

Friends of Bridge of Allan Minutes

Date	Monday 25 th May 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.
Apologies	Jenny Smith, Elizabeth Rankin.

Agenda Ref

Ref	Minutes
1.	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone to the May meeting.
2.	Apologies. As above.
3.	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the April meeting were agreed as a true record and proposed by RK and seconded by JE.
4.	Matters arising not on the agenda. Item 5 - Plant box pyramids – done. Item 5 - Soil for Blairforkie Drive beds – in hand. Item 5 - Garth's Rockery tidy up done. Item 7 - Coffee morning and plant sale all completed and is on the agenda. Item 9 - Purchase from Amberol – done but delivery not till 10 June. Item 10 - Raised planters in hand.
5.	General report by Chair. The plant sale and coffee morning went well with plenty volunteers to help on the day. Most plants were sold and any surplus were taken to St Saviours Church. All barrels and planters now ready for summer bedding plants which will be planted this week. New pyramid box plants have been planted in dual carriageway planters. Bedding plants for Provost's Park and Memorial Garden steps will be planted this week. All barrels and containers with reservoirs were filled with water last week prior to planting. Hanging baskets will be put up next week. Watering rota is being managed by Charlie Flaws and is largely in place and will commence as soon as baskets are up. Stirling Council have carried out second grass cut but CF has also cut areas at Fire Station, Royal Garden, Well Road, Blairforkie Drive and at the War Memorial. Work at the Allan Centre project has resumed. Three new recycled plastic planters were collected from supplier and have now been installed. Lightweight concrete blocks will be purchased and placed in the bases this week, then covered with membrane and filled with compost ready for planting. Two new benches have been purchased and are ready to instal. The raised planters were largely cleared of weeds and stones, thanks to some welcome help from Andrew Gardner who just happened to be passing! Work to repoint the cobbles is underway. Once complete, new soil and compost will be added and membrane placed ready for covering with cobbles and planting.

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	Garth's Rockery has been given a tidy up and is looking good. The area at the Toll Stone has been given a good tidy up and the fence repainted and is also looking really good. All other areas are being well looked after David and Carol Byres have cleaned up the cobble areas at the Chemist. There are plenty other areas which need attention. Council have finally responded about safety issues in Provost's Park. The old bench has been removed, loose coping stones and damaged step will be fixed and they are planning to resurface the ramp and look at the extensive corrosion on the gazebo. Unlikely they will do anything about the poor condition of the paintwork.
6.	Treasurer's report. The plant sale and coffee morning raised £2300, which is broadly similar to last year. Although our overall finances look very healthy, we have to pay approx. £6800 for the hanging baskets, bedding plants and compost. We also hold £1800 to pay for the completion of the project at the Allan Centre. This should leave us with just over £3000 for our continual work over the summer.
7.	Hanging baskets and planters. ER is receiving the plants for the planters and barrels from Homesteads this evening. The majority of planters will be planted up this week. SH stated that she would not be able to plant up the dual carriageway planters until Saturday however she would plant up the planters at Ciao, the Haven and the Co-op Funeral planters tomorrow (26th May). GR and DN will reposition a number of brackets on Tuesday (26th May) and the plants for the steps at the Memorial Park and the Provost's Park will be collected from Homesteads on Wednesday (27th May).
8.	Projects. Allan Centre – The first round raised planter has been pointed and is looking very good. The other two will be completed in the coming week or two. The plastic planters have been placed in the position agreed with SH and have been levelled by Charlie Flaws and his son Craig. Our thanks to them. We have commenced filling the base of the planters with light weight concrete blocks to reduce the amount of compost required. SH felt that the layout of the planters was not what she originally envisaged and after a discussion it was agreed that the planters would be filled and planted in situ and a reassessment made next year. SH to source supply of fan trellis. There are various tools in the container at the tennis courts which will be taken to the Hardware Store for sharpening. Gravel has still to be placed at the toll stone.

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9.	AOCB A resident had written to the Friends to highlight the poor state of the entrances to the Village with weeds and overgrown bushes etc. She asked if the Friends would be able to take any action in this regard. It was felt that we were already heavily committed within the Village and RK suggested that this should be a Community Council responsibility and they should raise it with Stirling Council. GR has already replied to this effect. It was noted that the Council had spent some time carrying out a deep clean between the University entrance and Causewayhead. GR informed the meeting that on three recent trips to the commercial green waste we had received a charge on our weigh tickets. He has written to Waste Management Services to question this as it was previously agreed that there would be no charge. GR informed the meeting that he had received old coffee grounds from Grain and Grind which would be useful for feeding the plants in the barrels etc. ER had contacted DN to state that the cherry trees in the hexagonal planters at Baynes were now too big and had out served their usefulness. It was agreed that we should identify a way of removing them.
10.	DONM. Monday 29th June 2026 at 5pm within the PE Room at the Allan Centre.

Actions

4.	Soil for beds in Blairforkie Drive.	GR
5.	Barrels and planters to be planted up.	Various.
5.	Hanging baskets to go up next week.	All.
5.	Concrete blocks to be purchased and installed.	CF/GR/DN
5.	Two new plastic benches have to be built up and installed at the Allan Centre.	GR/DN
5.	Soil and compost to be added to raised planters once existing soil has been riddled to remove stones.	Volunteers.
7.	Reposition several hanging basket brackets.	GR/DN
7.	Plant up beds at the steps in the Memorial Park and Provost's Park.	ME/JE : AP/ JS
8.	Source a supply of fan trellis for Allan Centre project.	SH
8.	Tools from container to be taken to the Hardware store for sharpening.	GR
8.	Gravel to be placed around the Toll Stone.	GR/AP
9.	Remove cherry trees from hexagonal planters.	GR/DN/CF