

**Friends of Bridge of Allan**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

Date	<b>Monday 27th January 2025</b>
Time	<b>7pm</b>
Location	<b>Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan.</b>
Attendees	<b>Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Sheila Hutton, Robin Kleinman, Robert Franks, Jenny Smith, Sheila Gebbie, Douglas Gebbie, Mike Watson, Gavin Drummond, Alison Archibald, David Byres, Jon Cape.</b>
Apologies	<b>Judith Everett, Mark Everett, Sheila McGregor, Gordon Wilson, Elizabeth Rankin, Douglas Dodds.</b>

**Agenda Ref**

Ref	Minutes
<b>1</b>	Welcome. GR welcomed members to the sixteenth annual general meeting.
<b>2</b>	Apologies. As above.
<b>3</b>	Minutes of the AGM of 2024. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the last AGM and were proposed by RK and seconded by SH.
<b>4</b>	Report of the Chair. The following is a summary of the Chair's report which is held on file: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GR began his remarks by thanking all volunteers for their efforts in the past year.</li> <li>• Several new volunteers have joined us in the past year which is very encouraging.</li> <li>• Memorial Park – Stirling Council had confirmed that there would be no summer bedding. A decision was made to grass over the beds and plant cherry trees in the centre of each bed. Last year we generated almost 6 tonnes of green waste from the park. We continue to improve the surrounds of the War Memorial prior to the annual Remembrance service.</li> <li>• To commemorate the centenary of the planting out of the Memorial Park we held a 'Picnic in the Park', which proved to be very successful. We had excellent support from various local organisations, clubs and groups. It was deemed such a success that it is intended to hold another 'Picnic' in 2025.</li> <li>• Other areas in the Village including Garth's rockery, Blairforkie Drive and the Millennium Garden continue to be well looked after by volunteers. Stirling Council eventually lowered the kerb in Blairforkie Drive to accommodate wheelchairs.</li> <li>• At the Provost's Park we supplied and planted bedding plants and generally tidied the beds. The infrastructure continues to deteriorate and requires urgent attention.</li> <li>• Our project at the raised triangle at the junction of Allanvale Road and Union Street was completed and has greatly enhanced the area.</li> <li>• The summer weather was quite poor and the baskets and planters took longer to get established however, in the end, they provided a good display. Thanks again to the Allanwater Café and the Hideaway for allowing us to store the watering buggies and providing the water.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The weed control group was established during the year and made a big difference to the appearance of many areas.</li> <li>• The Plant Sale and Coffee Morning was a great success again.</li> <li>• We attended the Inspire Volunteering Awards at the Albert Hall, Stirling after being put forward by the Community Council. Although shortlisted we, unfortunately, didn't win.</li> <li>• Our end of season celebration was held at the Brewhouse and was very well attended.</li> <li>• We once again installed and lit the Christmas tree in the village and supplied and hung over 80 wreaths with support from the local businesses.</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<p>Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> October. In the absence of the Treasurer GR gave a brief summary of the Accounts which are held on file. They were then proposed by DG and seconded by MW.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p>Appointment of Examiner. On a proposal by AA, seconded by JS, Roger MacDonald was reappointed as examiner, having been seconded during the year with the retiral of the previous treasurer and examiner.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p>Election of Office Bearers and Management Committee. A slate of nominees with their proposers and seconders had been previously circulated as per the constitution. A copy is retained on file. This was proposed by RF and seconded by RK. SG stepped down from the committee and GR thanked her for her contribution over the past years.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p>Diary dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant sale and coffee morning - 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</li> <li>• Possible dates for Picnic in the Park are 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025.</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<p>AOCB. RF again suggested the possibility of the Friends becoming a charity. It was explained that this had been considered previously and found that it would not be of great benefit, therefor not pursued. MW raised the subject of storage given that the UCP factory is due to close. A brief discussion ensued and it was agreed that we should continue to try and identify suitable premises or an area to store a container.</p>