



# Callander Community Council

**Adopted Minutes of the Meeting:**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30 pm**

**Venue: CYP, Bridgend, Callander**

**Community Councillors present:** John Watson (JW), Vice-chair, David King (DK), David Moore (DM), Marilyn Moore (MM), Olga Watkins (OW), Ray Watkins (RW), David Shearer (DS), Loucas George (LG)

**Associate Members present:** Gordon Addison (GA)

**Also in attendance:** Martin Earl (ME) Ward Councillor, Caroline Stewart (CS), minute taker, Richard Johnson (RJ), (National Park representative for Callander), John Hair (JH) FLS, plus several members of the public.

**Apologies:** Susan Holden (SH) - Chair, Bev. Field (BF), Moe Guertin (MG).

**Abbreviations:** All in attendance will be referred to by their initials.

CCC = Callander Community Council; CE = Callander Enterprise; CCDT = Callander Community Development Trust; SC = Stirling Council; LPP = Local Place Plan; NP = Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park; FLS= Forestry and Land Scotland; FOI = Freedom of Information; CC = Callander Community, St.K = St Kessogs, BoD = Braes of Doune Windfarm Community Fund

**Chair of Meeting:** John Watson

Item	Action
<b>PART 1 : WELCOME AND PROCEDURES</b>	
<b>Introduction</b>  JW welcomed all to the meeting and advised that he would chair the meeting in the absence of SH. He outlined the items which would be discussed.  Apologies were received from Susan Holden, Bev. Field and Moe Guertin.	
<b>Recording</b>  OW advised that the meeting was being recorded solely for the purposes of minute-taking.	
<b>Declaration of Interest</b>  None	
<b>Part 2: Special items</b>	
<b>Presentation on Fungal Larch Disease</b>  John Hair (JH) from Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) gave a presentation on Fungal Larch Disease. The disease had first been found in the South of England in 2002 in viburnum and rhododendron. In 2009 it was found to be affecting larch trees, killing them in a short time. The disease is airborne and spreads	

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<p>through water droplets as well as through mud on boots and vehicles carrying the disease from one location to another. The disease has continued to spread into Wales, the Lake District and Galloway. 8 years ago it was found in the West Coast of Scotland in Dunoon and Cowal. The disease spread rapidly within Cowal and all the larch trees in the area were infected within a year. The disease is now heading East and there is no cure - only control measures can be put in place. If an infected larch is identified, Scottish Forestry will notify the landowner and they will be issued with a statutory health notice. This will require them to fell any infected trees and all other larch trees within a 250 metre radius of the infected tree.</p> <p>Two infections were detected on the east side of Loch Lomond - one at Kilmahog, 5 years ago and one at Rowardennan, 4 years ago. No further infections were detected until 2022 when 10 outbreaks in the Callander and Loch Lomond area were detected.</p> <p>If infections are detected, infected larches need to be felled within 6 months. This cannot be appealed as the decision is set in criminal law and the landowner can be taken to court if they fail to comply.</p> <p>It is anticipated that all larch trees in the Trossachs will be infected within the next 3 years – this will have a noticeable impact on the landscape. Once a larch tree has been felled, there is a waiting period of 2 to 3 years before a tree of another species can be planted,</p> <p>JH stated he would provide regular updates to the CC if required. He answered several questions including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. How are infected larch trees identified?</b> A helicopter regularly patrols the whole of Scotland. Infected trees are identified by the fact that leaves change colour to an orange/ginger colour. Once the site has been identified aurally, the land team will go in to do further inspections and will take samples that are sent to the lab. to confirm the infection. Once confirmed, a plant health notice will be issued to the relevant party.</li> <li><b>2. What can individuals do to stop the spread of the disease?</b> The best advice is to maintain high levels of cleanliness, such as cleaning boots and trousers before moving from one area to another.</li> <li><b>3. What support is available to private residents who are required to fell trees?</b> Most of the support in place is aimed at large landowners, with the compensation available to individuals being minimal - it amounts to roughly £12 per tree. Individuals can also apply to the regulator for further support.</li> </ol>	



