

Callander Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 20th April 2026

Present:

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

Councillor Elaine Watterson (EW), Caroline Stewart (Minute Taker) and 2 members of the public.

1. Introductions and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Police Scotland.

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 were no amendments requested to the March minutes. They were proposed by HW and seconded by DK.

4. Police Report

A copy of the Police Report had been emailed to everyone prior to the meeting. Concerns were raised that shoplifting has become a regular occurrence. There was a discussion about how best to deal with this, and it was suggested by Councillor Watterson that CCC link in with the Business Association in Stirling. They can provide support to retailers to put a system in place where shops call ahead to notify other business of any issues. It was agreed that CCC approach local business owners and invite them to a meeting to discuss how they can support each other.

Action: JK to contact Mark Nicol.

5. Matters Arising from the Previous minutes

Nothing raised

6. Specific Items

a) A84 speed control

RJ has been liaising with Councillor Martin Earl and Transport Scotland and has agreed to attend a meeting on Wednesday 22nd April.

b) Callander Action Plan

This document continues to evolve. As soon as RJ feels it is ready for comments, he will circulate it to all the members of CCC. Once the document has been finalised the next stage will be to distribute responsibility between the CC, CCDT, SC and any other interested parties.

c) Callander Flood Group

CCC was invited to send a representative to join the Callander Flood Group. RJ emailed all the CC members, but no one was keen to join. Due to this RJ will be the representative for CCC.

RJ has meet with SC and consultants WSP to discuss one of the options for the management of the two burns that go under Station Road car park. The option involves a flood relief channel which would be incorporated into the new design for the car park. The Flood Group are proposing a joint meeting to discuss all the options for the main river which will involve CCC and Stirling Council.

d) Callander Primary School

CCC has asked CCDT for a monthly report with regards to the existing Primary School, however nothing has been received for the last two months

e) Community Growing, Park and Wellbeing Fund

CCC was invited to apply for funding from the Community Growing, Park and Wellbeing Fund and were awarded funds to provide 6 new benches – 4 along Stirling Road and 2 in Camp Place Play Park. DK is going to help RJ to put the benches out.

f) Creep Footpath

No update from SC.

g) Footbridge over the River Teith

CCC are expecting a copy of the feasibility study for the footbridge. CCC has been invited to join a delivery team with SC that would meet regularly. RJ is continuing to deal with this matter.

h) Helping Hands Initiative

HW and RJ completed an application on behalf of the Primary School to fund the installation of a Talking Bench, exercise equipment, raised beds and purchase seeds to plant vegetables in the bed.

i) Litter/Street Cleaning

Last month RJ and Councillor Martin Earl had a meeting with Scott Mason (SC) where it was highlighted that litter bins are emptied daily with certain bins being prioritised. It has become apparent that this plan hasn't been implemented and some bins have been left overflowing for three or four days. SC sent a plan to rationalise the litter bins including moving some and removing others. RJ replied to this saying CCC rejected the plan and requested a site meeting with SC to discuss this.

j) Street Furniture

RJ continues to report any issues with street furniture which are passed to him. The list includes:

- Clearing moss and grass from paths in the Callander Cemetery
- Repairing the water fountain in the Cemetery
- Repairs to the wooden steps between Glen Gardens and the cycle track

- Putting the litter bin in Bridge Street onto the priority list
- Repairs to potholes in Camp Place
- Replacement of lifebelts in the Meadows.

RB asked about cleaning of bus shelters and RJ advised that this has already been reported to SC. RB also highlighted the lack of shelter at the bus stop in Ancaster Square.

7. CC Reports

a) Chair

The Chair advised that he had covered the main topics in his report at the AGM. He discussed the need for clarity about roles and responsibilities within CCC and the optimum number that would be needed to cover all these responsibilities. It was clarified by RJ that the maximum number of members for CCC is 14.

RJ proposed that Brian Luti takes on management of Braes of Doune, BL replied that he was willing to take on responsibility after a handover from RJ. There were no objections to BL taking on the role. JK proposed that RB and BL liaise closely with regards to signing cheques etc.

There was a proposal from RJ that HW takes over the writing and co-ordination of articles for the Ben Ledi View. HW said she was happy to take on this role.

