutting frequency has been reduced and now only one cut left – sometime next week. During the season, we have been carrying out some cutting around

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	Monday 30th September 2024
Time	7pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan,
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Mark Everett (Treasurer), Elizabeth Rankin, Robin Kleinman, Sheila Gebbie, Sheila Hutton, Murray Airth, Jenny Smith. Ian Anderson attended as an observer.
Apologies	Mike Watson, Judith Everett.

	<p>the new trees using mower kindly donated to us. Volunteer Charlie Flaws (CF) has done some cut and lifting before being told off by SM - no follow up so we propose to continue to tidy up in preparation for Remembrance Sunday.</p> <p>Other maintenance operations continue and hedges round War Memorial have been, mostly, cut in preparation for 10 November.</p> <p>New beds at Allanvale Road triangle and Howff have established well. Millennium garden posts have been repainted – thanks SH. Provost’s Park has had some pruning and general maintenance but is looking a bit shabby. All other areas are being regularly maintained by the usual volunteers. CF is now cutting BFD, Well Road, Royal Garden, Fire Station and Fountain Road roundabout and making an excellent job.</p> <p>Our weeding volunteers have been hard at work over the summer with many areas benefitting from their attention. Stirling Council eventually sprayed weedkiller in late July/ early August which has eased the problem. I see no reason why this couldn’t have been done a month or two earlier and perhaps RK can suggest this to the Council?</p> <p>A couple of weeks ago, some of the committee attended the Inspire Volunteering Awards held at the Albert Halls. We had been shortlisted in the Volunteering for your Environment Category after being put forward by the Community Council. Unfortunately, we didn’t win but it was a very enjoyable evening.</p> <p>A number of us attended a special birthday party for our long-standing volunteer, Ian Anderson who was 90 years young last month. Congratulations Ian.</p> <p>We continue to attract new members and some volunteers who are very welcome.</p>
6.	<p>Treasurer’s report.</p> <p>Since the meeting in June there has been little or no expenditure. We are sitting with a healthy balance in our account due in part to increased donations and a few new members during the current year. We also received £250 compensation from Virgin Money, £125 from St Saviours Church from monies made by the at the Picnic in the Park and £500 from Fairview School, again as a donation for Picnic in the Park.</p> <p>Due to the bank charges imposed by Virgin Money it was agreed to open a community bank account with the Royal Bank of Scotland. This would also simplify the payment in of cash from the collection cans.</p>
7.	<p>Plant Sale and Coffee Morning.</p> <p>The plant sale and coffee morning will take place on Saturday 24th May 2025. There will be no bedding plants for sale from Homesteads and it has been decided to carry this matter forward to the next meeting.</p>
8.	<p>Purchase of equipment.</p> <p>The purchase of the following equipment was approved by the committee: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stihl petrol leaf blower - £278 • Stihl petrol hedge trimmer - £269

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	Monday 30th September 2024
Time	7pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan,
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Mark Everett (Treasurer), Elizabeth Rankin, Robin Kleinman, Sheila Gebbie, Sheila Hutton, Murray Airth, Jenny Smith. Ian Anderson attended as an observer.
Apologies	Mike Watson, Judith Everett.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An edging attachment for the rotary tiller which has been donated by MA - £60. • A selection of work gloves • Eye and ear protectors.
9.	<p>Projects.</p> <p>A request has been received from the trustees of the Allan Centre asking if the Friends would be willing to improve the raised beds at the rear of the Centre in keeping with the nearby triangle. This was agreed as a worthwhile project to enhance the general area and in addition it may be feasible to tidy up the slabbed area near the entrance to the Centre and install planters and additional hanging baskets.</p> <p>Further work requires to be undertaken at the Millennium Garden. Stirling Council have, so far, failed to deliver on their promise to remove trees and shrubs from the area to create new beds. This may now be delayed due to the proposed work regarding the flood prevention.</p>
10.	<p>Memorial ideas for Chris Turner.</p> <p>It was felt appropriate that some form of memorial for Chris should be identified. Suggestions have included a plaque on the bench which backed on to his house in Graham Street or a tree in the particular bed that Chris used to look after. This matter will be carried forward and we await suggestions from the family.</p>
11.	<p>Christmas.</p> <p>The lights switch on will take place on Saturday 23rd November.</p> <p>GR will speak with George Morrison from Molawn regarding the wreaths and the supply of the Christmas tree.</p>
12.	<p>AOCB.</p> <p>It was agreed that the end of season celebration should take place towards the end of November in the Brewhouse as last year was a great success. ER to speak with Douglas Ross to arrange.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that there was still no reply from Stirling Council regarding the supply of hanging basket trees for the Memorial Park.</p> <p>GR also asked for the committee approval to purchase a wreath for the Remembrance Service at the Memorial. This was agreed.</p> <p>IA asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of his albums of photographs which had been on display at Picnic in the Park. It was agreed that members be circulated to establish their whereabouts.</p>

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 30th September 2024
Time	7pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan,
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Mark Everett (Treasurer), Elizabeth Rankin, Robin Kleinman, Sheila Gebbie, Sheila Hutton, Murray Airth, Jenny Smith. Ian Anderson attended as an observer.
Apologies	Mike Watson, Judith Everett.

13.	DONM. Monday 28th October 2024 at 7pm in the Allan Centre.
------------	--

Actions

4.	Sheila McGregor to provide wording for plaque in Royal Garden	SMcG
4.	Storage in area of tennis courts.	RK
4.	Disclaimer for volunteers.	DN/GR
5.	Earlier weedkilling to be discussed with Stirling Council.	RK
6.	Community account to be opened with RBS.	ME/DN/GR
8.	Purchase of equipment.	GR
10.	Memorial ideas for Chris Turner.	All
11.	Wreaths and tree from Molawn.	GR
12.	Contact Stirling Council regarding the supply of basket trees for the Park.	RK
12.	Purchase wreath for Remembrance Service.	GR