

Callander Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting (DRAFT)

Monday 16th February 2026

Venue: CYP, Callander

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

Also in attendance: Caroline Stewart (minute taker), Councillor Martin Earl (SC), Marco Limonci (CCDT), Ben Clinch (Murray Estates), Michael Mower (Owner of the “Eagle Hotel”) and five 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.

1. Introductions and apologies

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

2. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

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

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (for approval)

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

4. Police Report

A written report had been received from Police Scotland, the main points were as follows:

- No reported anti-social behaviour
- One incident of road safety, issue with careless driving on Stirling Road
- There have been several incidents of theft/shoplifting both from business and domestic properties
- There was an incident on Ben Ledi where a member of the public was verbally abused and assaulted, investigations are ongoing.

5. Murray Estate

Ben Clinch from Murray Estates gave a presentation on planned woodland development on the Estate. He explained the woodland creation proposals, which include a small area within the CCC area. The plan is to change some of the farming on the estate to be more low intensity and development of woodland. This includes expanding native and commercial woodland, improving habitats for black grouse and increasing other species. The project will generate local employment, one local resident has already been employed as an apprentice and the possibility of employing another apprentice to help with planting, deer management and predator control, is being looked at.

RJ proposed that CCC support the project and no objections were raised.

6. Former Eagle Hotel

Michael Mower, the new owner of the former Eagle Hotel gave a presentation about his plans for the building. The work will start in two weeks' time, initially focusing on the exterior of the building. Site traffic will use the car park at the Meadows and will offload from Bridge Street. The plans put together by the previous owner will be used with a few amendments. The building will be used for short term accommodation with a small retail outlet on the ground floor. It is anticipated that it will take between six and eight months to complete the project. Michael has already contacted neighbours to communicate plans but will broaden his network and speak to other residents.

7. Matters Arising from the previous meeting

All matters will be covered later.

8. Co-option of new members

No applications have been received for co-option. Vacancies have been advertised widely including an article in the Ben Ledi View. The article submitted was modified by the magazine without consultation with CCC. RJ has written to complain to the Ben Ledi View. It was agreed that CCC could continue to function with the current numbers although if anyone came forward to join they would be considered.

9. Joint meeting with CCDT

A joint meeting with CCDT will be held on 23rd February with two items on the agenda, the Local Place Plan and the Callander Partnership.

10. Specific items

10.1 Footbridge over the River Teith

At the last CCC meeting in December, David Hopper (Stirling Council) gave a verbal report on progress and he gave another report at the CCC open day in January. RJ contacted David Hopper last week to ask for a further update and had been advised that there was nothing to add. RJ also asked for a copy of his PowerPoint presentation that he gave at the open day and has now received a copy of this. RJ reminded everyone of the three options for the location of the bridge shown on maps from the presentation. CCC remains concerned about the lack of information about the plans, whether landowners have been consulted, potential impacts on local glacial features and potential impacts on local residents. RJ noted an email received from Nicola Luti referring to the Callander Local Place Plan which states that no glacial features will be impacted by future developments – she wanted an assurance that CCC would continue to support this statement – this was agreed. RJ suggested that the CCC write to David Hopper and include all the points that have been made and also request monthly reports on progress.

10.2 Local Place Plan

A Local Place Plan (LPP) is a community driven document that outlines aspirations, priorities and actions for improving a specific area. The community decide the time period that it covers and a full community consultation is required. The current Callander LPP runs from 2022 to 2032 and has been lodged with the two planning authorities (NP and SC). It was developed by CCDT and CCC with the Braes of Doune Fund contributing £17k to the costs. It was noted that the LPP has lists of "Solutions" but doesn't have a clear list of priorities and actions. RJ has suggested that the LPP is not amended but a Callander Community Action Plan (CAP) be developed, this will be suggested to CCDT at the joint meeting.

10.3 A84 speed control

Lynne Murray gave a presentation on her observation of excessive traffic speeds along Stirling Road. She has been in contact with BEAR, Police Scotland and local Ward Councillors and feels that more needs to be done to keep traffic speeds within the speed limits. She also noted that other speed control measures introduced in neighbouring communities should be considered in Callander.

RJ noted that a speed survey was carried out by Transport Scotland over a seven-day period in October 2025 and Martin Earl had obtained the data from Transport Scotland. RJ summarised the data showing that sensors were at nine points along the A84 through Callander and produced graphs to highlight the results. The sensor that was positioned near the petrol station only worked for five out of the seven days but the data can still be used. Results show that vehicles are exceeding the speed limit all along the road with over 60% of vehicles coming into the town exceeding the speed limit. It was suggested that a site meeting be organised with Transport Scotland.

