

Callander Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 8th December 2025

Venue: CYP, Callander

Community Councillors present: Richard Johnson (RJ), Fiona Kerr (FK), Ruth Barrie (RB), Heather Ward (HW), David King (DK).

Also in attendance: Caroline Stewart (minute taker), Councillor Elaine Watterson (SC), Marco Limonci (CCDT), David Hopper (SC) and one member of the public

Apologies: John Kennedy (JK), Police Scotland

Abbreviations: All in attendance will be referred to by their initials.

CCC = Callander Community Council; CCDT = Callander Community Development Trust; SC = Stirling Council; NP = Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park

Chair of Meeting: Richard Johnson

1. Welcome, apologies and meeting procedures.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the December meeting. RJ chaired the meeting due to JK being unwell. Apologies were received from JK and Police Scotland.

2. Declaration of conflicts of interest

RJ declared a conflict of interest and advised he wouldn't take part in any planning discussion, due to his role on the National Park Planning Committee.

No other declarations of interests were received.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the November 2025 meeting were proposed by HW and seconded by DK.

4. Matters arising

RJ confirmed that details about the Braes of Doune Community Fund have been circulated to all members of the CCC.

All other matters will be dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.

5. Footbridge over the River Teith progress report

David Hopper from Stirling Council had been invited to the meeting to give an update on progress with the proposed footbridge over the River Teith.

He gave some background to the project advising that Scottish Government has now set aside £2.5 million for investment in Callander, focusing on active travel and a footbridge over the River Teith. Approval for this was given in September 2025 and the funding will be provided to the project on a stage-by-stage basis. The first stage is to work on a concept design, looking at the various options. This has been done in

conjunction with an appointed consultant firm, Jacobs, who have experience in major engineering projects. They are looking at three options for a location of the bridge.

The current timetable for the project is engagement with the community and statutory organisations starting in January, procurement will take place in the 2026/7 winter and a contractor should be appointed for construction at the start of 2027.

RJ asked if information could be available at the CCC open day in January, David agreed and said Officers and a representative from Jacobs will attend. RJ will send an invitation to attend to David.

Action: RJ to invite SC to the open day

Outline costs will be available to the public in January however at present option two is the only option that fits the budget. Option two will be located behind Camp Place with a section of the bridge built on land owned by the Roman Camp Hotel. The project will include access paths to the bridge, these are currently being looked at.

David highlighted the need to consult with the community on the style of the bridge as it is a large infrastructure project.

6. Special items

6.1 Audit of street furniture and amenities

RJ mentioned at the last meeting and has started collecting information about signposts, paving slabs etc around Callander that need replaced. Any other information should be send to RJ before the CCC meeting in February 2026.

Action: All to send information to RJ

6.2 Callander Crags Footpath

RJ is liaising with Mairi McIntosh at SC over a bridge and four benches along the Lower Callander Crags Footpath. SC has determined that the bridge is owned by Forest and Land Scotland, RJ will now liaise with them over the replacement of the bridge. Mairi will be undertaking a site visit to inspect the benches. The preference of CCC is that the old benches are replaced with metal benches and CCC could potentially fund the benches from the Braes of Doune Fund.

Action: RJ to liaise with Mairi McIntosh about benches and contact FLS about the bridge

6.3 Callander digital hub

Councillor Watterson gave an update and advised that this is progressing through a feasibility study as part of the City Region Deal. Plans have gone for approval to redevelop the current library site. RJ asked that information on this be included in the CCC open day.

Action: RJ to contact SC about the digital hub at the open day

6.4 Callander Kirk Hall

RJ has been contacted by the Kirk Session who are looking at repairs to the church and hall. They are seeking professional advice and advice from the Presbytery and want to meet with the CCDT and CCC to discuss options. RJ and HW to attend.

Action: RJ and HW to attend meeting

6.5 Callander Partnership

RJ noted that the Callander Partnership is no longer carrying out the functions which it was original set up to do. RJ set it up in 2008 as a way for the main community groups, SC, NP and other agencies to facilitate major projects in Callander. It is now felt there is overlap with the work that the CCC is doing and the recent

CCC representatives have not been fully reporting on progress. RJ proposed that the CCC and CCDT should meet to discuss the future role of the Callander Partnership.

