

Callander Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 18th May 2026

Present:

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

Members of the public: Ian McCourt, Mike Luti

Stirling Council: Brian Roberts (Chief Executive)

Caroline Stewart (Minute Taker)

Apologies:

Police Scotland, Brian Luti

1. Introductions

JK welcomed everyone to the May meeting and gave a special welcome to Brian Roberts, Chief Executive of Stirling Council. RJ advised that he would not take part in any planning discussion due to his role on the National Park Planning Committee.

2. Minutes of April 2026 Meeting

The minutes were proposed by HW and seconded by DK and unanimously accepted.

3. Police Report

A written report had been received:

The main issues were around anti-social behaviour, dangerous driving and theft by shoplifting.

Police Scotland has property marking kits and they are offering to mark high value items such as chainsaws, horse boxes etc.

Regarding shoplifting, it had been discussed at the last meeting that the Callander businesses should have a phone around system to alert neighbouring shop owners of incidents. Since then, JK had a meeting with Mark Nicol who reported that there is a WhatsApp group already set up with around half the Callander businesses involved.

4. Stirling Council Chief Executive Brian Roberts

Brian Roberts introduced himself. He took up the role as Interim Chief Executive last June and this was made permanent in October 2025. Brian has worked for Stirling Council for 33 years. He has a background in Roads and Transport and has visited CCC before in previous roles. He feels that there is a disconnect between Stirling Council and communities due to past financial cuts and staff leaving.

Some questions had been sent in advance and Brian was happy to take other questions from the floor.

RJ welcomed Brian and advised that CCC was looking forward to working with him. He commended the efficiency of the SC enquiry system for Community Councils and noted that communications over matters such as the footbridge over the river are improving. The preprepared questions were as follows:

Question 1: St Kessogs

The St Kessogs building is an important building for Callander and CCC asked for an update on the current position. CCC also hope that whoever the future owner is they will consider accommodating a community interest.

Brian's reply was that there were three interested parties but one has withdrawn. SC is currently assessing the bids to check that they are viable. Once the due diligence has been completed there will be communication with the CCC and the SC Elected Members.

Question 2: Litter management

Litter management and street cleaning have regularly been raised with SC. There are a lot of people visiting Callander which leads to high volumes of litter. The service provided to Callander for litter management and street cleaning has been declining in the last few years. If there is a sunny weekend litter bins are overflowing especially in the Meadows Car Park. RJ had a meeting with Martin Earl and Scott Mason of SC who said there is a priority list for emptying the litter bins; however, this system doesn't seem to be working.

CCC has also received an email from SC which contained details of rationalisation of bins including the relocation and removal of some bins. After feedback from CCC, SC advised that the proposal has now been withdrawn. Despite this a few people in the community have contacted CCC to let them know that litter bins are being removed for example it was highlighted that a bin was removed from Glen Gardens at the start of the Keltie Bridge Cycle Track.

CCC also asked about "The Big Green Machine" which used to be based in Callander. The machine has now disappeared and is being used for the deep cleans in all rural communities. CCC asked why Callander can not have a "Big Green Machine" based here and only used in Callander as it made a huge difference to the streets.

CCC is keen to arrange a meeting with SC to discuss these points.

Brian agreed to arrange a meeting via Dot Reid. Brian also highlighted that SC are keen to bring back a sense of pride in communities which includes improvements to basic service including grass cutting and litter. Brian also said grass cutting is currently operated from Stirling which has a cost implication. SC is looking at using local contractors in areas such as Strathyre and if successful, it may be expanded to other services.

There was also a discussion about the Visitor Levy Scheme with the income from this spent on areas that benefit tourism so could enhance services such as litter management and grass cutting.

Question 3: Pavements

Pavements in Callander are in a dangerous condition. CCC will raise issues along Main Street with BEAR, but the other pavements are the responsibility of SC and we would like a meeting and walk around with SC to look at the issues. The footpath next to the Primary School was reported two weeks ago and the repair work has now been carried out. There is a significant problem in Ancaster Square on both sides with vehicles parking on the pavement and breaking paving stones. Similar issues exist along Cross Street and Church Street. It was suggested that bollards or planters are installed to discourage parking.

Brian said it would be useful to have a meeting with Dot Reid on all the issues that were raised.

Other questions:

HW asked what was the most pressing issue for Brian, he responded that this is around transformation. SC are looking at working in partnership with Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Councils which could lead to shared services and joint procurement.

RB asked about the C60 bus service which was set up two years ago as a pilot study. Brian said that there is a challenge now that the pilot is completed in terms of what SC commit to moving forward, this will include drivers and the types of busses.

