



Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

Held on Tuesday 18th August in the Allan Centre.

Present:

Patricia Hammett (PH) *Chair*; Leslie Harkness (LH) *Secretary*; Rosemary Dodds (RD) *Acting Treasurer*; Inga Bullen (IB) *Planning*; Karen McGregor (KMcG); Jenny Smith (JS);

Apologies:

Kathryn Chadwick (KC); Mike Watson (MW); Scott Wylie; Councillor Thomas Heald; Douglas Neilson (*Secretary of the Friends of Bridge of Allan*) PC Siobhan Rennie; PC David Collins;

In attendance:

Councillor Robin Kleinman; Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; Councillor David Wilson; Graham Russell (*Chair of the Friends of Bridge of Allan*); 16 other residents; Brian Bullen (BB) (Minute Secretary);

Abbreviations are at the end of the minutes.

B 2702. Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest

PH welcomed those present at 7.30pm.

LH then reported the apologies which were noted as indicated above.

In response to LH asking members for any declaration of conflicts - none were declared.

B 2703. Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log

KMcG proposed the June 2026 minutes be approved, Seconded by JS.

Matters Arising

LH read from this report on Matters Arising, which is reproduced here:

In relation to **B 2572.2**, in the minutes of the May 2026 meeting, and the **Lovers Loan Path**, Councillor Kleinman forwarded a communication from SC planners confirming that the path will remain closed for the safety of path users due to the poor and unsafe condition of the adjacent retaining wall. The council has indicated that attempts by its legal team to identify the landowner are ongoing, as work is required to remove trees and prevent further land slippage which is having an impact on the stability of the wall. The council has stressed that this issue remains a priority and that it will continue to explore remedial options, and, in the meantime, has indicated that an alternative route is available by using the lower path network, linking back towards Henderson Street and then uphill, adjacent towards towards Blairforkie Drive to rejoin the path.

In response to this communication, JS reported that, at the last uplift of the barriers, the 'footpath' signs were removed. Councillor Kleinman, who had already reported this, again raised the matter with SC, with the result that the barriers and 'path closed' signage were reinstated, positioned at either end of the path, and much more firmly secured than before. An additional and sensible improvement is having the barriers at the Well Road end positioned a hundred yards from the entrance so that access is still available to the lower path.

Regarding **Item B 2683** and the proposed link between the new Co-op and Henderson Street, Councillor Tollemache forwarded a communication from SC planners confirming that there would be a pedestrian link from Henderson Street, and that, were a neighbouring shop-owner, concerned about anti-social behaviour to wish to erect a fence positioned out of the way of the pedestrian path, a planning application would have to be submitted.

In relation to **Item B 2685.3** and the **Friends of Bridge of Allan report**, Councillor Kleinman wrote to the CC to express his warmest appreciation of the high quality of the planning and organization of the Friends, as agreed by the Allan Centre trustees, in the work done to enhance the outside areas of the Allan Centre for the benefit of all

residents, with the new baskets installed, the stone planters cleared out and repointed, and new benches provided for a peaceful spot for residents to peacefully enjoy the plants and flowers.

In terms of **Item B 2677** and **the overgrown vegetation of the 'chicken run'**, Councillor Kleinman reported that, as a gesture of goodwill to the community, the flood contractor, Balfour Beattie, would immediately begin to cut back the vegetation.

In relation to **B 2678** and **the Royal Hotel building**, shortly after the June meeting of the CC, the further targeting of the building by young people caused both Councillor Tollemache and Councillor Kleinman to take action. Over one weekend, Councillor Kleinman contacted the police on three occasions to request an urgent meeting with them, with elected members and with community councillors. Councillor Tollemache wrote twice to SC, firstly, to obtain more clarity on the nature of the engagement with the building's owners in terms of effective security arrangements, and, subsequently, to note that there were in circulation many photos of young people entering the site and that the owner of a local business was distressed by the lack of effective action.

Subsequently, Councillor Tollemache received a communication from the Community Police confirming that, at an early stage, they had encouraged the owner to make swift repairs to prevent further insecurities and damage, which had been done; that young people who have caused damage had been charged, with letters sent home to parents when no damage has been caused; that the owners had arranged for a joiner on numerous occasions, with all ground floor doors and windows now secured; that access was now being obtained via the flat roof and the first floor windows; that SC was contacted but has limited powers to compel the owner to make more robust security arrangements, something that would involve a significant cost; that Police Scotland, likewise, has no powers to compel the owners to upgrade the security; and that the police will continue to respond to calls when made, always bearing in mind that, given the age of the youths, prosecution powers are limited and that the police can not act as security for any extended period. In addition, Councillor Kleinman received notification from Police Scotland that a meeting with the owners had been arranged for Friday, July 3rd to discuss the possibility of putting in place more appropriate security measures.