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<p><b>Matters arising from the minutes</b></p> <p>OW stated that Tim Crone (TC) advised that he had emailed SC to confirm that the CC was happy to support the feasibility study for a business hub at Callander Library.</p> <p><b>Dental services</b></p> <p><b>Written report submitted</b></p> <p>RW confirmed that over 1,000 households had now completed the petition which represented roughly 2,500 people. As well as petitions from Callander, there had also been responses from Trossachs, Aberfoyle, Thornhill, Doune and Strathyre. The latest update was that the Health Board was in discussions on opening a 3-surgery practice in Callander Medical Centre, with negotiations ongoing. The petition had now closed as responses had slowed down significantly over the previous few weeks. ME thanked RW for the effort he had put into the process.</p> <p><b>Bracklinn Bridge</b></p> <p>The bridge was now open, and the official opening would take place on 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30am. OW had sent the invitation to attend to all community councillors - they needed to contact the NP personally to confirm attendance.</p> <p><b>Flooding plan</b></p> <p>Several CC members attended the meeting earlier in the month arranged by SC where updates were provided by Scottish Water and SEPA on the proposed flooding plans. Nothing had moved forward since the previous meeting. A discussion followed on what plans SC had presented to SEPA for review, as this was not clear and it was also felt there wasn't enough transparency from SC around what they were reviewing.</p> <p>A member of the public referred to the timeline that was included in the original engagement plan and it was felt that the CC should be encouraging all parties involved to keep to the timelines outlined in the plan. There was a public meeting planned in the original timetable that had now been omitted. There were concerns raised that there was going to be no CCC in place at a crucial stage of community engagement. ME suggested that CCC needed to speak to SC about how this would be managed if there was no CCC in place.</p> <p>Several actions were agreed.</p> <p>MM will write letters on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To request notes from flooding meeting</li> <li>• To contact Chief Solicitor for legal advice</li> <li>• To request more information on why the public meeting had been dropped from the schedule</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ask for details of the dates and plans that were submitted to SEPA and Scottish water for review</li> </ul> <p>MM will send draft emails to all CCs before taking them forward.</p> <p><b>Bus service</b></p> <p>ME contacted Mr Phillips at McGill’s for an update, however Mr Phillips had now left the company. ME had forwarded his correspondence to Colin Napier, Senior Manager to get further information on the disruption to local services. ME would continue to keep CCC updated</p> <p><b>Callander South Master Plan</b></p> <p>RJ from NP provided an update. He advised that the NP had reviewed the recent consultation for the Master Plan and it had stated that it was a success. The consultation period was now over, although RJ would still welcome any comments. Feedback from the community and the CC including the comments from the minutes of the last CC minutes were submitted to the NP. However, the NP was happy with the consultation and was now going to analyse the results. There was a lively discussion about information that was felt to be missing from the Master Plan, including details around infrastructure and how poorly organised the consultation was. It was suggested that there seemed to be a gap in understanding between what was expected by the public at the consultation and what the NP has been expecting to deliver - this had caused a disconnect.</p>	<p>M`M to take actions forward</p> <p>ME to update CCC on any updates from McGill’s</p> <p>All CC – any further comments about Master Plan to be sent to RJ</p>
5. REPORTS	
<p><b>Vice chair report</b></p> <p>JW thanked all CC, both past and present, who had given of their time and effort to the local community, with no financial reward, since the last election in December 2018.</p> <p><b>Secretary report</b></p> <p>OW submitted written recommendations on the work the secretary was expected to do. She had outlined details of how she saw the role of secretary, but stated that over the previous few months, the role had been ‘equivalent to a full-time job’. She said that the role should be divided into more manageable parts and there should be someone specifically dealing with IT, to include running the meetings and dealing with the Facebook page and CCC website.</p> <p><b>Treasurer report</b></p> <p>Written report submitted</p>	

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<p>MM gave an overview of the work she had been involved in. She advised that she had dealt with several financial transactions including the payment to CYP for the meeting, payment to the minute taker for the minutes of the February meeting and payment of Zoom subscription. She advised that the current balance of the admin. account was £5,818.00.</p> <p>MM gave an update on grants that have been successfully awarded on the B of D account. The first was awarded to CYP to help with emergency repairs to the roof, which had been discovered during work on the accessible toilets. There was an application from the Callander and District Horticultural Society who had applied for a grant to run a range of events to mark its 150 year anniversary. This application was successful and the grant was awarded. The current balance in the B of D account was £78, 894.75.</p> <p>MM discussed a grant that had been made available during Covid for people who were experiencing hardship. The fund had just over £1,000 left in it . MM proposed that the surplus funds should be transferred to Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Fund that was being used to support people experiencing hardship. MM had spoken to SC to confirm that this remaining money could be donated to the CCDT ring-fenced CAB fund. All CC s agreed to the transfer of the funds.</p> <p>MM raised the possibility of the CC purchasing a computer that could be used by the CC to run the meetings and store files, so that information could be transferred from one secretary to another. This had previously been discussed and a suitable laptop was identified but was never voted on. There was a discussion about the need for a hard drive as well as a laptop. It was agreed this would be taken forward.</p> <p>There were 2 applications for microgrants from B of D for consideration. Callander Mental Health Matters asked for £250 to cover the cost of a banner. The application was approved by the CC. The second application was from an individual who is keen to set up a recovery café in Callander, for people needing support during recovery from alcohol / drug problems. The application was for £250 to cover the cost of rent for a room in Callander Kirk Hall, where the café would run every fortnight as a drop in session, initially for 6 months. This application was approved by the CC.</p> <p>MM advised that new logs had been delivered to Camp Place play park. The play park held an Open Day last year and the community had hoped that a similar event could be organised this year. MM advised that there was £245 left from the money that had been returned last year and proposed that it was used to fund another Open Day. She advised that CCC needed to start planning soon for the Open Day in June, which would be covered by this year’s insurance. The current CC will not be in place when the event takes place, but the current CC agreed to support planning the event.</p>	<p>MM to transfer balance to CAB fund</p> <p>DM to take forward the purchase of a laptop and hard drive</p>

