



Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

Held on Tuesday 20th January in the Allan Centre.

Present:

Mike Watson (MW) *Chair Pro Tem*; Leslie Harkness (LH) *Secretary*; Patricia Hammett (PH) *Treasurer*; Inga Bullen (IB) *Planning*; Kathryn Chadwick (KC); Rosemary Dodds (RD); Karen McGregor (KMcG); Jenny Smith (JS);

Apologies:

Amanda Coulthard (AC) *Chair*; Sybil Greig (SG); Alexander Stewart (MSP); Councillor Thomas Heald; PC Siobhan Rennie; PC David Collins; Gavin Drummond

In attendance:

Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; Councillor Robin Kleinman; Councillor David Wilson; Gavin Collins (*Board Member, DBOA*); Graham Russell (*Chair, Friends of Bridge of Allan*); 11 other residents; Brian Bullen (BB) (*Minute Secretary*);

Abbreviations have moved to the end of the minutes.

B 2596. Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest

MW acted as Chair in the absence of AC. MW welcomed those present at 7.30 pm. The apologies were noted as indicated above.

No conflict of interests were declared.

B 2597. Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log

IB proposed the November 2025 minutes be approved, Seconded by PH.

Matters Arising (LH)

In relation to **Item B 2591** and *the sewage discharged into the River Allan*, Councillor Tollemache has written to Scottish Water to ask if it has considered any investment in the sewage disposal system to mitigate the problem arising in stormy weather conditions, and to ask also if it monitors its outflows and takes action when problems emerge. In its response, Scottish Water has confirmed, firstly, that the recent incident was caused by a mains power failure leading to the waste water pumping station discharging sewage via a manhole cover into the water course, secondly, that there is no immediate investment planned for the River Allan Combined Sewer Overflow, although there is significant investment in monitoring and infrastructure upgrades to reduce the impact of storm-related sewage discharges, and, thirdly, that complete elimination of storm overflows would require unprecedented investment. The councillor has also reported that SEPA has confirmed that, in some instances, the key factors have been a breakdown at the pumping station and the design feature of having a combined sewer.

Regarding **Item B 2583** and *the residents' concerns about Over the Bridge*, the CC has received an update from the residents who maintain that, in their view and, at the time of writing in November, the situation had regressed, with ongoing incidents reported to the police. Particular concerns were customers smoking at the side door rather than the designated smoking area, and brewery deliveries blocking roads and driveways. The residents stressed that they have continued to maintain communication with all parties, including their MSP. Subsequently, the representative of the residents sent the CC a copy of a response received from SC's Licensing Standards Officer in which he explained that, having spoken with the owners of the premises with a view to steps being taken to mitigate the impact on the neighbouring community, he did not intend to take any further action, particularly since the evidence submitted did not, in his view, indicate antisocial behaviour, antisocial noise or any breach of the premises

licence. In response to the Licensing Standards Officer, the residents' representative has refused to accept his decision and has urged him to intervene immediately to resolve the situation, in line with the SC's own policy and its statutory responsibilities. In a further response, the residents have sent the Licensing Standards Officer a detailed list of ongoing issues requiring practical solutions to be addressed. In addition, SC's Public Health and Pollution officer has written to say that his team is ready to attend at any time to witness any potential noise and light issues.

A further communication from the residents' spokesperson has just been received, indicating that a vulnerable resident has lodged a complaint against a SC officer involved in the issue. Due to the formal complaint the Secretary informed the meeting that this matter could not be discussed further at the current time.

In relation to **Item B 2590** and the **Tree safety concerns**, the resident who has been taking forward this matter wrote to provide an update for the CC and also telephoned the secretary of the CC. He stressed that, despite more than two months having elapsed since Storm Amy, no action had been taken in response to the residents' concerns, particularly in relation to the hazardous risk to the public from the diseased and dead trees. In addition, he reported that, on raising with SC the need for a re-assessment of the trees, Councillor Kleinman had been directed back to the issue of the ownership of the land. In conclusion, he felt that representations from local councillors were having no effect in terms of generating action from the council.

