

Callander Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 16th March 2026

Venue: CYP, Callander

Community Councillors present: John Kennedy (JK), Richard Johnson (RJ), Ruth Barrie (RB), Heather Ward (HW), Fiona Kerr (FK).

Also in attendance: Councillor Gene Maxwell, PC Lorna Deans, PC Donald King and four members of the public.

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: John Kennedy

1. Introductions and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the March meeting.

Apologies had been received from David King.

2. Conflicts of interest

RJ advised that he would not take part in any planning discussion due to his role on the National Park Planning Committee.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

There was an error with the figure given for the closing balance on the bank account which should have been £1643.27. There were no other amendments. Based on this change being made the February minutes were proposed by HW and seconded by FK.

4. Police report

PC King gave a verbal update and advised that there were a few incidents to report since the last meeting. There have been issues with housebreaking in the wider area not specifically in the Callander CC area. Due to this Police Scotland are trying to encourage members of the public to look at home security. The Police Scotland website has links for home security advice. Police Scotland can also do surveys by appointment and give advice on home security. The second item he wanted to raise was that Police Scotland will now be able to issue tickets to vehicles parked in the clearway area at the side of Loch Lubnaig. They are hopeful that this will deter people from parking at the Loch side. There was a discussion about drone usage being connected with crime particularly with agricultural machinery.

5. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere)

None

6. Co-option of new members

At the February meeting there was the option to co-opt new members but no one applied. RJ reported this back to SC who offered to help with advertising vacancies including putting articles into the local newspaper, notices on noticeboard, and arrange public meetings. CCC are already doing all these things and are still looking to co-opt new members. A member of the public expressed an interest and the process on how to apply was explained to him. It was agreed that co-option would be tried again.

7. Specific items

7.1 A84 speed control

Concerns have been expressed about speeding on the A84 through Callander. RJ has contacted Transport Scotland about arranging a meeting and is waiting for them to come back with a date. Councillor Maxwell suggested CCC should ask for the report from Transport Scotland and BEAR which was produced as part of the recent speed survey as it includes various recommendations.

7.2 Callander Primary School

No report

7.3 Creep Footpath

An email had been received from David Hopper (Stirling Council) saying the plans to re-align the path would include a zigzag path to reduce the gradient. Plans will be available for discussion later in March.

7.4 Footbridge over the River Teith

After the last meeting RJ agreed to report back to David Hopper, SC with comments from the community and CCC. RJ has collated the feedback and sent a copy of the concerns to SC. The concerns raised were lack of engagement with landowners on both sides of the river, proposed path on the North side of the river and how routes would impact housing developments, lack of consultation with residents, also potential damage to the Esker and mature trees on the North bank. It was also highlighted in the Callander LPP it stated that that there would be no developments which would affect the unique geological features. Concerns were also raised about the Geisher Road option being dismissed.

The reply RJ received from David Hopper advised that it is important that CCC and SC work together to understand the basis of the bridge and its connection, concept design and fully recognise the key influencing factors that is steering SC in their current direction. David Hopper suggested that key officials are selected both from the CCC and CCDT to come together as a project team to review the RIBA stage 2 process. SC have now appointed Jacobs to take on stage 3 of the bridge development, design and associated preparations. RJ proposed that CCC nominates two representatives to join the project team. RJ was keen to

take part and suggested JK as a retired Civil Engineer should be the other. This was agreed by the meeting. CCDT will be asked to nominate two people. There was a suggestion from a member of the public that members of the Parent Council should also be included. It was agreed that the important thing is to get the working group up and running.

7.5 LPP/Callander Action Plan

RJ is developing a Callander Action Plan (CAP) based on the LPP. At the last meeting he went through the LPP and the need for a CAP. CCC had held a joint meeting with CCDT and it was agreed that the CAP is needed. RJ had been sent a copy of a Delivery Plan linked to the LPP which neither CCC nor CCDT were aware of. It was therefore agreed that a CAP would be developed using the Delivery Plan. Feedback on the first version of the CAP has been received from CCDT but none yet from CCC. This information will be incorporating into the CAP. RJ will circulate the next draft to CCDT and CCC and then it will be sent to the wider community, SC and NP.

7.6 Public Transport

RJ gave an update as public transport was discussed at the Callander Partnership meeting. David Hopper, SC reported at the meeting that SC will be starting a two-year pilot local bus service. The C61 service will start at the end of March running between Callander, Aberfoyle and Kinlochard. SC are looking to improve the current C60 service, Stirling to Callander. Discussions are also taking place between the NP and SC with regards to who will run the Trossachs Explorer this year.

