

Callander Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 17th August 2026

Present:

Community Councillors: John Kennedy (Chair) (JK), Ruth Barrie (RB), Heather Ward (HW), Sandra Corrieri (SC), David King (DK), Brian Luti (BL).

Members of the public: Mike Luti, Nathan Austin

Stirling Council: Councillor Gene Maxwell (GM)

National Park: Daisy King (DK)

Minute Taker: Caroline Stewart

Apologies:

Police Scotland, Fiona Kerr

1. Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the August meeting. Apologies were received from Police Scotland and Fiona Kerr.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There was a request to amend Item 6.3 of the previous minutes. It was agreed that this should read "CC would purchase a new battery to be paid through a Braes of Doune application". Based on this amendment the minutes were proposed by BL and seconded by SC.

3. Police Report

JK read out the report and the main areas included were around:

- Anti social behaviour - no incidents
- Road safety there were several road traffic incidents.
- Theft – no reports

4. CCC Co-option

RJ reported that BL has attended 3 meetings. CCC offered him full membership and BL accepted. This means that CCC can advertise for 2 new members following the procedures set out by Stirling Council. If CCC agrees to go ahead with co-option there is the need to advertise the vacancies and any nomination can be invited to the September meeting. Potential applicants can contact RJ and get an application form.

Action: The CC agreed that co-option should go ahead. RJ will look after the advertising.

5. Matters Arising (not covered below)

RJ: at the last meeting RJ suggested discussing at the next CCC Open Day the development of a "pump track" in Camp Place play field. There appears to be a lot of interest in this topic.

RJ: Stirling Council will collect the remaining benches as soon as possible and install them.

6. Specific items

6.1 Best Kept Garden Competition

Only one nomination has been received so far. Members discussed ways to encourage more interest and agreed that the best approach would be to contact Jackie Finglas, Chair of the Horticultural Society, for details of previous entrants.

Action: SC to contact Jackie to try and gather interest and get contact details.

6.2 Callander Flood Group

RJ attended the meeting last week. The Stirling Council flood reports are nearly complete, one is on the River Teith Flood Management Plan and the other on the Surface Water Management Plan which looks at flooding from the small burns. The Flood Group are not aware of the contents of the reports but this information will be presented to the group in a few weeks. There are plans to have a formal meeting between the Flood Group and CCC during the week starting 5th October to discuss both reports. After the meeting the details will be made public.

6.3 Callander Primary School: Rodent Problem

There is a problem with rodents around Callander, not just in the Primary school. HW has contacted the Headteacher and she advised that pest control did visit before the summer holidays. RJ has already contacted Stirling Council and was advised that the Headteacher would have to make contact.

Action: Councillor Maxwell will check that Stirling Council are aware of the issues around Callander, and he will also ask for an update.

6.4 Callander Resilience Hub

There was a discussion about this and the issues that people faced during the last storm. It was felt there is a need for locations around Callander that people could use in an emergency such as the church hall and leisure centre where heating and lighting would be available. It was felt that people could use local knowledge of their own neighbourhood to support vulnerable people during an emergency.

6.5 Defibrillators

JK going to take over responsibility for the defibrillators. There was a discussion about the ownership of the defibrillators around Callander:

- Ancaster Square – Jimmy Campbell – FK was checking but not at the meeting to confirm.
- Station Road – Sean, Manager of the Hairy Co is happy to adopt. Nikola Thomson from Trossachs Search and Rescue will give advice on how to operate it. Cabinet is with JK and he has arranged with Nikola to get it fitted.
- Dreadnaught Garage – BL adopted
- Golf Club - adopted

JK will coordinate with Nikola replacing temporary defibrillators.

6.6 Footbridge over the River Teith / Creep Footpath

Footbridge - RJ spoke to David Hopper (Stirling Council). The consultants are progressing with detailed design and costing for the preferred location. David Hopper is consulting with the landowners and National Park. The team will look at access routes to the bridge on the North side. It was felt it is important to get parents together who will be using the route to take their children to school and ask them about preferred access routes. Stirling Council hope to get all permission sorted this financial year and have construction finished by late 2027.