Councillor Tollemache said that the land owner had now been identified. Councillor Kleinman added that he and Councillor Tollemache had spent a lot of time on this issue. Councillor Tollemache then added that he had visited Friend of Mine recently and the fallen tree was still lying on top of the car.

MW enquired about the road traffic issues. Councillor Tollemache report having a meeting recently with Angela McGibbon, (Stirling Council Team Leader – Roads {Network}) who explained that they were part way through their *route review*{1}.

In response to a resident's query it was explained this referred to Henderson St. MW mentioned the proposed speed indicator signs. The resident continued to add that Henderson St had been designated for the A9 route in 1923 {2} but traffic is now significantly bigger (in size of vehicles and volume of traffic). She suggested that the parking bay at the Melville Road junction with Henderson St is removed and that heavy traffic be routed via the Stirling East Bypass – the A91 route from Pirnhall to Manor Powis.

JS said she has reported to Stirling council that the build-outs on Henderson St. were damaged and dangerous. However Stirling council reported back about potholes. She then again reported the dangerous condition of the build-outs.

JS also mentioned that a wooden structure had been built in the woods between Alexander Rd and Well Rd and this had been reported to SC, particularly as it included traffic cones and a firepit. Councillor Kleinman said he would pursue this.

PH reported recent fly tipping under the Inverallan Rd. Railway Bridge, and that though SC have removed items such as settees, there remained a pile of stones/earth. Councillor Tollemache indicated he would pursue with SC.

KC commented that SC were to survey the zebra crossing on Henderson st. It was commented by several residents that there was issues with both driver and pedestrian behaviour (drivers not stopping for pedestrians waiting or actually crossing, and pedestrians on the other hand crossing without looking properly).

MW queried progress with the repair of the Patterson Clock. AC was due to chase SC. Councillor Kleinman said a tender was out. KMcG asked for SC to provide an update which we could present to the community.

Action Log.

In the Chairs absence, the two items are carried forward to the February meeting..

B 2598. Police Report.

PC Siobhan Rennie (email: Forthvalleycommunitypolice^{stirling}@scotland.police.uk) had emailed their report, which LH summarised. The full report is reproduced here:

Introduction / synopsis of previous month:

This report should provide sufficient information regarding police activity since the last community council meeting. If you have any further questions about the police report or any incidents that you are aware of that are not included in this report, then please email us direct on the above email address and we will answer your questions.

If anyone has any information on any incidents that we have been unable to identify a suspect then please let us know by email, 101 or by contacting Crime stoppers.

The report encompasses all relevant crime and matters of note which have occurred between 16th November 2025 and 16th January 2026..

Current Priorities:

Our current priorities in the Bridge of Allan area continue to be Anti-Social Behaviour, Housebreaking, Road Safety and Community Engagement and Reassurance.

Main Report:

Between the 16th November 2025 and 16th January 2026, a total of 18 crime reports were recorded within the Bridge of Allan area. The crimes detailed below are those that are of relevance to the local community.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

1st December- Male was threatening and abusive towards police officers in Henderson Street, Bridge of Allan. He was issued with a recorded police warning.

31st December- Window smashed at a property in Allanvale Road, Bridge of Allan. Suspects have been identified, and they will be cautioned and charged when traced.

DRUG MISUSE

N/A.

VIOLENT CRIME

N/A.

HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

N/A.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME

29th November- Driver issued with a fixed penalty notice for driving with no MOT on Airthrey Road, Bridge of Allan

29th November- Driver issued with a fixed penalty notice for careless driving after colliding with a parked car in Henderson Street, Bridge of Allan.

8th December- Vehicle stopped by police on A9, entering Bridge of Allan. Driver found to be a disqualified driver, driving with no insurance and had taken the vehicle without consent of the owner. Driver was reported to PF.

