

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	Monday 22nd September 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, Robin Kleinman.
Apologies	Mike Watson, Murray Airth.

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1.	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone to the first meeting in four months, the June meeting having been cancelled.
2.	Apologies. As above.
3.	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the May meeting were agreed as a true record and proposed by ME and seconded by ER.
4.	Matters arising not on the agenda. Item 4 - Disclaimer for Volunteers – all members to look at wording. item 4 - Members to fill vacancies c/f. Item 4 - Contact members who are not volunteers – 16 out of 17 have completed standing order forms. Item 4 – Memorial plaques have been placed on benches for Jimmy and Margaret Gauld and Chris Turner. A tree for Chris will be placed in the Park now that Autumn is here. We also planted a tree for Christina Allison in the Park. This tree was donated by a member and Christina made a substantial donation to the Friends. Item 8 – JE produced an example of the plants she hoped volunteers would over-winter. She has fifty of the plants which she hoped we would be able to sell at the plant sale. It was agreed that she should bring the plants to a later meeting. Item 10 – A donation was made to the Church for our usage of the premises for the plant sale and coffee morning.
5.	General Report by Chair. A copy of this report is retained on file. Since the May committee meeting, all 152 hanging baskets were put up, including 16 new ones - 4 at Allan Centre, 8 at Memorial Park, 2 at Strathallan Pharmacy and 2 at Merha. Watering and feeding of all baskets, troughs, planters etc. carried out with several new volunteers coming on to the rota, which worked very well. Feeding was stopped at end August and watering stopped last week. Baskets will be taken down probably next week and planters etc will also be cleared when display has died back. Thanks to all who have made this year another great success with very many favourable comments on social media and in person to the teams.

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	The second Picnic in the Park was held (in very poor weather) on Saturday 14 June. A huge amount of work went in to preparing the park, with well over a ton of grass and other branches etc taken for recycling. The day went reasonably well but with several call offs due to the weather. Main activities - Memorial Park – new bedding plants put in at steps. Extensive pruning of overgrown bushes carried out, including hedges at War Memorial in preparation for Remembrance Day. Weedkilling, path edging and edging of existing beds ongoing. Some new planting done. Garth's Rockery maintenance ongoing but we will miss Robert Frank's weekly input Royal Garden grass continues to be cut and removed, further new geraniums planted, shrubs pruned and areas edged. Provost's Park - bedding planted which gave very colourful display in the much-improved topsoil. Ongoing maintenance to existing planting beds, including watering during very dry summer. Millennium Garden – timber posts have been repainted and are looking much fresher. Plants are establishing well. Weeds in paving have been sprayed Blairforkie Drive areas. All being very well maintained and maturing nicely. Grass being cut and removed and weeds sprayed as required, New planting has established well. Allanvale Road raised bed is maturing very nicely and plants are looking really good. Work on Allan Centre raised beds has resumed after initial clearance undertaken. Our regular weeding and general clearing teams have continued their good work over the summer and kept many areas in the town centre clean and tidy. Unfortunately, the Council weedkilling efforts have not been particularly effective. ER stated that some of the conifers were becoming too large for the barrels. It was agreed that she would check which ones required removal. It was suggested that a Friends plaque should be placed at the triangle at Union Street. It was agreed that this would be progressed. ER suggested that we should have another meeting with Stirling Council regarding the Memorial Park. SH stated that she would purchase more stones for the raised beds at the Millenium garden as squirrels had been removing them.
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 very healthy total in both bank accounts. We now have 170 members paying a subscription by standing order.
7.	Storage – Planning permission. GR informed the meeting that planning had been approved for the storage container to be placed in the land adjacent to the tennis courts. A method statement would be required

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	before the siting of a container. GR had contacted the Games Committee regarding the siting of a storage container there but had still to receive a formal reply. He had also contacted UCP 3 times regarding them donating containers but had received no reply. GR proposed that we spend up to £3500 in purchasing and positioning a container at the tennis courts and this was agreed.
8.	End of season celebration. A discussion took place on possible venues for the celebration and it was agreed that ER would check with the Westerton regarding the use of the upstairs room and with the sports club.
9.	Christmas. It was agreed that we should, once again, obtain our Christmas wreaths from MoLawn at the same price as last year. It was also agreed that MoLawn should supply the Christmas tree. GR informed the meeting that the Community Council are arranging for a switch on of the Christmas lights on 22nd November.
10	Public awareness of the Friends. This has to be continued to a future meeting.
11.	Projects. The Allan Centre project is being progressed again now that the summer work in winding down. DN stated that the area around the toll stone required to be tidied up and the fence repainted.
12.	AOCB GR sought permission to purchase a poppy wreath and this was agreed. RK raised the topic of our withdrawal from the Picnic in the Park as some members felt that it should be revisited. After a lengthy discussion during which various views were aired it was agreed that we would not continue to run the event due to the work involved. It was agreed that the Chair would contact Discover Bridge of Allan again to confirm that they were progressing with it and to give guidance on the types of activities.
13.	DONM. The next meeting will be held on <u>Monday, 27th October 2025 at 5pm</u> within the GP room at the Allan Centre.

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Actions

4.	Disclaimer for volunteers.	All
4.	Members to fill vacancies on committee.	All
4.	Memorial tree.	GR
4.	Over-wintering household plants.	JE/All
5.	Check the conifers in the barrels and planters.	ER
5.	Plaque for triangle at Union Street.	GR/DN
5.	Meeting with Stirling council regarding the Memorial Park.	GR/ER/DN
5.	Purchase stones for the Millennium Garden.	SH
8.	Check suitable premises for end of season celebration.	ER
9.	Contact MoLawn re wreaths and Christmas tree.	GR
10.	Public awareness of Friends.	ME/JE
11.	Progress Allan Centre project.	GR/DN
11.	Toll stone.	Various
12.	Purchase poppy wreath.	GR
12.	Re-contact Discover Bridge of Allan re Picnic in the Park.	GR