In the discussion that followed it was mentioned that a security company is providing services to Fairview School (which has also experienced some anti-social behaviour) and that there is a sign outside the Royal Hotel with a contact number for them to be called if anti-social behaviour is observed. It was suggested this number be publicised on our Social Media {1}. Councillor Wilson also raised the ethical issues of watching the YouTube videos being posted of anti-social behaviour (with possible financial rewards for the content creators), and that the platforms hosting these videos be requested to remove them. A resident raised concerns regarding the collapsed roof.

Action Log.

LH reviewed the June Action's:

From B 2676: KMcG and PH to invite a Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Engage Officer to a CC meeting - Carried Forward

ACTION: KMcG and PH to invite a Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Engage Officer to a CC meeting

From B 2676: IB to invite an SC Tree officer to a CC meeting - carried forward

ACTION: IB to invite an SC Tree officer to a CC meeting

From B 2677: PH will report on in the agenda item.

From B 2699 Elected members to provide an update on progress made towards the full repair of the Paterson Clock - Councillor Kleinman reported that tenders for the repair were being progressed.

B 2704. Police Report.

PC David Collins (email: DunblaneBridgeofAllanCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk) had emailed their report Sat 15th August. 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 15th June 2026 and 15th August 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 15th June 2026 and 15th August 2026, a total of 27 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

20th June – 1 youth charged with Vandalism/Threatening & Abusive Behaviour/Resist arrest and Police Assault after being traced causing damage at the Royal Hotel.

23rd June – 2 youths charged with Vandalism after causing damage at the Royal Hotel.

Calls in the last 2 weeks to the Royal Hotel have reduced markedly. All ground floor windows have been boarded up by the building owners, and signage put up as well as members of the local community clearing the broken glass and debris. Police have today (15/8) found one of the boards over a window at the rear has been removed. Owners advised and will have it secured. Hopefully the downturn in calls/youths accessing the building continues.

20/7 – Window at the now shut down Fairview School damaged. No suspects identified. This site is also attracting youths and others, and the owners have employed on site security in response..

DRUG MISUSE

None.

VIOLENT CRIME

None.

HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

26th July – 4 persons broke into Fairview School and were confronted by security while removing musical instruments and cabling. Positive line of enquiry and at least 1 suspect will be identified and charged.

5th August – 6 youths traced on the Fairview School site by police and charged with intended theft offence.

24/6 – Youths push bike stolen from the banks of the River Allan while he was swimming with friends. Bike traced to the Falkirk area and recovered, and a male charged with theft.

14/7 – Meal fraud carried out at the Westerton Arms Hotel. 3 males ordered food and left without making payment. Positive line of enquiry being followed

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME

11/7 – driver issued with fixed penalty for speeding at Henderson St.

11/7 – driver reported for speeding and driving with no insurance at the same location.

21/7 – intelligence led vehicle stop by police on Fountain Rd traced a male drink driving. He was arrested and charged.

10/8 – disqualified driver traced by police driving on Henderson St. Vehicle seized and driver charged.

OTHER CRIME

5/7 – male arrested after being violent and abusive towards Ambulance Staff after a drug overdose.

11/7 – male arrested after behaving in a threatening manner towards staff at the Westerton Arms Hotel and subsequently with police.

9/8 – Female followed by male to Bridge of Allan Railway station where the male carried out a public sexual act. He has been identified and arrested.

OTHER MATTERS

None.

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

Community Police Email Address: Forthvalleycommunitypolicestirling@scotland.police.uk

B 2705. Flood Defences Update.

PH reported attending a Stirling Council public engagement event this afternoon at the Bridge of Allan Library, where Stirling Council officers and representatives from the contractor – Balfour Beatty – were in attendance. She reported that the Cornton Road South Bound closure had been replaced by traffic lights permitting controlled traffic flow in both directions. Diversion signs had been removed. She mentioned the difficulty of wheel chair accessibility where there is no dropped kerb at road crossings. In response to a query from a resident at the meeting, it was stated that the Gwen Mayor Memorial will not be impacted by the work.