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<p><b>Planning report</b></p> <p>Written report submitted.</p> <p>There had been 6 new planning application. These were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. East Lodge, Invertrossachs Road that required a ‘certificate of lawfulness’. An existing cabin was now being used as holiday accommodation. The applicants were hoping to confirm that this had legal status in terms of planning. Application had been acceptable, the applicants has not applied for any change of use - nothing to object to.</li> <li>2. There had been 2 applications made for Lower Church Street. One was a listed building consent, with some internal alternations, the other application was for change of elevation, taking out old UPVC doors and putting in new timber doors - no comment.</li> <li>3. Leny Woods car park - there had been an application from the CCDT to extend the existing car park and footpath. This had been expected and there had been a consultation on it.</li> <li>4. Forest and Land Scotland application to create road access for forestry articulated vehicles at Leny Falls car park.</li> <li>5. East Gartchonzie - request for ground floor rear extension, with accessible bedroom and en-suite. Only reservation was that the steps to the front door were not fully accessible, so this would be put to the planner again.</li> </ol> <p>There was a discussion on the expansion of the car park at Leny Falls including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would this address the dangers caused by people crossing the road near the car park ?</li> <li>• Did CCDT buy the car park from the landowner? DM agreed to seek clarification on both issues.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, DM stated that, subject to any changes with the CC, he would hand over files and explain the methodology that had been used, if any new person took over the planning role, once the election has taken place.</p> <p><b>Roads report</b></p> <p>Written report submitted.</p> <p>There was a question about repairs to the Leisure Centre car park surface. DS confirmed there has been no update since the last meeting, but he would pursue this.</p> <p>Metal pavement covers had been removed to upgrade Wi-Fi to the library. DS was pursuing the linking of the footpath from Callander to Doune - this has been passed to the MSP and DS is waiting on a response.</p> <p>On the refurbishment of the pavements and road by BEAR - DS is currently waiting for a meeting with BEAR which will be after the budget. He highlighted</p>	<p>DM to seek clarification on Leny Falls car park</p>

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<p>issues with the pavements and roads owned by SC, on the periphery of Main Street and is awaiting a date for a meeting with SC to discuss this further.</p> <p><b>Police Scotland</b></p> <p>Written report submitted.</p> <p>The issues highlighted this month appeared to differ from last month’s issues. This month, issues with traffic, alcohol and drugs were predominant. Last month, the main issues were local burglaries and stealing from shops . OW had contacted Police Scotland to ask why this was the case and had been advised that the incidents over the Christmas period were carried out by some youths stealing from local businesses and this had now stopped. The burglaries were related to other house breakings that had occurred in Stirling and Doune at the same time. There had been no further house breakings this month.</p> <p><b>Stirling Council</b></p> <p>No written report submitted.</p> <p>ME provided an update from SC. The focus recently had been on the budget. SC had a £17.5m funding gap in it. One way of covering some of this shortfall was to increase council tax by 7%, which accounted for £3.5m. However there would still be difficult decisions to be made going forward, as there was still a £14m shortfall.</p> <p><b>National Park</b></p> <p>No written report submitted.</p> <p>RJ provided an update on the NP. He advised that the Board has been dealing with several strategic matters. This included producing a partnership plan and rule book that would run from 2024 to 2029. The Board had now approved this and it would go out to consultation from April onwards. The board had now approved an operational plan for the coming year. The local development plan was underway, and there would be a consultation on this with the community, arranged through various partners. RJ advised that the budget was now approved. The NP would receive £500,000, which would be allocated to employ permanent seasonal Rangers, who would work for the season and come back year after year. They would focus on visitor management. The planning committee was dealing with several planning applications. Visitor management was working with the community and land owners to look at visitor management and a joint response visitor management response plan was being developed. There would be a consultation on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Visitor management was discussing, with various groups in the NP, consultation with the community. The NP had been focusing on consultation through social media, but RJ highlighted the importance of public meetings which had been successful in Callander in the past. There would be a public meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April , chaired by RJ, concentrating on infrastructure requirements for visitor</p>	<p>DS to follow up all items</p>



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<p>management, which would give participants an opportunity to raise any concerns with the NP.</p>	
<p><b>PART 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p>Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) was discussed - people in rural areas were having difficulty in booking the service as the providers were unable to meet current demand for it, particularly in areas such as Kinlochard, Aberfoyle and Strathyre. ME stated that there were issues with getting enough operators involved and that this was leading to rural isolation.</p> <p>DK proposed that CCC should pass on its best wishes to Susan Holden, who was currently unwell and this was agreed by all.</p> <p><b>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>TBC</p>	