Callander Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 21st September 2026

Present:

Community Councillors: John Kennedy (Chair) (JK), Richard Johnson (RJ), Ruth Barrie (RB), Fiona Kerr (FK), Heather Ward (HW), Sandra Corrieri (SC), David King (DK).

Members of the public: Nicola Luti, Nathan Austin (NA)

Stirling Council: Councillor Elaine Watterson (EW)

Minute Taker: Caroline Stewart

1. **Introductions, apologies and conflicts of interest**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the September meeting.

Apologies had been received from Police Scotland.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes were proposed by HW and seconded by DK.

3. **CCC Co-option**

RB asked about the advertising of the CCC vacancies through co-option as FK had been asked where to get an application form. RJ had advertised the vacancy on Facebook and the CCC noticeboard.

One application had been received from Nathan Austin which had been validated by Stirling Council. JK asked Nathan to say a few words about himself and his reasons for wanting to join CCC. There were no questions for Nathan and the CCC Members agreed unanimously to accept Nathan onto CCC as a co-opted member.

4. **Matters Arising (not covered below).**

RJ has attended two meetings of Callander Flood Group (CFG) in the past month. Stirling Council have now issued their draft report on Flood Protection in Callander which looks at flooding from the main river. CFG has commented on a number of factual errors in the report. The next step will be a joint meeting between CFG and CCC with Stirling Council, this is planned to take place on 6th October. The report will be circulated before the meeting.

5. **Police Report**

The chair read out the Police Report, there were no questions for the Police.

6. **Specific items**

Best Kept Garden Competition

The competition was judged recently. The winner was Charlotte Wood from Camp Place, Callander.

Callander Primary School: rodent problem

The rodent problem in Bridgend has been around for several years. Stirling Council pest control has been to investigate the problem in the grounds around the Primary School. RJ received an email from McLaren Rugby Club saying they had noticed a rat in the school car park and due to this they did some clearing up of the car park.

Litter management

RJ is passing on reports of overflowing bins to Stirling Council. There has been success with the temporary large bins in the Meadows car park which have reduced the amounts of waste in the smaller bins. The new recycling bins have been ordered by Stirling Council but will not arrive until December.

Stirling Council contacted RJ to ask if Callander required a deep clean. RJ replied and highlighted the upcoming Jazz Festival and the benefits of carrying out a deep clean before this. RJ proposed that the CCC organise volunteers to clean the Main Street, this was seconded by NA.

Citizen of the Year

There will be an article about Citizen of the Year included in the next issue of the Ben Ledi View. The article will ask for nominations for both a Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. The closing date is Sunday November 15th 2026. There will be further discussion about this at the November meeting.

Rugby pitch at Callander Primary School

JK recently had a meeting with the President of the McLaren Rugby Club with regards to the renaming of the pitch in memory of Siobhan Cattigan. The Rugby Club has also contacted RJ about this matter. RJ said clarification was needed about the renaming of the pitch so he would contact Stirling Council about this.

CCC visit to Ripple Retreat

RJ and HW had been invited to visit Ripple Retreat to find out more information and to make a connection. Ripple Retreat is a retreat for families with children who have recently undergone treatment for cancer. It is a very well run facility and very well used. There are a lot of people from Callander who volunteer there and it is open to local families.

The building has a lot of glass and overheats on sunny days. The solution is to put a solar film on the outside of the glass roof which will cut out the radiation while allowing the light through. They are considering applying to Braes of Doune Community Fund for 50% of the cost (approximately £8000).

Callander Partnership meeting

RJ, RB and JK attended a Callander Partnership meeting. RJ said there are still a lot of people who don't know what the partnership does so he has submitted an article for the next Ben Ledi View. The meeting enabled community organisation and the agencies to exchange information about work in Callander. RJ is also consolidating the mailing lists.

Defibrillators.

JK reported that all defibrillators have been adopted. The new cabinet and battery for the defibrillator at Station Road is with the owner of the building who will arrange for the installation.

Footbridge over the River Teith / Creep footpath.

No reports.

CCC meeting with CCDT

RJ, RB and JK were invited to meet the Development Trust to get an update on the position with the Primary School. They wanted to inform CC that they are pulling out of taking over the building as the business plan doesn't work anymore.

7. **CCC Reports**

Chair
JK has been dealing with the defibrillators, attended meetings with CCDT and Callander Partnership.

Treasurer
RB gave an update:

CCC account: £7,873.15

Ringfenced amounts:

Camp Place picnic tables: £6,500.00

FEL: £356.48

Remainder of SC grant for benches: £311.95

Available balance: £704.62

Braes of Doune: current balance: £100,187.15

The Braes of Doune Community grant has now been received for this year. There was a discussion about the best way to invest the money in the account. RB suggested putting an amount into a high interest bank account. RJ noted that Foundation Scotland has suggested various options they want to discuss with the CCC once their new Admin Officer is in place.

Secretary

RJ asked how many meetings there will be for CCC in 2027 and suggested there is no meeting in January. RB proposed that CCC cancel the January meeting and have 11 meetings in 2027, seconded by FK with no objections.

Stirling Council circulated a survey to all CCs asking if the Admin grant covers all the expenses. RJ responded on behalf of CCC saying it does not cover all the expenses.

Another survey was circulated by one of the urban CCs in the Stirling Council area expressing concerns about lack of Police support. RJ had responded saying in Callander the Police support is good. Other rural CCs have similar support but urban CCs have much less.

RJ attended a working group meeting for the Trossachs Explorer where the bus was reported to be very successful again.

All of the other matters included in the report were discussed elsewhere in the meeting.

8. Braes of Doune Community Fund.

No applications

9. Planning

FK read out the planning applications in the past month. RB has written to Stirling Council with regards to the storage container in Station Road and is awaiting a reply.

10. Licensing

There has been one application from Thackrey House for an extension to the current licence - no objections were raised.

11. Other Reports

Stirling Council

- A meeting of the Rural Business Open Forum will take place in Aberfoyle to discuss the introduction of the Visitor Levy. The session will be delivered by STEP and look of the practicalities for local businesses of introducing the Visitor Levy
- The next full Council meeting is on 8th October. It is the first since return from recess. No agenda available yet.
- Looking at budget proposals for next year's budget.
- Radio 2 in the Park was incredibly successful as was a great marketing opportunity for the local area as Stirling was promoted by the Artists and it was also attended by people from all over. The City Park has been drained using funds from the City Deal and it is likely there will be more events happening there moving forward.
- There will be a by election in the Forth and Endrick Ward on 1St October due to the death of Paul Henke.

National Park

No report.

12. Any Other Business

- NA reported that there is a kerb stone missing on the corner of Station Road
- NA reported that a life belt is missing from the Meadows.
- Nicola Luti said she has reported a gap in the fence at the new Primary School.

13. Date of Next Meeting

19th October 2026