11th January- Driver has been reported for dangerous driving due to his driving manner, he was driving his vehicle at excessive speed down the Carse of Lecropt, Bridge of Allan.

OTHER CRIME

None.

OTHER MATTERS

None.

Community engagement and reassurance**Activity for forthcoming month:**

Continued road safety/speed checks due to the increased number of accidents within the Bridge of Allan area.

Inputs at local schools/out of school activities.

Issues raised at the Meeting:

<https://scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts>

Community Police Email Address: DunblaneBridgeofAllanCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

B 2599. Updates from BOA Community Groups.**B 2599.1 Update from Friends of Bridge of Allan (FBOA).**

FBOA *Chair* Graham Russell reported on the activities of FBOA since the last CC meeting.

- The arrangements for Christmas were completed.
- He congratulated the organisers of the Christmas events.
- After the Christmas holidays the wreathes have been taken down.
- A second storage container has been installed at the Games Park.
- At the AGM last Monday the post holders remained as before..
- Restarting work at the Allan Centre will be forthcoming

Graham said there should be a representative from CC at the FBOA meetings, JS volunteered and her offer was accepted by members present.

B 2599.2 Allan Centre

Councillor Kleinman reported that the AGM held last Tuesday was well attended. It has been a successful year with membership growing. 2 new trustees have been appointed. The Secretary's position is still vacant. The roof works are progressing and should be completed within 3 or 4 weeks. There are also two vacancies for non-member trustees. Anyone interested should contact MW or the CC.

B 2599.3 Allotment Society:

It was reported that they were still negotiating their lease with SC.

B 2599.4 Update from Discover Bridge of Allan.

Gavin Collins (*Board Member, DBOA*) reported:

1. It has been a good year. Recently two Christmas events organised, including the Reindeer Run for charity (albeit no reindeer this year) – well done to the small children who participated.
2. We have submitted to OSCR (Scottish Charity Regulator) for charitable status.
3. Tomorrow we hold an Accessibility Meeting at the Parish Church..

B 2599.5 The Dr Welsh Trust.

LH said that Gavin Drummond had emailed his apologies, and that there was nothing to report.

B 2600. Residents' View.**B 2600.1 Over the Bridge.**

A resident whose property is next to the Over the Bridge gave an account of the negative impact the licensed premise was having on her and her immediate neighbours, with noise until 03.00 in the morning, fireworks being set off. The former community club had been closed when she moved in. Councillor Tollemache announced that he was Chair of the SC Licensing Board and gave an overview of the Board and procedures. The Board is independent of the Council {3} and can pass on representations to SC for investigation. SC can then bring evidence to the Board, including statements from the LSO (Licensing Standards Officer), Police and the Licensee - in this case the Board has yet to hear from them, and so cannot comment.

MW thanked the resident and Councillor Tollemache.

B 2600.2 Scout's Christmas Tree Collection.

A resident reported that the Scout's Christmas Tree Collection had raised £5000.

B2600.3 Spar Shop Postal Services

A resident reported that the Spar Shop had informed her that the introduction of Postal Services was delayed until February.

B 2600.4 Car Parking

A resident asked if the demolition of the Old Stables (Allanvale Rd) will provide parking spaces. IB replied that it would. A query was made about parking restrictions at the Co-op when it re-opens. Councillor Kleinman clarified that there would be no restrictions.

B 2600.5 Waste Bin Collection Chaos.

A resident complained about the waste bin collection changes being chaotic. It was noted that the information on the paper leaflets was different from that on the SC website. Councillor Kleinman indicated that the information on the website was correct, and that the leaflets can be discarded. Old blue boxes can be left kerbside and will be eventually collected

B 2601 Our Bridge of Allan Planning.

In the absence of AC, IB indicated that the LPP document will be published once SC have processed it.

B 2602. Planning Report.

