Friends of Bridge of Allan
Minutes

Date	**Monday 28th September 2026**
Time	**5pm**
Location	**Library, Bridge of Allan.**
Attendees	**Graham Russell (Chair), Mark Everett (Treasurer) Judith Everett, Archie Purdie, Sheila Hutton, Elizabeth Rankin, Jenny Smith.**
Apologies	**Douglas Neilson (Secretary), Robin Kleinman.**

Agenda Ref

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1.	Welcome. GR welcomed everyone to the September meeting. Due to booking mix up, the Allan Centre was not available, however the library kindly agreed to remain open to allow our meeting to go ahead. GR noted that Alison Archibald had expressed her thanks for the card we sent on the passing of her husband, George.
2.	Apologies. As above.
3.	Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the June meeting were agreed as a true record and proposed by ER and seconded by ME.
4.	Matters arising not on the agenda. Item 4 - soil for BFD beds – c/f Item 4 Toll Stone – in progress Items 4 and 5 – Allan Centre - all work completed Item 8 -Van leasing. Contacted local company but little interest. Continue as before. Item 9 - purchase battery washer. Not progressed. Local company offered to power wash areas in return for publicity. Met and looked at cobbled areas at Baynes but not suitable due to mess the washing would cause. Other areas may be possible. May need to clear the cobbles manually then seal the area to prevent future weed growth. Item 10 – article for Love Local produced and sent - thanks Sheila. Unfortunately, not published. May resurrect for spring 2027. Item 10 Social event May attended an afternoon BBQ at Judith and Mark's. Good weather, good company and excellent food. Thanks to J, M and Louise for providing, and for the entertainment!!
5.	General Report by Chair This report covers July to September. The floral displays this year have been very good with lots of favourable comments on Facebook posts and to our volunteers. The feeding and watering arrangements have worked very well and all slots were covered during holidays etc. Some of the more exposed baskets are now beginning to look a bit tired and we will be starting to take down later this week, with the remainder as required. Most of the planters are still looking good and we intend to leave them as long as possible. As mentioned in matters arising, the Allan Centre project is now complete and has been very well received. There was a, hopefully minor, issue with teenagers lifting the beach

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	cobbles and throwing them at adjacent house walls. Police were involved but no further activity reported recently. We continue to clear weeds from footpaths and kerbs mainly in the town centre and around the perimeter of areas we maintain. Stirling Council finally got round to spraying the weeds, which has helped. We have undertaken weed spraying at various sites to keep beds clear and kill weeds along path edges. As reported at the last meeting, the grass cutting by the Council at the Memorial Park and elsewhere is now being undertaken approximately every 8 days with a cut and lift operation around the War Memorial and either side or the main footpath parallel to Henderson Street. This has been a vast improvement to the overall appearance of the Park. Charlie Flaws continues with his sterling work at the Royal Garden, Blairforkie Drive and other areas. We have cut back overhanging branches at the MP, RG and BFD which were hindering the grass cutting. We have undertaken a lot of cutting back of overgrown shrubs in the Memorial Park and have trimmed the hedges around the War Memorial in preparation for Remembrance Sunday. Raised planters at the Millennium Garden were repainted in July. This area is now fenced off because of the Flood Protection works but we are assured we can get access if required. We resolved the issue at Polmaise and have confirmed our green waste disposal will continue to be free of charge. We are clear we will not accept any changes to this arrangement. The safety issues raised in February at the Provost's Park were finally dealt with, apart from the poor surfacing on the ramp. Hopefully this will be actioned soon. Our social media profile is getting many favourable comments with new followers and likes. We now have over 1500 followers and the latest post was viewed almost 9000 times. Our membership database has been updated. We currently have around 170 members, with 2 new members and 1 new volunteer.
6.	Treasurer's report. The Treasurer reported a balance of £5051.30 in our bank accounts. He noted the success of the Facebook request for donations and the stall at the Westerton manned by ER and SH, which raised just under £1k in total. The Co-op Community Fund is due to pay out in early November.
7.	Hanging Baskets and Planters Agreed to keep all baskets and planters going as long as display was still good. Final watering visit this week, except for certain baskets and planters. Volunteers to be advised about timing and disposal of green waste. Discussed planting winter bedding in town centre planters. LR to review numbers and plant varieties
8.	Plant supplier for 2027

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	GR advised Homesteads possible deal with new supplier had fallen through. Agreed to go ahead with Mo-Lawn for baskets and plants. Some discussion on possible changes to basket planting varieties but agreed to keep with current layout for 2027. Plants for barrels, planters etc to be reviewed and list of numbers and varieties to be prepared asap to give to Mo-Lawn
9.	Projects. Area at rear of library/ Allan Centre. We have been approached by library staff abut tidying up the area at the rear. GR and DN met with library manager to discuss. Meeting agreed it was something we should support. Further details awaited. Cobbled area at Baynes was discussed. ER indicated this area would be affected by Active Travel works. Agreed to leave meantime until plans are finalised.
10.	End of Season Dinner Agreed to go ahead at Bowling Club on 26 November at 7pm for 7.30. Cost will be £25 per person. Agreed no welcome drink and invitation to go to all volunteers and partners. GR to circulate draft invitation for comment. ER to liaise with TLC re buffet arrangements.
11.	AOCB Meeting agreed to purchase wreath for Remembrance Day ceremony. Christmas Light display. Old illuminated tree display was now beyond repair and Community Council has offered to fund a replacement. Suitable options to be considered. Rotary Crocus Planting project – meeting agreed this could happen in Royal Garden in grass areas at fountain end. Christmas wreaths. Discussion on quality of wreaths took place. Agreed GR would speak to Mo-Lawn about providing more decorations in wreaths. Article for Courier. GR advised we had been contacted to provide comment on the success of the main street in attracting visitors, including the part played by our floral displays. Brief comment and 2 photos submitted. Disclaimer for Volunteers. ER asked why this had not been progressed. Meeting agreed to revisit.
12.	DONM Monday 28th September 2026.

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Actions

4.	**Soil for beds in Blairforkie Drive.**	**GR**
4.	**Gravel to be placed around the Toll Stone.**	**AP**
4.	**Love Local article to be reviewed in Spring.**	**SH**
7.	**Review condition of baskets and planters, agree when take down/ emptying to be done**	**All**
7.	**Winter bedding – review numbers/ locations and plant varieties**	**ER**
8.	**Plant supplier for 2027 – contact Mo-Lawn to confirm they will be asked to supply.**	**GR/DN**
8.	**List of varieties and number of plants for planters to be prepared ASAP**	**ER/ SH**
9.	**Library project to be reviewed**	**GR/DN**
9.	**Baynes cobbled area to be reviewed**	**All**
10.	**End of season dinner – draft invitation to be circulated**	**GR**
10.	**End of season dinner – finalise catering arrangements**	**ER/All**
11.	**Order wreath for Remembrance Day**	**GR**
11.	**Christmas Lights for Provosts Park – consider options**	**All**
11.	**Christmas wreaths – GR to speak to Mo-Lawn about more colourful wreaths**	**GR**
11.	**Disclaimer for Volunteers – to be revisited**	**ER/All**