

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	Monday 28th May 2025
Time	5pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan.
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Mark Everett (Treasurer), Judith Everett, Elizabeth Rankin, Jenny Smith, Archie Purdie, Sheila Hutton.
Apologies	Robin Klienman, Mike Watson, Murray Airth.

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1.	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2.	Apologies. As above.
3.	Minutes of the last meeting. The amended minutes of the April meeting were agreed as a true record and proposed by ER and seconded by JE.
4.	Matters arising not on the agenda. Item 4 - Disclaimer for Volunteers – all members to look at wording. Item 4 - Basket trees – Installed Item 4 - Provost's Park – still awaiting CC arranging meeting with SC. item 4 - Members to fill vacancies c/f. Item 4 - Contact members who are not volunteers – in hand. Item 5 - Spare wheel purchased, spare tee pieces for taps obtained. item 6 - Pea gravel for rockery – plenty in container. Item 12 - Trees and plaques. Awaiting wording for plaques. Possible donated tree for Christina Allison and need to purchase a tree for Chris Turner.
5.	General Report. GR had already circulated his report to the committee, a copy is held on file. A very busy month! Thanks to everyone who has helped. Pleased to welcome new volunteers – Erin Fairlight, Liz Roddis and Paul Carvall. Tom Morgan has visited all traders for baskets and barrels. Very good response and mostly all paid. Total baskets now over 150. Preparations for plant sale and coffee morning more or less completed. Plants from Mo-Lawn look good. New card readers purchased. Preparations for Picnic in the Park well in hand. New posters and leaflets distributed. Banners ordered. All entertainment confirmed. £500 sponsorship from Fairview International School. Barrels and planters all planted. Further compost added to some, all watered in advance of planting and post planting. Watering trolleys checked, batteries charged etc., new spare wheel purchased New basket trees installed at Memorial Park including substantial modifications, and repainting.

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	<p>All basket brackets inspected. New brackets installed at Allan Centre and Strathallan Pharmacy; replaced bracket at Fire Station which inspection showed was loose. Salvaged some brackets from unused locations.</p> <p>Possible 2 further brackets and baskets at Merha.</p> <p>Baskets to go up this week, watering rota starts w/c 1June. All slots filled.</p> <p>Work continues at all locations.</p> <p>Main activities -</p> <p>Memorial Park mostly sprayed, overhanging branches cut back, beds at steps prepared for bedding plants. Some new plants planted.</p> <p>Royal Garden grass cut and removed, new geraniums planted.</p> <p>Provost's Park: new outside tap installed. Increased our maintenance activities and carried out pruning of shrubs, sweeping and clearing of accumulated leaves and litter. Bed at Provost's lamp prepared for new bedding.</p> <p>Millennium Garden new plants put in. SH stated that wet grass had stuck to the wooden sides of the planters after the Council had cut the grass.</p> <p>Blairforkie Drive area. All sprayed and grass cut, some new plants added.</p> <p>Work on Allan Centre project has stalled due to pressure of other activities. Two outside water taps have been fitted which will aid watering of baskets and planters at the library and Allan Centre.</p> <p>Planning application submitted for container at Tennis Courts.</p>
6.	<p>Treasurer's report.</p> <p>ME Had already circulated his report to the committee members a copy of which is held on file.</p> <p>We currently have a very healthy total in both bank accounts albeit some £5800 will require to be paid out for the hanging baskets.</p> <p>The plant sale/coffee morning was very successful with a profit well in excess of £2000.</p> <p>ME felt that the sum-up card readers had been very useful on the day and this was agreed.</p>
7.	<p>Storage – Planning permission.</p> <p>GR informed the meeting that he had submitted the planning application to Stirling Council. Stirling Council are happy for the Friends to use the area and an agreement to use this land will be signed.</p> <p>A container will require to be found for this location and hopefully another one for the Games Park.</p>
8.	<p>Plant Sale and Coffee Morning – debrief.</p> <p>All members agreed that the Plant Sale and Coffee Morning had been a great success with a very good turnout from the public. A note was taken of the plants that sold out quickly and of ones which the public were interested in but we were unable to supply. This will hopefully be corrected for next year.</p>

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	<p>JE raised the topic of growing indoor plants as she had brought several to the sale and they had sold well. She stated that she had a large number of similar plants but insufficient space to store them. She suggested that possibly volunteers may be able to over-winter them at home. It was agreed that she should circulate volunteers and establish if anyone can assist.</p>
9.	<p>Picnic in the Park.</p> <p>The subcommittee are due to meet immediately after this meeting. Invitations have been issued to previous participants.</p> <p>Barry Honeyman is unavailable but has provided the name of another singer who has agreed to participate.</p> <p>SH displayed the banners which had been purchased advertising the event. It was agreed that they were very good.</p> <p>GR proposed that the Friends do not run Picnic in the Park next year due to the pressure of work at this time of the season and suggested that he would speak to the Community Council and Discover Bridge of Allan for them to take over. This was seconded by DN and unanimously agreed by the committee.</p>
10	<p>Public awareness of the Friends.</p> <p>ME had already circulated a discussion paper on this subject in conjunction with JE and SH. The main topics were funding for a new website and emailing existing members in order to promote membership among family and friends.</p> <p>A frank discussion took place and a variety of views were expressed. Eventually it was agreed that ME and JE should produce a draft for the email which would be circulated to existing members. The issue of QR codes for the website and notice boards etc requires further investigation.</p>
11.	<p>Projects.</p> <p>The Allan Centre project is currently on hold due to other work although the brackets for the hanging baskets have been installed.</p>
12.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>GR raised the subject of a donation to the Church following the Plant Sale and it was agreed that £100 would be appropriate.</p> <p>A new version of the membership form, which includes the Treasurer's email address was circulated to members. All older versions should be destroyed.</p>
13.	<p>DONM.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on <u>Monday, 30th June 2025 at 5pm.</u></p>

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Actions

4.	Disclaimer for volunteers.	All
4.	Members to fill vacancies on committee.	All
4.	Contact current volunteers who are not members.	GR
4.	Memorial tree and plaque for Chris Turner.	ER
8.	Circulate to volunteers re over-wintering household plants	JE
9.	Contact CC and Discover Bridge of Allan re taking over Picnic in the Park.	GR
10.	Draft e-mail to existing members to promote membership to others.	ME/JE
12.	Donation to Church.	ME
12.	Destroy all old versions of membership form.	All