

Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	Monday 24th November 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, Robin Kleinman.
Apologies	Elizabeth Rankin, Murray Airth, Sheila Hutton

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1.	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone to the November meeting which is the last one of this year.
2.	Apologies. As above. No apology received from the CC representative, Mike Watson.
3.	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the October meeting were agreed as a true record and proposed by RK and seconded by ME.
4.	Matters arising not on the agenda. Item 5 – Plaque for triangle at Union Street. – c/f. Item 5 – Grass cuttings from the Memorial Park have been removed to Polmaise. This year we have taken over 7 tonnes of green waste to the tip. Item 11 – Toll stone – AP informed the meeting that work on the path to the toll stone was ongoing. Ivy had been cut away from behind the bench at the start of the path. The fence at the rear of the stone needs repainting and this can be done when the weather improves. Weeds also require to be removed from the gravel area around the stone. Item 11 – SH had replaced a conifer in one of the planters on the dual carriageway.
5.	General report by Chair. Memorial Park was prepared for Remembrance Sunday which was very well attended. We laid wreath along with Deputy LL, MSPs, local councillors, armed forces, youth groups, schools and other community groups. A storage container has now been installed in the area adjacent to the tennis courts and a white line painted on road by SC. Formal Licence to occupy is still awaited but we couldn't wait. Conditions were initially only for 5 years and £150 per annum payment – Both now waived but awaiting formal confirmation from solicitor - thanks to Robin for assistance. I understand the Games Committee have agreed to allow us space in Games Park to store a container but no formal confirmation as yet. All hanging baskets and troughs plus some other items are now stored in new container. GR and DN have a key. Still planning to clear UCP before Christmas but need to get baskets sorted and taken to Homesteads to free up space until Games Park container is in place. End of season celebrations – 31 attended at Sports Club – 3 late call offs. Excellent buffet by TLC and venue was good. Christmas Wreaths – 90 supplied and distributed. Christmas tree delivered and installed – very good shape and size.

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	<p>All lights in PP and elsewhere were put up in time for switch on. All Sponsor plaques put up for CC. PP given final clean up Switch on was on 22 November and very well attended by members of the public. Other activities - Ongoing maintenance at other locations carried out. 3 planters at Turkish Barber/ Chinese Takeaway have been cleared and replanted – thanks SH and S and D Gebbie Hedge cut at BFD – thanks Archie.</p>
6.	<p>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. We still have £1300 to pay for the wreaths. The majority of members subscriptions were paid in November.</p>
7.	<p>AGM. The Annual General Meeting has been arranged for Monday 12th January 2026 at 7pm in the Allan Centre. Paperwork including a slate of nominations will be circulated prior to the meeting. We have a number of vacancies which it would be good to have filled.</p>
8.	<p>Public awareness of Friends. No further information on this and was decided to remove it from the agenda.</p>
9.	<p>Projects. The Allan Centre project is being progressed however the pointing of the stonework requires to be carried out professionally and this has been acknowledged by the Allan Centre Trustees. Charlie Flaws has contacts in the trade and he will approach them for quotes. Work on the paved area and bench etc will be carried out in the Spring.</p>
10.	<p>AOCB GR raised the subject of expenditure in relation to a container for the Games Park. A single use container in excellent condition will cost approx. £3000 and this was agreed by the committee. It was agreed that we should replace the existing wooden picnic tables with recycled plastic ones and also that we should purchase new hand tools for use by the volunteers. DN suggested that we should get together with the Community Council and possibly Dr Welsh Trust to look at a new noticeboard for the town. It was agreed that a wish list should be drawn up and matters progressed from there.</p>
11.	<p>DONM. The next meeting will be the AGM as mentioned above.</p>

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Actions

5.	Check baskets and transport to Homesteads for storage.	GR/DN + others
5.	Clear container at UCP before Christmas.	GR/DN
7.	Paperwork for AGM.	DN
9.	Progress Allan Centre project.	GR/DN/RK
10.	Purchase single use container for Games Park.	GR
10.	Draw up wish list of items.	All