5. Matters Arising

A84 speed control

RJ gave an update. He had a meeting with Transport Scotland where he and Martin Earl pointed out several issues and made suggestions including adding 40mph speed zones beyond the 30mph zones. Roger Watt had undertaken an analysis of the Transport Scotland speed data for CCC with the main point being the lack of compliance where the speed limit changes and also early morning traffic between 6 and 8am.

Callander Flood Group

Ian McCourt reported that the Flood Group is awaiting a final report regarding the Flood Protection Scheme for Callander. Once the report is received there will be a seven-week period of consultation with the community before the preferred option is put forward. There have been several meetings about the Callander surface water management plan which have gone well. SC has committed to deliver a presentation to CCC and the Flood Group after the publication of the final report and there will also be drop-in session for people to see the report.

Management of Loch Venachar is a possible option for upstream flood water management and the Flood Group has asked CCC to look at how this could be done without affecting all other users of the loch. RJ is now looking at all uses of the loch from water discharges into the River Teith to the shoreline environmental designation. He suggested that CCC should organise a meeting in October where various organisations who have an interest in the Loch will get the opportunity to contribute. This proposal was seconded by HW.

Thanks, given to Ian and the Flood Group for the work and commitment they have given.

Creep Footpath

An update has been received from David Hopper of SC. There are plans to re-align the top end of the path to create more gentle gradients. The Creep design and feasibility review is the responsibility of the Roads Team who are looking to get improvements made before the new Primary School opens.

Defibrillators

Trossachs Search and Rescue contacted RJ to discuss the current defibrillators in Callander and who owns them. RJ is waiting for a list from TSAR of all of the defibrillators, where they are located, who maintains them and who owns them. TSAR do not have funds to be the responsible organisation and hope that CCC will take ownership of some of the equipment.

River Teith Footbridge

CCC has received the November 2025 feasibility study from SC and a meeting is now planned to discuss any updates.

6. CCC Reports:

Chair

Nothing to report.

Treasurer

RB gave an update:

CCC account: current balance: £14,775.90

Ringfenced amounts:

Camp Place picnic tables: £6,500.00

FEL: £856.48

SC grant for benches: £6,197.95

Available balance: £1,221.47

Braes of Doune: current balance: £79,893.06

Secretary

RJ gave his report around the main activity he has been involved in:

- Updating the website and Facebook page
- Reported issues to SC regarding the condition of the pavements
- Four benches on Stirling Road, Kings Construction will be helping with the installation.
- Six other benches are on order
- Changes to CCC membership has been reported to SC
- Online meeting regarding the Trossachs Explorer with SC, Strathard CC and Trossachs CC.

Braes of Doune Community Fund Applications:

Two applications have been made to the Braes of Doune Fund:

The first was from the Callander branch of the Scottish Wildlife Trust who want to put on a film about Saving Scotland Wildcats and had asked for £192.50. "Clinging by the Claw" is the name of the project. The film was produced in Scotland and focuses on the reintroduced of wildcats. The funding is to hire the function room at Callander Hostel, advertise and printing of tickets, as well as purchasing a licence to show the film. The plan is to show the film on 24th September 2026. The application was recommended for approval.

The second was from CCC to CCC to cover the purchase of two replacement defibrillator cabinets at a total cost of £1206.00. The application was recommended for approval.

Planning

FK had contacted JK prior to the meeting with regards to an application from the Callander Scouts to install a storage container in Station Road car park. An objection had been lodged with the National Park by JK on behalf of CCC without consultation with the rest of CCC. HW strongly objected to the way this application had been handled with no consultation with other Community Councillors. JK apologised for mis-handling the process. The Community Councillors were asked vote on the application, five objected to the application.

There was nothing contentious with the other applications.

7. Other Reports:

Stirling Council

Gene Maxwell was the duty Ward Councillor but was not present.

RB has been working with Councillor Earl with regards to an untaxed vehicle in Menteith Crescent. The vehicle has now been moved but a caravan has been installed in its place.

Licensing

DK reported that Tesco Store, Callander was renewing their liquor licence. They are continuing with the same hours that they have, therefore no objections raised

National Park

RJ gave an update. The board is meeting in two weeks' time including a review of camping management bylaws. The Planning Committee has had no business for the last two months.

8. Any Other Business

RB is keen to have another Open Day and suggested that it should be held in the small Kirk Hall on 27th June. This was seconded by FK. RB said there is a need to communicate the new bus routes.

Date of Next Meeting:

15th June 2026 at 7pm

The meeting was closed at 21.15pm