A resident asked PH about the Cornton Road traffic lights, and she confirmed this would be until Jan/Feb when a full closure was planned in order to raise the height of the road. Concerns were raised about increased traffic volumes going past the primary school on Pullar Avenue. Councillor Tollemache reported he had been on site suggested that local drivers avoid Pullar Avenue particularly during school run times. He also noted that SC cannot enforce any diversion (e.g. away from Pullar Avenue via Causewayhead road).

PH reported that the contractors would be starting site clearance soon, including removing trees. There was a tree re-planting plan. She also mentioned that buses had been a significant concern at the public meeting. PH also mentioned that at the public meeting concerns had been raised about gulleys and drains, and that the old pumping station was being retained, as well as a new one. She would invite SC officials to the October meeting and that the contractors promised monthly updates.

ACTION: PH to invite Flood Defence Project team members to Oct CC Meeting

B 2706. Active Travel.

PH reported that she had heard no news. Councillor Tollemache stated that the Scottish Government had confirmed funding. SC were looking at possibilities to progress the section from Wallace High to Keir St bearing in mind the disruption from the Flood Defence work and the Cornton Road restrictions. A resident noted that some years ago there was a proposal for a cycle route alongside the railway line to Dunblane.

B 2707. War Memorial Ramp Update.

PH reported that SC requested additional drawings of the proposed ramp to make the memorial permanently accessible to all.

B 2708. Planning Report..

IB reported on six items.

1. Following the last meeting in June I submitted comments on behalf of the Community Council regarding the application to demolish the Allan Lodge Care Home and build 18 affordable homes.

There has been no further information on this application.

2. 8th July a review of a refusal Erection of a dwelling house in garden ground at 6 Queens Avenue, this has now been allowed.

3. Application for 103/105 Henderson Street, demolition of hotel and villa in the Conservation Area, and application to build a 60 bed care home on the site. After discussion with the CC members I submitted a comments on behalf of the Community Council. The comment was neutral, whilst we support the re-development of the site in principle, with backing of the Local Place Plan, we deplore that the buildings have been allowed to deteriorate, We have concerns about the number of parking places provided, particularly as any overflow would impact the nearby residents and businesses.

4. There is a notice of M9 overnight closures from 18th to 21st August, northbound, the diversion will take motorway traffic via the A9 through Bridge of Allan from 7.30pm to 6 am.

5. Drumdrails forestry felling application (previously notified) have an application for construction of a forest track and timber loading area with an enlarged access on the Glen Road. It is on the section which is a cycle and footpath before the first set of bollards.

6. Comments were submitted to the Local Development Plan process on community response to the Site Options paper for the 23rd July deadline. These were based on views expressed at the public meeting we held on 24th June attended by 27 people, who were also encouraged to submit their own comments via the Engage Stirling website.

B 2709. Chair's Report.

PH opened her report by thanking the BOA Resilience Group for clearing up the broken glass and other rubbish lying around the Royal Hotel. She then thanked SC for the new posts and railings at InverAllan Road. She then gave thanks to the FBOA for their efforts in making the village look great. A resident report that the Coop planned to open on Oct 2nd. PH announced the date for the Remembrance Service – Sunday Nov 8th.

B 2710. Secretary's Report.

Communications from Councillors

Councillor Tollemache

Councillor Tollemache has raised the following with SC:

- a requested update on the fenced-off trampoline in the Fountain Road play park (*In its response, the council has explained that the repair kit has now arrived and that a repair would be scheduled, and the SDC sign removed, when service resources allow*);
- the highlighting by Discover Bridge of Allan of accessibility issues on Keir Street and Henderson Street to the University on the one hand, and on Henderson Street from Bridge of Allan Station to the town centre on the other;
- a possible 'breaking and entering' with regard to the empty Fairview School (*The councillor has also contacted the police*);
- a sinkhole in Keir Street;
- an external rock fall in Sunnyslaw Quarry; (*SC, which owns the quarry, has confirmed that it would take immediate action including appropriately secure fencing*);
- a concealed 20 mph sign in the town;
- concern about the failure of drivers to observe the 'Road Closed' signs on Cornton Road (Councillor Kleinman also wrote on this issue)

The councillor has forwarded the following:

- confirmation from Network Rail that the upgrade of the Barbusch Viaduct has started;
- a copy of his own communication thanking SC staff for the quality of their grass cutting and road sweeping in the ward
- in relation to the lining and surface of the Health Centre/Allan Centre/Library car park and its disabled spaces, confirmation from SC that this is the responsibility of NHS Forth Valley;

