

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025</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), Elizabeth Rankin, Robin Kleinman, Jenny Smith.</b>
<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Mark Everett (Treasurer), Sheila Hutton, Judith Everett, Mike Watson.</b>

**Agenda Ref**

Ref	Minutes
<b>1.</b>	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone to the first committee meeting of 2025.
<b>2.</b>	Apologies. As above.
<b>3.</b>	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the November meeting were agreed as a true record and proposed by RK and seconded by JS.
<b>4.</b>	Matters arising not on the agenda. Item 4 Plaque on beech tree – no response from Sheila McGregor so it will be removed from the agenda. Item 4 Storage at tennis courts - Opening of the courts has been delayed and awaiting refurbishment of the MUGA – carry forward. Item 4 Disclaimer for Volunteers – no further information at present – carry forward. Item 4 Basket trees – GR has been advised that there are 2 basket trees from Callander to be allocated – awaiting update. GR also asked Stirling Council if there were any spare baskets and he is awaiting a reply. Item 7 Provost’s Park – awaiting Community Council arranging meeting with Stirling Council. item 7 Members to fill vacancies – no further action to date – carry forward. Item 8 Meeting with Discover Bridge of Allan – GR, DN and RK met to discuss the Community Action Plan and our involvement. Item 9 Contact current volunteers who are not members – carry forward. Item 11 Plaque and tree for Chris Turner – carry forward.
<b>5.</b>	General Report GR reported the since our last committee meeting in November, we have continued with leaf and debris clearing in the Memorial Park, especially since the storm on 24 January. A couple of cherry trees had broken off in the storm and these were tidied up and all arisings removed. Over a tonne of leaves, branches etc were taken to Polmaise for recycling. Garth’s Rockery maintenance is ongoing and Robert Franks has now completed the removal of leaves. Openreach are to be installing a duct through the rockery bed for feeding fibre cable to Coneyhill but will reinstate on completion. DN and ER met them to discuss.

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	Some new planting has been put in at Cosy Cott by Sheila Gebbie and SH had been maintaining the Millennium Garden which needs a few new plants. The Photina hedge at the Royal Garden was cut by Stirling Council in December. All other areas are ticking over. The Christmas arrangements were all reported in November – everything was dismantled and cleared away in early January. The wreaths were returned to Mo-Lawn for recycling.
<b>6.</b>	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <p>In the absence of the treasurer the chairman provided the following report.</p> <p>RBS Community Account has now been opened and this will be operated along with the Virgin Money Account. A fairly quiet month with regard to the accounts. Total Income for the month was £294. This comprised of collecting cans and donations totalling £144, plus members subscriptions of £150. There was a total expenditure of £333. This comprised of plants for Cosy Cott of £78, £230 for website renewal plus bank charges of £25.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p>Plant Sale and Coffee Morning.</p> <p>Date of the Plant Sale was confirmed as Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</p> <p>ER suggested that we should look at the purchase of one or two 'Sum-up' terminals to accept payment by card as there was likely to be no cash machine available in the Village by the time of the plant sale.</p> <p>RK suggested that the DR Welsh Trust could have a table at the plant sale and this was agreed.</p> <p>A discussion then ensued regarding the sourcing of bedding plants for the sale as Homesteads will no longer be able to supply them. This is now viewed as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>A check should be made with the Church Secretary to establish if the work on the hall roof will be complete by the time of the sale.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p>Picnic in the Park.</p> <p>The date was agreed as Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025.</p> <p>GR was of the view that it should be the same format as last year and this was agreed.</p> <p>A sub committee of the same members as last year should be formed to take the plans forward and a meeting of this sub committee has been arranged for 5pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p>Projects.</p> <p>Allan Centre – GR and DN met with trustees on 12 November. Initially going to look at the planters in the rear car park. Also suggested 3 new hanging baskets on wall at the side of the library. ER suggested that we could also place two large barrels in the area near to the entrance to the Allan Centre. She also suggested moving the position of the nearby bench as it currently faced the car park.</p>

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<b>10.</b>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>RK informed the meeting that Stirling Council had employed a pest control company to look at the Cosy Cott area and they had informed the Council that, after inspection, there didn't appear to be a problem with rats in the area. This is despite the fact that one of our volunteers had photographed them on a number of occasions. It was decided not to pursue the matter further.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<p>DONM.</p> <p>The AGM will be held on <b><u>Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 at 5pm.</u></b> Please note the new time.</p>

### Actions

<b>4.</b>	<b>Storage at tennis courts.</b>	<b>RK</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Disclaimer for volunteers.</b>	<b>GR/DN</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Basket trees form SC.</b>	<b>GR</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Meeting re Provost's Park.</b>	<b>GR</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Members to fill vacancies on committee.</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Contact current volunteers who are not members.</b>	<b>GR</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Memorial tree and plaque for Chris Turner.</b>	<b>GR/DN</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Look at possibility of 'Sum up' terminals for plant sale.</b>	<b>ME</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Supply of bedding plants for plant sale.</b>	<b>GR/DN/ER</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Check with Church Secretary regarding work on Hall roof.</b>	<b>DN</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Progress arrangements for Picnic in the Park. Meeting arranged for 5pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.</b>	<b>Sub Com</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Allan Centre project to be taken forward.</b>	<b>GR/DN/ER/RK</b>