IB reported that there was no new planning applications of significance to the community.

B 2603. Chair's Report.

In the absence of AC there was no Chair's report.

B 2604. Secretary's Report.**Communications from Councillors*****Councillor Heald***

Councillor Heald has reported that, in order to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow, SC has issued a road traffic order introducing 'No Waiting At Any Time' restrictions on a short section of Inverallan Road.

Councillor Tollemache

Councillor Tollemache forwarded the following:

- details from Transport Scotland of overnight work being undertaken on the M9;
- an intimation from Network Rail confirming that £4million will be invested in the line between Bridge of Allan and Dunblane in the new year, with the Bridge of Allan footbridge being closed temporarily between January 19th and 17th May 2026 (The councillor also forwarded a reminder of the Scotland's Railways - Stakeholder Survey);
- confirmation from SC that the cleaning of the Henderson Street roadway and cycle lane would receive priority once the weather improves

Councillor Tollemache has raised the following with SC:

- drivers ignoring the give way markings at the junction of Keir street and Melville Place;
- potholes, a fallen sign and a former garage building in Inverallan Road.

Councillor Kleinman

Councillor Kleinman has written to clarify the confusion over the festive collection of the glass boxes and the collection going forward

Communications from Residents

Residents have raised the following:

- a resident has written to underline the likelihood of accidents arising from cars parked on the double yellow lines on Kenilworth Road when the Meadowpark is busy, a situation which is exacerbated by the double parking sometimes all the way up the hill' (The Secretary has reminded CC members that, at a recent meeting, the police indicated that, given the limitations on resources, it was unlikely that the police could take action against the owners of vehicles parked unsafely on double yellow lines);
- a resident has raised the need to clean the road and cycle lane (including the area around the build-outs) on Henderson Street;
- a resident has written about a potential fire risk to the woods, arising from another wooden structure located in the wood between Well Road and Alexander Drive;
- a resident has written to point out that the reduction of the length of the parking bay in Henderson Street, promised by SC officers at the September location meeting, was still not forthcoming (Councillor Tollemache has now raised the matter with the council);
- a resident has written to point out that the "give way" signs for traffic approaching the mini roundabout at the junction of Henderson Street and Blairforkie Drive from the Keir roundabout direction have been rotated through 90 degrees, exacerbating an already dangerous situation with vehicles failing to register the give way and to stop to give way too traffic already on the roundabout and turning right (Councillor Tollemache has raised the issue with SC);
- a resident has written to ascertain if the CC has an update on the future of the UCP/Guala site, underlining the potential for a successful small business park, as was the case when the Players factory closed in Stirling;
- a resident of 43 Henderson street has written to stress her safety concern about the fact that the fallen tree has not yet been removed.

Communications from Stirling Council

The CC received the following SC communications:

- details of complimentary conference places for community councillors;
- an update on Funding opportunities;
- details of free webinars for community councils. including one introducing Future Woodlands Scotland and the Urban Forestry Challenge Fund;
- details of Tesco Stronger Starts funding;
- a schedule of Stirling area community cafes and lunch clubs intended to reduce social isolation;
- details of Festive waste collections;
- the December update of Stirling funding updates;
- details forwarded from NHS Forth Valley on local health services a, including local pharmacies open on Sundays, available during the winter period;
- the SVE December bulletin;
- an invitation to complete the survey for feedback on the draft Stirling Heritage Action Plan;
- a reminder about the 2026 Gathering and notice that bookings are now open;
- a request from the Chief Executive of Stirling Council to attend a community council meeting;
- details of Stirling Council's 2025 Residents' Survey;
- an SC media release on the £5,000 donation given to Bridge of allan Primary School to upgrade its playing fields;
- details of a programme of free, Scottish Government-funded training sessions, on engaging with the planning system, provided by Planning Aid Scotland;
- a yellow winter warning for snow and ice;
- details of the Big Conversation survey for the council's 2026/2027 budget. along with the council's social media release indicating the options open to the council for raising income, making savings and delivering services differently;
- details of the Free Employability Programme for Stirling Parents;
- notice of upcoming works over the next three months which will have an impact in the form of diversions on two sections of the local core path network between Bridge of Allan and Dunblane, namely the closure of the

pedestrian railway bridge on the Lecropt to Allan Water section of the path, and the replacement of the boardwalk structure at Stevenson's Cave on the Darn Walk;