Creep footpath – David Hopper is involved in ongoing discussion with the adjacent landowner. Stirling Council hope that the construction of the new path will be completed during the October school holidays.

6.7 Litter / Street Cleaning

RJ gave an update as there are still issues with overflowing litter bins. Any issues that are reported to CCC by the public are sent to Stirling Council and they are aware there is a problem. Stirling Council should be installing 3 sets of large litter bins in the Meadows and 1 in Station Road car park this week. They will be the same design as the ones in Aberfoyle. One will be for general waste and 2 for recycled waste. They will take away existing bins, and the situation will be monitored to see if it works.

HW noted that at a recent meeting Stirling Council had stated that bins are emptied daily but this is not the case. Councillor Maxwell agreed to feedback that the bins are not being emptied daily. There are also issues with school pupils disposing of litter in the grass if the bins are full. There have been discussions at previous meeting about the possibility of Callander employing someone who would have responsibility for general maintenance, and the CC will contact the Development Trust and have a discussion with them regards this.

Action: Councillor Maxwell will ask for an update and what is happening with litter bins.

6.8 Loch Venachar Meeting

RJ gave an update. This was introduced at the May CCC meeting and the project has now been named the “Venachar Experience”. Most of the South side of Loch Venachar is within the CCC area, it is an attractive location with history, footpaths and cycle tracks but is missing coordination. Examples of this are the Woodland Trust put in the Great Trossachs Path which is well signposted but has no links to other footpaths. Some of the other footpaths have ageing signposts and no information on difficulty or how long it will take. There have been ongoing issues over several years with visitors causing anti-social problems which have upset residents. The camping management by-laws have helped with this but not solved the problem. There is now a proposal to build a new visitor hub on north Venachar. The CCC is hosting a meeting at the end of October with all the organisations involved. A report will then be written after the meeting, and the document will be used as a method to access funds for required facilities.

7. CC Reports:

7.1 Chair

Co-ordinate with defibrillator contacts.

7.2 Treasurer

CCC August 2026

RB gave an update:

CCC account: £7,943.65

Ringfenced amounts:

Camp Place picnic tables: £6,500.00

FEL: £356.48

Remainder of SC grant for benches: £311.95

Available balance: £775.22

Braes of Doune: current balance: £76,034.39

7.3 Secretary

RJ gave an update. Repaired the dolphin (play equipment) in the Meadows.

7.4 Braes of Doune Community Fund

One application received, to fund the purchase of a defibrillator battery. There was unanimous support.

7.5 Planning

JK gave a summary nothing contentious.

7.6 Licensing

Nothing

8. Other Reports:

8.1 Stirling Council

GM reported that had issues with road closures not being well thought out. This has been raised at a senior level in Stirling Council, and it has been suggested that Roads and Economic Development need to communicate better before closing roads.

The new Film Studios at the old MOD site in Stirling will be a centre for TV and Film production and there are hopes that there will also be a training base in conjunction with Film Scotland and Forth Valley College. Hope to be able to name the company that will be taking on the studios soon.

Work on the Kings Park is going on ahead of the Radio 2 weekend. It is expected that the event will attract up to 55,000 visitors to Stirling.

The first money from the Visitor Levy will be available in June 2027. There are plans to release money early from Council reserve that will be paid back to support tourism and local communities.

A member of the public asked, if visitors stay in a campervan would they be required to pay the visitor levy. GM said that there the person involved would not be required to pay.

RJ noted that the National Park is undertaking a review of the Camping Management By- laws and CCC had proposed that the Meadows be included as a Camping Management Zone so that camper vans could be limited to 5 in number.

8.2 National Park

DK is waiting to start training in October.

9. Any Other Business

RB noted that Greg McClelland, from Callander, recently won the Scottish Men's amateur golf championship. She proposed that CCC contact Bear to instal two plaques at the entrances to Callander which would read "Home of Greg McLelland and his title". This was agreed by all community councillors present.

Action: JK will follow up with BEAR.

10. Date of Next Meeting

21st September 2026