



# Callander Community Council

Adopted minutes of the meeting: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Venue: CYP, Callander 7.00-9.00pm

**Community Councillors present:** John Kennedy (JK) – Interim Chair, Marilyn Moore (MM) - Interim Secretary, Olga Watkins (OW) - Minute Secretary, Ray Watkins (RW), Fiona Kerr (FK), Ruth Barrie (RB), Loucas George (LG), David Shearer (DS), Robert MacLean (RM), David King (DK)

**Associate Members present:** Gordon Addison (GA) Tim Crone (TC)

**Also in attendance:** Martin Earl, Ward Councillor (ME), Caroline Stewart (CS), minute taker, Richard Johnson (RJ), National Park, Constable Lorna Deans, Police Scotland plus 5 members of the public and one person online.

**Apologies:** John Watson (JW), David Moore (DM) leave of absence, Chiara Fingland (CF), Development Officer LPP

**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 = Community Councillors, St.K's = St Kessogs, BoD = Braes of Doune Community Fund

**Chair of Meeting:** John Kennedy

Item	Action
<b>PART 1: WELCOME AND PROCEDURES</b>	
<p><b>Introduction, Apologies and Meeting Procedures</b> JK welcomed everyone to the February business meeting. Apologies were received from John Watson, David Moore (leave of absence) and Chiara Fingland.</p>	
<p><b>Recording/Conflict of Interest</b> JK advised that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of the minutes and asked for any conflicts of interest to be declared. He stated that MM would refrain from any discussion around CCDT, unless the discussion was regarding a joint project with them.</p>	
<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b> Copies of the December minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. A change had been requested by Tim Crone regarding his comments around the Built Heritage Officer. The minutes were proposed by DS, seconded by RM, based on the amendments being made.</p>	
<p><b>Matters arising from the previous minutes</b> JK summarised the actions that had been agreed at the December meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The photos of St.K's taken at the visit were still to be sent to Stirling Council, therefore this action would remain open.</li> <li>EW had forwarded the St.K's report from 2019 to JK. He advised that he would discuss the report with CCC after the meeting had taken place.</li> <li>EW had contacted the Assets Department at SC regarding the Primary</li> </ul>	<p>Photos of St.K's to be sent to SC.</p> <p>JK to follow up correspondence</p>