7.7 St Kessogs

SC has received three offers from prospective purchasers of the building and is currently looking to see which bidder has the best offer and a workable business plan.

7.8 Street Benches

RJ reported that CC had been invited to apply for funding from the Community Growing, Park and Wellbeing Fund. RJ had emailed the CCC members to see if they supported an application for street benches, they had agreed. The application was submitted for 4 benches to be installed along Stirling Road and 2 in Camp Place play park. As part of the application, a letter of agreement had to be provided from the landowner of each site but the ownership of the grassed area along Stirling Road could not be determined.

7.9 Street Furniture

RJ has been collating information regarding any issues with street furniture. Four new metal benches have been purchased for Lower Crags wood walk to replacing the existing wooden benches which are broken. Two signposts on South Church Street were leaning over and the water fountain in the cemetery is not working, these have been reported to Stirling Council. RJ is currently in the process of mapping all the salt and grit bins with details of the ones that have fallen into disrepair. There have also been problems with overflowing litter bins, particularly the one near CYP and along the Creep footpath. SC are currently doing a review of litter bins and a pilot project is being undertaken in Stirling of bins for recycling waste. If this is successful it will be introduced in rural areas.

8. Office bearers' reports

8.1 Chair

JK reported that a joint meeting had been held with CCDT regarding the Callander Action Plan and a Callander Partnership meeting had been held - minutes from this will be emailed to Members.

8.2 Treasurer

The bank balance after ringfenced money is £1509.26. The ringfenced money is for the four picnic benches in Camp Place play park. The bank balance for the Braes of Doune is £82,453.36.

8.3 Secretary

RJ reminded everyone that the 2026 AGM will be held on 20th April 2026 at 7pm.

CCC had received an invitation to attend the Forth Valley and Lomond Youth Action Group. HW attended and advised that it was a good meeting. The group is made up of young people age 16 -30 years old who cover a large geographical area and are involved in local projects. This includes traditional singing, teaching Primary children how to play recorder, improving cycle routes, mental health group, and a gardening group. There are a few young people from Callander involved and HW tried to encourage them to join the CCC.

CCC was contacted by National Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust (previously Sustrans) informing the CCC of the new cycle track between Callander and Doune.

CCC has received an email about the Helping Hand community initiative project linked to the new Primary school. The fund could provide money to supply material for projects related to young people, up to £15,000. It was agreed that the CCC will respond with ideas. There have already been some ideas put forward including having talking benches and raised beds for flowers and vegetables. RJ invited members to submit other ideas.

9. Braes of Doune Community Fund

Two applications to consider:

- a. Received from Callander Community Council for £153.30 to cover the cost of developing a new website. This was proposed by RB and seconded by JK.
- b. Received from Friends of Trossachs, this was discussed at the last meeting and it was agreed that the CCC would go back to Foundation Scotland for further clarification. Foundation Scotland came back and advised the CC to ask two questions. The first, are there any Callander residents involved and the second, once it is up and running would members from Callander benefit. RJ put both questions to the applicant and the replies have been distributed to CCC members. It was proposed that funding is agreed for the First Aid course but not for the hire of the portable toilet. A vote was held with three in favour and two against. It was therefore agreed that funding would be provided to cover the First Aid course only.

10. Licensing

Nothing to report

11. Callander Partnership

There was a discussion about the Partnership meetings and the topics covered. It was agreed that there needs to be better communications about the meetings so that members of the public are aware of the discussions. It was agreed that JK will contact Freddy Bowen-Bate and ask him to publish the minutes.

12. Other reports

12.1 Stirling Council

Councillor Maxwell gave an update on the Stirling Council budget for 2026/27. 2600 people had replied to the Big Conversation and Council Officers had put out a list of suggested cuts based on responses. The budget changes were listed in detail by Councillor Maxwell including an 8.5% increase in council tax.

Details are being discussed about the visitor levy. Hotel and B&B owners will have to complete a return each year, and they will be compensated accordingly. All the money will be ringfenced for tourism related activities.

12.2 National Park

Numerous planning applications and appeals have been processed. Currently developing the Local Development and Land Management Plan with a call for ideas to designate open areas in communities. Annual operation plan has been published including ways to support the delivery of local place plans.

13. Any other business

None

14. Date of next meeting

20th April 2026

Close of meeting