Action: RJ to arrange a handover of the management of the Braes of Doune Fund to BL.

b) Treasurer

RB gave an update:

CCC account: current balance: £14,885.90

Ringfenced amounts:

Camp Place picnic tables: £6,500.00

FEL: £856.48

SC grant for benches: £6,197.95

Available balance: £1,331.47

Braes of Doune: current balance: £80,893.06

c) Secretary

RJ gave an update on the matters that he has been dealing with over the past month:

- Camp Place Play Park - the picnic benches were taken away to be repainted and repaired, all have now been returned.
- A member of the public had contacted CCC to inquire about a memorial plaque on a bench in the Meadows. RJ has contacted SC about this.
- Last month the Ben Ledi View failed to publish the CCC monthly report. The Convenor of the Ben Ledi View has apologised for missing it and advised that this was due to a clerical error.
- RJ had discussed the co-option process with Stephen Bly and Ian Denvir from SC to look at ways SC could provide support to increase membership. However, it was agreed that CCC was already doing everything possible.

- RJ had submitted an article from CCC for the Callander Connect newsletter.
- RJ was contacted by a lady who lives next door to the Eagle Hotel as she has issues with the development. RJ spoke to the developer, Michael Mower, who was very sympathetic and agreed to work with her to try and resolve the issues.
- An email had been received from a group of bird watchers who were concerned about trees around the Gart gravel pond. It was suggested they spoke to the landowner.
- Emails had been received from an American family who was trying to trace their family history. RJ was able to find links and passed on relevant contacts.
- RJ has been in contact with both Trossachs and Gargunnoch Community Councils who were both asking for information how CCC operates the Braes of Doune Fund.
- RJ reported that there are issues with some defibrillators in Callander. The one in Ancaster Square has been missing for the last week. RB has messaged Trossachs Search and Rescue but hasn't had a reply. Councillor Watterson clarified that Trossachs Search and Rescue don't have the funds to maintain all the defibrillators but it is not clear what checks they are doing to the equipment.

Action: Councillor Watterson will clarify the situation with the relevant person in Trossachs Search and Rescue

d) Planning

FK noted there was nothing contentious that needed to be raised.

e) Braes of Doune Fund

Two applications to be considered, details sent to all CCC members prior to the meeting:

National Women's Institute Ruskie Rural - want to do a Theatre trip costing £350. The funds would be used to cover the cost of minibus hire to allow people to attend the matinee of My Fair Lady at Pitlochry Theatre. It was agreed that the organisation is based outside of the CCC area and did not meet the eligibility rules of the fund so the application was rejected.

McLaren High Duke of Edinburgh – The application was for £1000 for McLaren High School pupils from S3 to S6 to enrol for all three levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. They have 14 volunteers involved in delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh and they also offer a fee waiver for those who would find it difficult to meet the costs. A breakdown of annual costs was provided for 2026. It was unanimously agreed to support the application.

8. Other report

a) Stirling Council

Councillor Watterson gave an update:

- Council tax increase of 8.5%.
- Brown bin permit should be applied for as residents will need these for the brown bin waste to be uplifted. The permits cost has increased by £10 from last year.
- A culture evening will take place at various venues around Stirling on 1st May. All the events are free. Stirling Castle will be open and free to attend as well as the Trossachs Church and the Tolbooth.

- Election is coming up; due to this council meetings are currently curtailed due to the pre-election situation.
- C61 has started up and there has been good feedback. The service will run for two years and will be assessed after that.
- Briefing coming up for Councillors regarding St Kessogs, currently no detail available but there have been three offers made and have until the end of May to decide.
- Trossachs Explorer has been taken over by SC. It was highlighted that there will be four journeys rather than seven which the previous operator offered. RB raised issues about disabled access on the buses.

b) National Park

RJ reported that numerous planning applications have been dealt with.

9. Any Other Business

RJ reminded the members that the SC Chief Executive, Brian Roberts, will be attending the May meeting. Brian's PA has asked for a copy of the agenda prior to the meeting. If anyone has questions for Brian, please send them to RJ and he will forward them to him.

Action: If anyone has any questions for Brian Roberts send them to RJ.

10. Date of Next Meeting

18th May 2026

12. Close of Meeting:

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm.