

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	Monday 29th June 2026
Time	5pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan.
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Mark Everett (Treasurer) Judith Everett, Archie Purdie, Robin Kleinman, Sheila Hutton, Jenny Smith.
Apologies	Elizabeth Rankin.

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1.	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone to the June meeting, which will be the last one before the summer break.
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 SH and seconded by RK.
4.	Matters arising not on the agenda. Item 4 Soil for Blairforkie Drive beds – c/f Item 5 Barrels and planters now all planted including later delivery of barrels and brackets. Item 5 Hanging baskets as above. Item 5 Concrete blocks installed. Item 5 Benches still to be done. Item 5 Car park planters now finished. Item 7 Brackets repositioned. Item 7 Bedding plants planted at Memorial Park and Provost's Park. Item 8 Fan trellis installed Item 8 Tools sharpened. Item 8 Gravel at Toll stone still to be done. Item 9 Cherry trees removed.
5.	General report by Chair. It has been a very busy month, and I must thank all our volunteers for their efforts. We have now put up 152 hanging baskets and 3 troughs, planted up 30 barrels, including 3 new ones, 20 planters of various sizes and the two bedding areas at the Memorial Park and Provost's Park using over 1100 plants. Watering, feeding and maintenance is now well underway and is working well. Our other main activity has been the work at the Allan Centre project, the car park planters have been repointed, the soil riddled and new topsoil, compost and coffee grounds added. Membrane was put over the 2 main beds and beach pebbles laid, before planting. A final tidy up will be undertaken. In the upper area, concrete blocks, membrane, compost and more coffee grounds were placed in the three new plastic planters. Trellis was attached to wall before the planters were planted up. Three existing concrete planters have also been planted. The new benches will be installed shortly and the Cherry tree will be pruned back.

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	Monday 29th June 2026
Time	5pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan.
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Mark Everett (Treasurer) Judith Everett, Archie Purdie, Robin Kleinman, Sheila Hutton, Jenny Smith.
Apologies	Elizabeth Rankin.

	Further weed removal has taken place at the Memorial Park boundaries, in Henderson Street and other locations. It is not helped by lack of weed spraying by the Council. The grass cutting undertaken by Stirling Council is apparently changing to more frequent cutting in some areas with grass lifting also included. This has not been confirmed so must be taken as provisional at this point. Our waste transfer arrangements at Polmaise have been subject to some discussion and clarification sought on these. LR and SH attended Bridge of Allan Primary School and gave a talk to P2 pupils on the activities of the Friends. He then asked SH to give a brief report as follows: - The children's project is 'The Wonderful World of Work' and on this occasion – volunteering. It was a very interactive session and the children were shown photographs of our work in the village. They are keen to get involved in bulb planting and it is hoped to develop a miniature garden with them. The Wallace High School volunteering event did not happen. Our social media profile is getting many favourable comments with new followers and likes. The safety issues raised in February at the Provost's Park have still not been actioned. We continue to attract a few new members with 2 new volunteers joining us. Openreach have finally started on the cable installation at Garth's Rockery and the good news is that they apparently don't need to dig a trench. No date given for completion of works but should not affect the planting. Maintenance work continues at our other sites.
6.	Treasurer's report. We have a total of £ 3,509.87 split between the Virgin Bank account and the Royal Bank of Scotland account, with all bills paid.
7.	Plant Supplier for 2027. The Chair informed the meeting that Billy and Elspeth Johnston of Homesteads have finally retired. As they have always been our main supplier of bedding plants and the filling of our hanging baskets, we will now need to look for another suitable supplier for next season. The Chair then outlined two possible options, one being whoever takes over from Homesteads and the other being Mo-lawn in Dunblane. A discussion then took place and it was decided to explore both options further before reaching a decision.
8.	Transport. The Chair pointed out that since the inception of the Friends, volunteers have always used their own vehicles for transportation of plants, equipment etc., in particular the Chair and Secretary with Charlie Flaws being involved recently. It was felt that it would be useful if we could lease a small van with a towbar. The general concept was accepted and a discussion ensued. It was agreed that we should all explore methods of sponsorship and GR and DN would research leasing arrangements further.

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	Monday 29th June 2026
Time	5pm
Location	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan.
Attendees	Graham Russell (Chair), Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Mark Everett (Treasurer) Judith Everett, Archie Purdie, Robin Kleinman, Sheila Hutton, Jenny Smith.
Apologies	Elizabeth Rankin.

9.	Projects. The Allan Centre project is almost finished. The two cobbled areas in Henderson Street outside Baynes constantly require weeding. GR discussed this with Neil the stonemason who suggested clearing out the dirt between the cobbles and using Pave Fix or similar between the cobbles. This should alleviate the need for weeding and would tidy up the area considerably. To do this properly it would be necessary to use a power-washer and it was agreed that the Friends should purchase a battery operated one. It would also be useful for other areas.
10.	AOCB SH suggested that she could write an article on the work of the Friends for the Love Local Magazine, as she had done for Picnic in the Park. This was agreed and SH will circulate the article prior to sending it to the magazine editor. JE suggested having a social event such as a BBQ for the committee and partners and this was favourably received.
11	DONM Monday 28th September 2026.

Actions

4.	Soil for beds in Blairforkie Drive.	GR
4.	Gravel to be placed around the Toll Stone.	GR/AP
4.	Benches at Allan Centre to be built and positioned.	GR/DN
5.	Final tidy up of Allan Centre project area.	All
5.	Cherry tree at Allan Centre to be pruned back.	GR/SH
7.	Explore possible plant supplier.	GR/DN
8.	Explore methods of sponsorship for van leasing.	All
8.	Research van leasing arrangements.	GR/DN
9.	Purchase battery power-washer.	GR
10.	Write article for magazine and circulate.	SH
10.	Social event for committee.	JE