Communications from Residents

The CC has received the following:

- two complaints about the condition of the unweeded 'chicken run' path on the Fire Station side and the difficulties this creates for residents with prams, with young children and for those who use wheelchairs, and also about Scotbeef staff using e-bikes on the path in a dangerous manner (*IB has written to the resident to explain that the path will be rebuilt as part of the flood defences project for Bridge of Allan, while Councillor Kleinman has written to the named contact for Guala*);
- a complaint about ongoing parking issues relating to the use of Strathallan Games Park, with inconsiderate drivers parking in neighbouring streets in such a manner that residents have great difficulty accessing and exiting from their properties;
- a request from a resident for the contact details of the community police to report anti-social behaviour at the Haws Shinty Club;
- a copy of a resident's email to SC stressing that, since vehicles are currently parked right up to the exit from the Health Centre car park, there is a need to ensure that cars exiting from the car park have a clear line of sight to northbound traffic

Communications from Stirling Council

The CC has received the following:

- the latest Funding Stirling updates;

- the latest Roads Forward Works programmes;
- having conducted a review of all village locations subject to a 20 mph speed limit, an SC list of proposals to improve road safety on A9 Henderson Street, a street which falls into the top priority category;
- an NHS Forth Valley community leaflet on the management and prevention of falls (*KMcG has been placing the leaflet in key locations in the town*);
- details of Call Companions, a free telephone befriending service provided by the Re-engage charity;
- a copy of a resident's letter regarding BBC Radio 2 in the Park music festival in Stirling;
- notification of the August meeting of the Stirling Local Licensing forum;
- a request for a volunteer who regularly uses N. 54 bus to serve on the Stirling Transport Forum
- in relation to the Flood Defences Scheme for Bridge of Allan, details of the Teams Online Event and the Drop-in Event scheduled for August, along with notification of the Allanvale Road Upcoming Traffic Management and the Temporary Road Access involving Lyon Crescent;
- the latest SVE bulletin;
- details of new public engagement events relating to the Flood Protection Scheme

General Communications

The CC has received the following:

- a leaflet advertising the Allan Centre's Open Day;
- four communications from the same resident relating to the Over the Bridge establishment, including a copy of a detailed letter to Councillor Heald from the resident writing on behalf of a vulnerable fellow resident who appears to be experiencing a negative impact on her health from living beside Over the Bridge, a copy of Councillor Heald's response in which he indicates what he has done within the limitations of his role, a further response to Councillor Heald, and a copy of the resident's letter to the police and SC's licensing authority maintaining that little has been done to address what, in the view of the resident, is the ongoing public nuisance generated by the premises;
- the latest Scottish Rural Action update;
- a poster from Scottish Water encouraging visitors to enjoy Cocksburn Reservoir responsibly and to 'Leave no trace' of litter;
- details of NHS Forth Valley drop-in MenB vaccination clinics for older teenagers and new students;
- the Allotments Association has sent a copy of a poster on the relocation to the Haws Park of the allotment plots impacted by the Flood Protection Scheme;
- a letter of introduction from David Cowan, the new ranger covering the Cocksburn reservoir.

B 2711. Treasurer's Report

RD (Acting Treasurer) reported the purchase of 4 new Christmas lights in June, at a cost of £2121.6 – this included replacing two faulty lights. July was a relatively quiet month, the CC bank balance was £12,373.

Details are in the statement at Appendix 1, with the statement for July (covering June) in Appendix 2.

B 2712. Updates from BOA Community Groups.

B 2712.1 Discover Bridge of Allan

DBOA sent their apologies for being unable to attend, but provide an email update:

The Meadowpark recently held its annual **Beer Festival** in support of Discover Bridge of Allan. The event moved from June to August this year, taking place the weekend after the Bridge of Allan Highland Games, and unfortunately attendance was lower than hoped. We are now liaising with the Meadowpark to explore how we might work together to make the event more community-focused next year and identify a date that works better within the wider community calendar.

We were delighted to see local people making use of **Sunnylaw Community Greenspace** as a spot to enjoy last week's solar eclipse. It was great to see the community conning out and enjoying the space.

We have now completed a significant amount of our internal governance and organisational work and are moving into the next stage, focusing on our public-facing structure, communications and branding. Over the next eight weeks, we will begin reaching out to community groups and sharing more about our plans.

