

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	Monday 27th October 2025
Time	5pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan.
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Mark Everett (Treasurer), Judith Everett, Jenny Smith, Archie Purdie, Sheila Hutton, Robin Kleinman.
Apologies	Elizabeth Rankin, Murray Airth.

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1.	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone to the October meeting.
2.	Apologies. As above. No apology received from the CC representative, Mike Watson.
3.	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the September meeting were agreed as a true record and proposed by SH and seconded by RK.
4.	Matters arising not on the agenda. Item 4 – ER had previously produced and circulated a draft disclaimer for volunteers. It was agreed to pass it on to Alasdair Mackie for his views. item 4 - Members to fill vacancies c/f. Item 4 – A memorial tree for Chris Turner will be purchased from Craigmarloch along with the shrubs which will be required for the Provost's Park. Item 4 – Re the overwintering of household plants. GR had spoken to Dunblane in Bloom and they agreed that they would be able to store some of the plants. It was agreed that volunteers would help if required. The dates are mid-January to 9 th March 2026. Item 5 – Plaque for triangle at Union Street. – c/f. Item 12 – GR met with Discover Bridge of Allan regarding Picnic in the Park.
5.	General Report by Chair. A copy of this report is retained on file. All baskets and troughs were taken down in early October. Most of the planters have been cleared though a few are still flowering. Dunblane in Bloom took some of the basket contents and the rest was taken to Polmaise - a total of 3 trailer loads was taken for recycling. Baskets are currently stored in our container at UCP and will be checked and chains etc. repaired as required. Homesteads have confirmed they are happy to store them over the winter. Other activities - Memorial Park –bedding plants at steps cleared. Further cutting of hedges round War Memorial completed and weeds in gravel sprayed in preparation for Remembrance Day. Council carried out a late final grass cut on 13-14 October which left some fairly long grass. Also, extensive leaf fall had to be cleared. Over the last two Thursday sessions we cut the path edges and removed over 15 large bags of leaves. Charlie Flaws has cut and bagged grass from the area adjacent to the Memorial which is still to be taken to the tip.

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	Ongoing maintenance at other locations carried out. We have again been successful with our application to the Co-operative Community Fund. An interim payment will be made in March 2026 with the final grant in November 2026.
6.	Treasurer's report. ME had already circulated his report to the committee members a copy of which is held on file. We currently have a healthy total in both bank accounts despite having paid for the storage container. The majority of members subscriptions will be paid in November
7.	Storage Container. GR informed the meeting that a storage container had been ordered and paid for. It is hoped it would be delivered within the next 2 weeks. Three wooden sleepers have also been purchased and they will be fitted in position in the next few days. A vehicle believed to belong to a University student had been parked all week across the entrance to the area where the storage container will be situated. GR had placed two traffic cones, signs and tape across the entrance in the hope to prevent any future occurrence. RK suggested that he would contact Stirling Council in an effort to get a white line placed on the road to indicate that it was an access point. This was agreed. GR then informed the meeting that he had recently been contacted by Stirling Council who informed him that a 'Licence to Occupy' would be required for siting the container on Council land. He has provided the Council with the necessary information and hopes a licence will be granted soon. The Strathallan Games committee have still not replied to our request to store a container at their ground, although they are due to hold a meeting in November. GR also informed the meeting that he had had been contacted by UCP requesting that we vacate the storage container at their factory by Christmas as the site is closing by the new year.
8.	End of season celebration. The end of season celebration will take place at the Sports Club on Thursday 6th November from 7pm till 10pm. The number of attendees at present is 36 although a number have still to reply. The cost will be £15 per person, cash on the night. JE and SH along with Terry Gourlay to set up the room for the event.
9.	Christmas. Tom Morgan has visited all the shops and businesses regarding the Christmas wreaths. He has 70+ so far. They should be ready about 11th or 12th November. The Christmas tree has increased in price this year and will cost £390. It will be delivered on 20th November in time for the lights switch on 22nd. The tree lights have been checked and are working. The Provost's Park will be swept and tidied up before the switch on. The sponsor plaques will be fixed to the lampposts once the lights are fitted.

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10	Public awareness of the Friends. This has to be continued to a future meeting.
11.	Projects. The Allan Centre project is being progressed and a large tree stump has been removed. Pointing of the stonework is required but this would be better carried out by a professional. This will be raised with the Allan Centre Trustees in the future. The area around the toll stone required to be tidied up and the fence repainted. AP stated that he would take care of this. SH stated that she had replaced the conifer in one of the planters on the dual carriageway. It was agreed that she would check all containers and barrels and note which ones required the conifers to be replaced.
12.	AOCB SH informed the meeting that a plaque at one of the cherry trees in the Memorial Park was lying on the ground, obviously the small stake had rotted. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that it was up to the relatives to have the plaque replaced or repaired. We do not hold details of the people who had requested and paid for a plaque over the years. <u>It was agreed that the AGM would be held at 7pm on Monday 12th January 2026 within the Allan Centre.</u>
13.	DONM. The next meeting will be held on <u>Monday, 24th October 2025 at 5pm</u> within the GP room at the Allan Centre.

Actions

4.	Disclaimer for volunteers to Alasdair Mackie.	GR
4.	Members to fill vacancies on committee.	All
4.	Memorial tree for Chris Turner and shrubs for Provost's Park.	GR
4.	Over-wintering household plants.	JE/All
5.	Check baskets before being taken to Homesteads.	GR/DN + others

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5.	Plaque for triangle at Union Street.	GR/DN
5.	Bags of cut grass to Polmaise.	GR
7.	Fit wooden sleepers for storage container.	GR/DN
7.	Contact Stirling Council re white line at Tennis Courts.	RK
8.	End of season celebration at Sports Club.	JE/SH
9.	Provost's Park tidy up before light switch on.	JS/AP + others
10.	Public awareness of Friends.	ME/JE
11.	Progress Allan Centre project.	GR/DN
11.	Discuss pointing of walls with Allan Centre Trustees.	RK
11.	Toll stone.	AP
11.	Check the conifers in the barrels and planters.	SH