10.4 CCC Open Day

Thanks were given to RB for organising the Open Day in January. Positive feedback had been received and it was felt that something similar should be arranged in the future, possibly every 6 months.

10.5 Callander Primary School and other public buildings

There are a number of public buildings in Callander which are important buildings for Callander but they have uncertain futures. CCC is looking into the futures of all of these buildings and hoping to develop an integrated plan for their future uses.

CCDT is looking at the Callander Primary School building which will become vacant later in 2026. They are considering an asset transfer from Stirling Council to convert the building into a Cultural and Educational facility. A written progress report was received from CCDT and was summarised at the meeting. CCDT has obtained funding from the Scottish Land Fund for a feasibility study for the future use of the Primary School. Consultants have been appointed and their report should be available in mid-March. Consultation with the community is being undertaken through surveys and meetings with the latest being a full day drop in event.

Regarding the future of the Callander Kirk and Kirk Hall buildings, HW and RJ (and CCDT) had been invited to a meeting about the future of the buildings. The congregation is keen to retain both buildings for the community of Callander but both need many internal and external repairs. There is a possibility that the Presbytery may sell one or both buildings which would be a loss to the community. The church has taken advice from an Architect firm, and the plans are available for the community to see in leaflet form which also provides approximate costings. The Kirk has a small congregation of older people who don't have the digital skills required to do fundraising. HW highlighted that there are various public buildings around Callander that are under used and she has agreed to gather information on all these buildings and how they are currently used.

10.6 Defibrillator maintenance

RB confirmed that all of the defibrillators throughout Callander are now operational and future maintenance is the responsibility of Trossachs Search and Rescue.

11. Reports

11.1 Chair

Nothing to report

11.2 Treasurer

CCC bank balance currently: £1643.00

Braes of Doune balance currently: £87,823.36

RJ confirmed that there had been no response from FEL about the funds they had previously provided to CCC.

11.3 Secretary

- Audit of street furniture continues with several people sending in comments. RJ is feeding these back to SC and Transport Scotland as they come in. The two street signs on the junction of North Church Street and Main Steet have been reported and will be repaired.
- AGM is planned for 20th April at 7pm, reports are required from the Chair and Treasurer.
- Street cleaning: RJ and Martin Earl had a meeting with SC Managers. It was noted that there is not a SC worker dedicated to street cleaning in Callander but there is a squad which visits all communities along the A84 from Stirling to Tyndrum on a daily basis. Their priority is to empty litter bins and if they have time, they will keep the rest of the town clean. The Big Green Machine is not dedicated to Callander; it is used on deep cleans in all communities around SC. Two issues were highlighted, littering by McLaren High School pupils at lunch time and the disposal of take away food cartons, which are not recyclable.
- JK and RJ attended a progress meeting with the Callander Flood Group.
- Camp Place play park benches have not yet been replaced. Communication has been received from a resident asking if additional benches could be installed that are suitable for the elderly.
- Snow and ice clearance has been an issue. RJ has spoken to SC and received a response advising that they are short of resources and are focusing on priority route such as school routes. RJ is mapping all grit bins and will pass information onto SC.

12. Braes of Doune Community Fund

Four applications have been received and details circulated to all CCC members:

1. Supply and delivery of four new benches for Callander Craggs footpath: CCC application for £4,174.80 - approved.
2. Expenses for 17 girl guides on an educational trip to London: Callander Girl Guides and Trossachs Rangers application for £1,064.75 – approved with condition that they investigate discounted ticket costs.
3. Hire of lighting equipment for a production of the Lion King: Callander Primary School application for £300 - approved. DK declared a conflict of interest as he is a member of the Callander 41 Club who have already part funded this.
4. First Aid Training and toilet hire: Friends of Trossachs application for £1,000. Concern raised that the project is outwith the CCC area although the applicants address is within the CCC area – RJ will check the validity with Foundation Scotland.

13. Planning

A number of planning applications have been made but none require CCC consideration.

14. Licensing

Noted that a McMillan charity run will be coming through Callander.

15. Other reports

15.1 Stirling Council

Councillor Earl reported that the budget meeting will take place on February 26th. Council rents were set today and there will be a 5.8% rise for council tenants.

15.2 National Park

No report

16. Any other business

None

17. Date of next meeting

16th March 2026

Close of Meeting at 21.41 pm