Discover Bridge of Allan would be very keen to link in with the CC around the Christmas events programme, particularly where we can support through promotion, information sharing and our community channels.

We are also beginning to recruit not only new Board members, but community volunteers who would like to become involved in specific areas of our work. Alongside the main Discover Bridge of Allan Board, our working groups currently cover:

- o Community Access and Inclusion
- o Culture, Heritage and Events
- o Sunnyslaw Community Greenspace

As part of our public-facing work over the coming eight weeks, we will share more information about each of these groups, what they do and how local people can get involved.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to speak to us about volunteering, joining one of the working groups or becoming involved with Discover Bridge of Allan more generally, we would be delighted to hear from them at hello@discoverbridgeofallan.org.

B 2712.2 Friends of Bridge of Allan

Graham Russell (*Chair of the Friends of Bridge of Allan*) reported that:

- Hanging baskets are being well looked after, kept watered.
- Work at the Allan Centre has finished
- Maintenance continues in the various parks etc around the town

He also noted that SC have repaired the walls at the Provost Park.

B 2712.3 Dr Welsh Trust.

Gavin Drummond reported the trust had relaunched Craig Mair's book (Bridge of Allan, A History), available from the library for £20 cash.

B 2712.4 Allotments Association.

Councillor Tollemache reported that the lease negotiation was soon to be agreed following the replacement of allotments displaced by the flood protection works.

B 2712.5 Teas Company.

RD reported an increase in members, but that they needed more volunteers to help on Monday afternoons.

B 2712.6 Allan Centre.

Councillor Kleinman reported that at the recent trustees meeting is in September. They have aspirations to bring in more activities at the centre.

B 2714 Election of Treasurer.

(This agenda item was brought forward ahead of Residents' View).

PH explained that though RD had been elected as Treasurer at the 2026 AGM, she had not been present, and formally she needed to be present when elected. With RD present at this meeting, PH asked if members agreed that RD should be confirmed elected as Treasurer, and they unanimously agreed.

B 2713 Residents' View.

B 2713.1 State of Pavements

A resident complained of the poor state of the pavements (and roads) such as on Kenilworth Road.

Councillor Kleinman had clarified with SC that repairs to the pavement in Henderson St will be made after the Cornton road is back to normal (on completion of the Flood Protection Works).

B 2713.2 Queen's Lane.

A resident observed that there is poor sight-lines when driving out of Queen's Lane.

B 2713.3 Royal Hotel.

A resident who has attempted a crowd funding exercise regarding the Royal Hotel spoke about his aspirations for the building. The objective was to repair and refurbish the building to a high standard and convert to flats which would be sold off. The crowd funding approach was to explore if there was others interested in participating/contributing to the objective.

B 2715. AOCB

No issues raised.

PH closed the meeting just after 9 pm.

B 2716. Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting is Tue 15th September 2026, 7.30pm at the Allan Centre.

Action Log Summary:

Actions for Members:

From 2703 (Carried forward from B 2676): KMcG and PH to contact Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Engagement Officer

From 2703 (Carried forward from B 2676): IB to invite the SC Tree Officer to a CC meeting.

From B 2705: PH to invite representatives of the Flood Defence Project to the Oct CC meeting

.Councillors were to pursue these issues with SC:

TBC

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. August 2026

Treasurer's report				
August 2026 meeting				
Funds	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
<u>2. SC Administration Fund</u>	£944.72			£934.47
Webhosting			£6.00	
Service Charge			£4.25	
<u>5. Christmas Lights Fund</u>	£8,756.10			£8,756.10
<u>3. Unrestricted Fund</u>	£2,682.78			£2,682.78
Total Available Funds				£12,373.35
Bank balance at 31 July26	£12,383.60			£12,373.35
Rosemay Dodds				
Treasurer				
Notes:				

Appendix 2. Treasurer's Report July 2026

Treasurer's report				
01-Jul-26				
Funds	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
<u>2. SC Administration Fund</u>	£954.97			£944.72
Webhosting			£6.00	
Service Charge			£4.25	
<u>5. Christmas Lights Fund</u>	£10,877.70			£8,756.10
			£2,121.60	
<u>3. Unrestricted Fund</u>	£2,682.78			£2,682.78
Total Available Funds				£12,383.60
Bank balance at 30 June 26	£14,515.45			£12,383.60
Rosemay Dodds				
Treasurer				
Notes:				

End Notes:

1 The contact number for Fairview School security is: 01312 615250