- details of the consultation on the development of a new Stirling Children's Services Plan 2026-2029

General Communications

The CC received the following:

- details of upcoming flood risk-related events from FEL (Forth Environment Link);
- Alexander Stewart's December and January newsletters;
- Newsletter 2 from Scotland's Community Councils providing a template letter for seeking greater powers for community councils;
- details of the AGM of the Friends of Bridge of Allan on January 12th;
- TFN magazine December edition;
- details of a SEPA public consultation survey (open until March 3, 2026) on Safeguarding Scotland's Water Environment;
- details of the SCVO Gathering, 2026
- the December newsletter of Scottish Rural Action;

There followed a discussion about parking and recent road traffic accidents. Mention was made of the junction of Melville Place and Henderson st, also the difficulty some older/less able people face accessing the bus at the stop opposite the Royal Hotel, having to pass between parked cars to board/alight the bus. It was noted that the bus stop was deliberately placed in the carriageway as a traffic calming measure.

Councillor Tollemache said he was reporting the rubbish that was left at the site of the demolished garage.

LH passed on a response from the Police regarding a query about reporting parking on double yellow lines, which was that the Police do not have sufficient resources, even if the parking is hazardous.

LH also raised concerns about the cars parking on the bridge over the Allan, obscuring the sight-line of drivers turning right out of Blairforkie drive onto the mini-roundabout at the bridge. Councillor Tollemache said this had already been reported to SC.

B 2605. Treasurer's Report

PH reported that the invoice for the MUGA has still not been received from SC. The Christmas lights fundraising raised over £6,000, this was a brilliant effort by KMcG and RD, and of course thanks to the sponsors and donors.

The cost of erecting the lights was about £4,000 and outstanding costs will be for lights that need replacement.

B 2606. Common Good Fund Applications.

Two approaches to support applications to the CGF have been received. The next Civic Panel is upcoming in March.

Dr Welsh Trust were requesting a new laptop and had a quote of £700. The Shinty club had asked for a contribution to replacing the defibrillator at the pavilion. LH explained that an estimate would be needed in the application to the Civic Panel. KMcG said she would forward the contact details of Martin Stewart who was knowledgeable about defibs. Members were asked if they approved both in principle, and there was unanimous agreement to approve.

B 2607. AOCB

B 2607.1 MUGA/Tennis Courts

MW reported that the MUGA and Tennis Courts had been cleaned (following recent storms) and are back in use.

Floodlights are installed at the MUGA.

B 2607.2 Library Exterior

MW commented on the poor condition of the exterior facade of the Library. Councillor Wilson indicated he would pursue this with SC.

B 2607.3 Royal Hotel

A resident complained about the poor appearance of the Royal Hotel. MW indicated that the Chair had been in communication with the owners about a forthcoming sale.

B 2607.4 Sunnyslaw Green-space Bird and Bat boxes.

IB reported that 10 Bird and 10 Bat boxes had recently been erected on trees at the Sunnyslaw Green-space. The boxes had been made by inmates at the Glenochil prison for a very small sum to cover the cost of materials, thanks to the Prison Governor for helping with this, and also to May for arranging.

B 2607.5 Sunnyslaw Green-space Grass Cutting and other Maintenance costs

MW queried the ongoing funding for grass cutting and other maintenance costs. Gavin Collins (*DBOA Board Member*) reported there was currently about £4000 in the bank. The main cost to date were once a year grass overall cut, with other cuts of the paths/square and spiral done by volunteers. There was also public liability insurance which Gavin said he had just paid. There was a brief discussion about funding raising. MW suggested a regular agenda item.