Action: RJ to contact CCDT about a joint meeting

6.6 Camp Place play park

CCC has previously complained to SC about condition of the new metal benches and access tracks. SC has now returned the benches to the supplier for repainting and a contractor has been instructed to widen the access tracks for wheelchair use.

6.7 CCC open day

The open day will take place on Jan 17th 2026. The hall has been booked and the plan is to have three presentations, the bridge, Braes of Doune Fund and the BT switchover from analogue to digital. RJ will circulate proposed plans for the day.

Action: RJ to circulate plans

6.8 Citizen of the Year

The winner, Alex Walker, will be presented with the award at the Seniors Citizens Christmas party. FK will do the presentation and say a few words.

Action: FK to present COTY award

6.9 Co-option of new members

CCC formally agreed to ask SC to start the process of co-option of new members to CCC. It is proposed that CCC will advertise the vacancies with a closing date of 13th February 2026. RJ will clarify this with SC.

Action: RJ to contact SC

6.10 Cragans woodlands

It has been proposed to form a new path in the Cragans Woodland. RJ will liaise with Forest and Land Scotland about plans.

Action: RJ to contact FLS

6.11 Emergency phone calls during power cut

RJ still discussing with BT.

6.12 Forth Environment Link (FEL)

CCC previously received a grant from FEL to carry out work related to climate resistance. The work is now finished and FEL need a final report. Marilyn Moore has written this report which CCC has sent to FEL. RJ has also asked FEL what CCC should do with the remaining funds.

6.13 Local Place Plan

RJ proposed that a joint meeting be arranged with the CCDT to discuss an update to the Local Place Plan. It was agreed to contact CCDT about a date for this meeting.

Action: RJ to contact CCDT

6.14 Street cleaning

RJ had sent an email to Scott Mason at SC asking about plans for street cleaning in Callander.

7. Community Council Reports

7.1 Chair

No report.

7.2 Treasurer

The Treasurer gave an update:

- CCC current account balance is £9,169.75 which includes funds from FEL and for the Camp Place play park leaving an available balance of £1,813.27
- Braes of Doune account balance is £89,633.45. In the last month £661.04 has been transferred into the CCC account as agreed at the last meeting and a cheque for £400.00 has been re-issued to Active Riders again as agreed at the last meeting.

7.3 Secretary

- RJ received an email from a care home in Darlington with regards to a resident who was trying to contact his siblings. FK knew one of the siblings so CCC gave her the contact details of her brother in Darlington.
- RJ received an email from a resident about vehicles speeding along Main Street and Stirling Road. CCC to see if a new road crossing can be linked to the safe route to school and the proposed new footbridge over the river.

7.4 Braes of Doune Community Fund

RJ reported that one new application from Greener Callander with the British Legion to install a low railings around the war memorial to protect the flower beds. One quote for £2,650.00 was received to supply and install the railings. A vote was held and four members were in favour and one abstained. RJ will contact Foundation Scotland about the application.

Action: RJ to contact FS

7.5 Planning

FK summarised the planning reports for weeks 47 to 48. There was nothing contentious that required further discussion.

7.6 Liquor licensing

Nothing raised

8. Other reports

8.1 Police Scotland

A written report was received which included four reports of anti-social behaviour dealt with by the police and a note that the community officers were happy to help with the arrival of Santa and the Alpacas and the Christmas lights switch on.

8.2 Stirling Council

Councillor Watterson reported the following:

- SC has had a change of administration with the SNP taking over. Susan McGill is the new Council leader, and the new Provost is Rosemary Fraser.
- A public consultation for the budget started today.
- Progress on the City Region Deal including the Callander Digital Hub.
- A report had been received from Economic Development concerning the proposed Visitor Levy. This will be discussed at the full Council meeting on Thursday.

8.3 National Park

A Board meeting had been held today where several things were discussed including the visitor levy. The existing Convenor's term in office will end in October 2026 and the current Deputy Convenor, Martin Earl, was elected to become Convenor from November 2026.

9. Any other business

RB has spoken to the owner of the former Eagle Hotel who has advised that renovation work will start in February 2026.

RJ said that on behalf of Callander Community Council he wanted to congratulate and thank Elaine Watterson for all of her work in the past two years as Lord Provost for Stirling Council. She gave a huge commitment to the role and everyone appreciated what she had achieved.

10. Date of next meeting

16th February 2026

11. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 20.57pm