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School, but no response had been received. JK would follow this up.	to Assets Dept.
<b>Special Items</b>	
<p><b>The Big Conversation</b></p> <p>OW gave an update on the Rural Community Councils group regarding proposed budget cuts. In December, the rural community councils sent questions/concerns to SC. A reply was received in January, but it was felt that the responses received weren't satisfactory and this has been communicated back to SC. OW summarised some of the responses, including the reply regarding possible closure/cuts to libraries and public toilets. It was felt that SC hadn't considered the impact specifically on rural communities.</p> <p>ME stated that he felt disappointed by the quality of the responses, particularly as the aim of The Big Conversation had been to engage with the community and therefore, the community should have expected to get reasonable answers. He said it was important that SC took a holistic view e.g. the potential impact of closure of public toilets on tourism hadn't been considered. He advised that many similar points had been made by Ward Councillors who had also asked for extra details. MM asked what the reserves were for and why SC hadn't considered the impact on tourism.</p> <p>OW summarised the response she had received from Scottish Libraries on what legal requirements should be provided by library services. She stated that it was unlikely that there would be any further updates from SC before the budget meeting.</p> <p>JK stated he would be available to attend the next meeting of the group of Community Councils on 22<sup>nd</sup> February - MM will send him the link so that he could join online. MM advised that the survey results on The Big Conversation had now been published on the SC website. The link is:</p> <p><a href="https://www.stirling.gov.uk/council-and-committees/budget/budget-documents/budget-consultation-results/">https://www.stirling.gov.uk/council-and-committees/budget/budget-documents/budget-consultation-results/</a></p> <p>RB had been in touch with Susan McRobbie from Killin Community Council regarding the C60 and stated that Susan had heard nothing from SC. RB had spoken to the new manager at the depot. He had a meeting with SC but there was no information available on any routes that may be cut.</p> <p><b>Callander Primary School</b></p> <p>The CC applied for and gained an extension on the planning application, then agreed to rescind it and seek permission from planning. JK summarised all the correspondence and highlighted the concerns. There had been 121 concerns raised. JK had highlighted the main ones and sent a list to the planning department. He stated that this wasn't a comprehensive list and there may be further concerns after the CCC meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity – was it big enough to be future proof?</li> <li>• Safe access routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pavements</li> <li>○ Footbridge</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Item	Action
<p>CCC endorsed comments from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Callander</li> <li>• School Group lead by Gordon Kerr</li> <li>• Leisure Centre</li> </ul> <p>JK asked if there were any other concerns. A member of the public raised concerns about what would happen to the playing fields at the school whilst building work was being carried out. JK advised that this concern had already been raised by various sources, including school parents’ groups and individuals. The CC had applied to have representatives on the planning committee but hadn’t had a response. A member of the public advised that the work had already started and JK agreed to raise this with the planning committee. ME and RJ were unable to comment as they stated they sat on the NP planning committee. OW asked who the CC should contact to challenge the issue and ME stated that they would need to write to Stephen Bly ‘for the attention of SC Assets Department’ regarding the pitch/open space.</p> <p><b>New online booking system for Callander Recycling centre/HWRC drop in session</b></p> <p>JK discussed the introduction of an online booking system at both Callander and Polmaise recycling plants and the recent consultation which he had attended. ME advised that he thought it was set up to be a consultation, rather an information session. ME discussed why this new system was being put in place. Councillors had wanted to amend it to ensure that the system was introduced for commercial vehicles only, as this had been introduced by 15 other Local Authorities across Scotland. The amendment was defeated in a vote and the system would now be brought in for everyone from 1<sup>st</sup> May. ME stated that the onus would be on staff at the gates to police the system if anyone arrived without a booking. People who hadn’t booked a slot wouldn’t be allowed access. JK asked if the CC could do anything to question the decision and if a letter should be written to SC, even though the decision had already been made. ME felt it would be worthwhile writing a letter to SC, as there may be the option to amend the policy in the future.</p> <p>JK stated he felt that the system would need to be allowed to run, so that the CC could gather evidence in case the new system didn’t work and present this evidence to SC.</p>	<p>Letter to be sent to Stephen Bly</p> <p>Letter to be written to SC regarding new online booking service for Callander Recycling</p>
<p><b>Questions from members of the public</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member of the public asked how they could object to the proposal for changes to the recycling plant and the new booking system. JK would ensure that their points raised would be included in the letter he would send to SC.</li> <li>• A member of the public raised concerns about damage to the former Eagle Hotel and issues with debris on the pavement after the recent storm. MM had already sent a letter with photos to SC. SC sent someone to inspect the building - the building was then boarded up and was deemed to be safe. MM read out the reply that was sent by SC after the visit to the site. MM &amp; JK agreed to work together to send a response challenging the statement that the building was deemed to be safe and asking for information explaining how SC came to this</li> </ul>	<p>MM &amp; JK to work together on a response.</p>