MW closed the meeting just on 8.54 pm.

B 2608. Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting is Tue 17th February 2026, 7.30pm at the Allan Centre.

Action Log Summary:

There were no specific actions for CC members, however these are carried over from November:

- From B 2597.1: AC to contact SC re a timescale for the restoration of the Patterson Clock.
- From B 2587.2: AC to contact UCP for an update on the future of the factory.

Councillors were to pursue these issues with SC:

From B 2597: Councillor Tollemache to pursue rubbish dumped under the Inverallan Rd Railway Bridge.

From B 2597: Councillor Kleinman to pursue the wooden structure in the woods by Alexander Rd.

From B 2607.2 Councillor Wilson to pursue poor condition of Library Exterior

Abbreviations:

Annual General Meeting (AGM), Bridge of Allan (BOA), Community Council (CC), Common Good Fund (CGF), Councillor (Cllr), Stirling Council (SC), Wallace Monument Stakeholder Advisory Group (WMSAG), Discover Bridge of Allan (DBOA), Residents Against Greenbelt Erosion (RAGE); Community Action Plan (CAP); Local Place Plan (LPP); Friends of Bridge of Allan (FBOA); Community Right to Buy (CrtB); Prospective Parliamentary Candidate (PPC); Lawn Tennis Association (LTA); School Crossing Patrol (SCP); Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust (CSET)

Appendix 1. Treasurer's Report. January 2026

Bridge of Allan Community Council				
Treasurer's report				
January 20 2026 Meeting				
Funds	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
1. SC Administration Fund	£1,017.73			£1,006.22
Webhosting sept			£6.00	
Service Charge sept			£5.51	
2. Unrestricted Fund	£16,315.62			£16,315.62
				1
3. Christmas Lights Fund	£13,778.20			£14,323.00
Electrician repairs			£177.70	
R Murphy - xmas lights		£250.00		
Baynes - xmas lights		£185.00		
Xmas lights cash collection		£287.50		
Bank balance at 31 December 2025	£31,111.55			£31,644.84

Notes:

1 - Still waiting invoice to pay MUGA (£13,806.00)

Appendix 2 Treasurer's Report December 2025

Bridge of Allan Community Council				
Treasurer's report				
December meeting - not held				
Funds	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
1. SC Administration Fund	£1,027.98			£1,017.73
Webhosting October			£6.00	
Service Charge October			£4.25	
2. Unrestricted Fund	£16,315.62			£16,315.62
				1
3. Christmas Lights Fund	£11,653.20			£13,778.20
Laura and chris mitchell - xmas lights		250		
Friend of mine - xmas lights		200		
Halliday - xmas lights		250		
Personal donation		250		
Norman salomi - xmas lights		250		
Mailers - xmas lights		200		
Holm pharmacy - xmas lights		£50.00		
Lochart and Taylor - xmas lights		£30.00		
BofA dentist - xmas lights		£50.00		
Blink - xmas lights		£100.00		
Queen Bee - xmas lights		£20.00		
Allanwater chiropidist		£100.00		
Wilson DIY - xmas lights		£250.00		
La cucina - xmas lights		75		
Uncommon lifr - xmas lights		50.00		
Bank balance at 30 November 2025	£28,996.80			£31,111.55

Notes:

1 - Still waiting invoice to pay MUGA (£13,806.00)

1 SC Road Services Manager Gary Neil gave a presentation at the November 2025 meeting on the current roads *route review* which is due to be presented in spring 2026 after consultation with CC.

2 The A9 route was formally designated in 1923 according to this article:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A9_road_\(Scotland\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A9_road_(Scotland))

3 Stirling Council website for Alcohol Licenses: <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/business-and-licences/licences-permits-and-permissions/alcohol-licences/>