

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 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), Mark Everett (Treasurer), Robin Kleinman, Sheila Gebbie, Sheila Hutton, Jenny Smith, Judith Everett, Mike Watson.</b>
<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Elizabeth Rankin, Murray Airth.</b>

**Agenda Ref**

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<b>1</b>	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone present and informed the meeting that the Friends of Bridge of Allan were now members of the Allan Centre and that we would no longer have to pay for the use of a meeting room.
<b>2</b>	Apologies. As above.
<b>3</b>	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as a true record and proposed by SH and seconded by ME.
<b>4</b>	Matters arising not on the agenda. Item 4 Still awaiting wording for the tree plaque from Sheila McGregor. Item 4 Storage at tennis courts – Opening has been delayed – carry forward. Item 4 Disclaimer for Volunteers – in progress. Item 5 Earlier weedkilling – RK raised issue with Stirling Council and they will consider the matter. Item 6 RBS Community Account – awaiting confirmation of account opening. Item 8 Purchase of equipment. Hedge trimmer, blower and edging attachment purchased and two of the items are in use already. Item 12 Supply of basket trees RK has reminded SC and they say they are checking with the Community Council involved. Item 12 Wreath for Remembrance Service has been purchased.
<b>5</b>	General Report Hanging baskets and troughs were taken down in one session on 3 October – probably the most efficient operation in recent memory. Thanks to all volunteers and Royal Hotel for use of car park. 136 baskets and 3 troughs have been checked and repaired as required and will be taken to Homesteads soon for storage; planters are now all emptied. Some winter bedding being put in at Turkish Barbers and Royal Gardens. Bedding in Provost’s Park and at MP steps now cleared. Memorial Park – final grass cut completed. We will try to carry out a grass cut and lift prior to Remembrance Sunday if conditions allow. As of last week, we have now taken over 5 tonnes of green waste to the Council recycling facility at Polmaise. This is an indication of

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	<p>just how much work is carried out by our volunteers over the year so far. All other areas are being regularly maintained. We have had a further new volunteer joining us on Thursday. We have purchased gloves and are issuing these to volunteers. We also purchased ear defenders and eye protectors for use when operating powered machinery, however these will only be issued to volunteers who are able and willing to operate the equipment.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p>Treasurer's report. During October we have purchased some items of equipment otherwise there has been very little expenditure. We are sitting with a healthy balance and this will be increased in the coming month with the membership standing orders.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p>Projects. GR and DN will be attending a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November with the Trustees of the Allan Centre to discuss the proposed project to improve the raised beds at the rear of the Centre and any other areas which require attention. SH raised the topic of the Millennium Garden and reminded the group of a previous meeting 2 years ago with Stirling Council regarding the total clearing of the large shrub beds, which are a mess. Nothing further had developed after this meeting and it was agreed that the Council should once again be contacted in an effort to further this matter. RK agreed to take this forward. The condition of the Provost's Park gazebo and path surfacing was raised and it was agreed that this was a matter for the Community Council to progress with Stirling Council. This will be raised by MW and RK at the next Community Council meeting. The compost in a number of the planters will require to be changed over the winter months.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p>Memorial ideas for Chris Turner. The family have not been back in touch with any suggestions as yet. They will be contacted. There is still the idea of a plaque on bench in the Memorial Park or the possibility of a tree in the bed that Chris had adopted. RK informed the meeting there may be an opportunity for benches at Sunnylaw.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p>Christmas. The end of season meal has again been arranged for the Allanwater Brewhouse with a maximum of 40 people at a cost of £15 per head. We will be having the Christmas wreaths as last year and Tom Morgan will again go round the shops and businesses to establish numbers. The Christmas lights switch on will be 23<sup>rd</sup> November. All the lights for the tree, gazebo and other locations have been checked and are in working order with the exception of one of the lights at the basket tree at the Chemists. To keep them the same four will require to</p>

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	<p>be replaced. Low voltage cables have been purchased for the gazebo lights due to health and safety concerns.</p> <p>A meeting will take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November to discuss arrangements for the switch on.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p>AOCB.</p> <p>GR stated that Angus Robertson had been in touch with him again regarding the number of rats which have infested the Cosy Cott area. He was becoming concerned with this. RK stated that he would inform Stirling Council again.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<p>DONM</p> <p>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7pm within the P.E. room at the Allan Centre.</p>

### Actions

<b>4</b>	<b>Still awaiting wording for the tree plaque from Sheila McGregor.</b>	<b>GR</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Storage at tennis courts – Opening has been delayed – carry forward.</b>	<b>RK</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Disclaimer for Volunteers – in progress.</b>	<b>GR/DN</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Check with Stirling Council re basket trees.</b>	<b>RK</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Baskets and troughs to be checked and taken to Homesteads for storage.</b>	<b>GR/DN</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Meeting with Trustees of the Allan Centre.</b>	<b>GR/DN</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Contact Stirling Council regarding the Millennium Garden.</b>	<b>RK</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Raise the condition of the gazebo and paths in the Provost's Park with the CC.</b>	<b>MW/RK</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Contact Eileen Turner re memorial for Chris.</b>	<b>DN</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Purchase Christmas lights for basket tree at Chemist.</b>	<b>GR/DN</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Contact Stirling Council regarding the rats at Cosy Cott.</b>	<b>RK</b>