Item	Action
<p>conclusion. It was highlighted by TC that the building warrant had now expired, and this information would be included in the letter.</p>	
<p><b>Local Place Plan</b></p> <p>Chiara Finland was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a written report. A member of the public stated that the public didn't have access to this report and therefore JK read it out at the meeting. A member of the public asked if paper copies of this report could be provided at the start of future meetings. OW advised that any relevant reports could be appended to the Minutes in future.</p>	
<p><b>Citizen of the Year (CotY) 2023</b></p> <p>By the end of January 2024, no nominations for the COTY award had been received. FB and MM agreed to extend the closing date to the end of February. MM publicised this on Facebook and 2 further nominations had been received. MM asked those present to send any other nominations to the Callander CC email address, with reasons for the nomination.</p> <p>There was a request by Community Councillors for draft minutes to be sent out earlier in future and that possibly the initial draft minutes could be sent to all CC rather than just to the secretary. OW advised that the draft minutes sent by the minute taker to her were summarised by her and then sent on to the Secretary, MM, for final comments. JK asked for a copy of both the draft and edited minutes for this meeting to be sent to him to compare the differences. It was agreed that in future the draft minutes would be sent out at least one week before the meeting.</p>	<p>Any nominations for COTY 2023 to be send to the CC in box.</p> <p>Future draft minutes to be send one week prior to next meeting.</p>
<p><b>Reports from Office Bearers.</b></p> <p><b>Police</b></p> <p>Constable Lorna Deans introduced herself as the Community Officer covering Trossachs and Teith based in Callander working alongside Donald King. She summarised the Police Report from 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024. She highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She had been asked by other Community Councils about the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which had changed the way it operated, with more of an online presence involving all communities. This was particularly helpful for the farming community, as it allowed issues in all areas to be flagged up.</li> <li>• Constable Deans had emailed MM prior to the meeting about a new initiative - Community Speed Watch. This enabled members of the public to receive training in becoming involved in speed monitoring. Constable Deans stated that the community would have to cover the cost of the equipment, which was around £2500. There was a discussion on accessing grants to cover this cost and whether there would be any interest by the community to get involved. Concerns were raised about possible community backlash if people were being stopped by their neighbours. It was agreed that Constable Deans would send on more information, and it would be discussed further once this had been received.</li> <li>• MM stated complaints had been received about vehicles speeding on</li> </ul>	<p>Constable Deans to send on more information about Community Speed Watch.</p>



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<p>looked as though the signs had been left by mistake.</p> <p><b>Stirling Council</b> ME had nothing further to add to earlier discussion.</p> <p><b>National Park</b> RJ advised that things had been very quiet over the previous few months so had nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Planning</b> JK had circulated the planning report prior to the meeting. He advised there was nothing contentious included in it, as only minor developments.</p>	
<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CC had been offered, free of charge from Central Government, a framed portrait of King Charles III. JK proposed that CCC accepted the gift and asked if there were any objections. There was a discussion on where the portrait would eventually be hung, such as an initial period in a vacant window or the NP window, followed by a permanent place in the Masonic Lodge. Someone suggested hanging the portrait in the Chambers Room in the library as this was open to all the public and was used by community groups. It was agreed that as the CCC had 3 months to decide where the picture would be located, a discussion on this should take place once the portrait had been received.</li> <li>• MM discussed a unique URL for the CC website, to bypass the home page of the “In Callander “website. LG advised that he had a range of domain names that he could transfer over. MM will liaise with LG to choose one and report back. Information had been circulated prior to the meeting about possible costs. MM explained that the email sent prior to the meeting, referring to a cost of £104, was for the maintenance of the website, not the unique URL.</li> <li>• A joint meeting between CCC and CCDT had been proposed for 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024, after the SC budget setting meeting. A member of the public asked if members of the public were invited and if not, why not, as he was a member of the CCDT and felt that he should be able to attend the meeting. There then followed a discussion on whether or not the meeting should remain closed to the public. JK asked for a vote to be taken by the CC eligible to vote and it was agreed that the meeting would be closed to the public on this occasion. RB advised that she would not be attending this meeting.</li> <li>• A member of the public wanted to express his thanks in the minutes to DS, RM and Stephen Bly, for their prompt response to a problem he had had with fallen trees. DK highlighted the amount of work that DS and RM had done on a range of issues. FB commented that the Roads Report was ‘fantastic’.</li> <li>• LG stated that there was ‘a clock ticking for CCC to come up with a plan for the old Primary School’. JK advised that it was the property of SC. He asked if CCC needed to do anything to influence the future of the building. CF was working on this as Dev. Officer. LG highlighted the possible closure of public toilets and the need to move on getting the</li> </ul>	<p>LG &amp; MM to meet and report back.</p>

Item	Action
<p>toilets opened at St. K's. ME advised that there would be a forthcoming report on City Deal money that had been originally earmarked for a business hub and that the cost of refurbishing St.K's had increased to the point where it was no longer practical for SC to do it. There followed a discussion on what money was available to renovate the toilets, such as City Deal money or insurance money. No conclusions were reached but JK advised that a small group should be pulled together to decide what could be done. There had been a planned CCC meeting on St.Kessog's in January which was cancelled due to the weather. JK asked for volunteers to form a subgroup. It was agreed that TC, JK and LG would meet, with LG taking the lead in the group. LG would co-ordinate with JK and TC to arrange a meeting.</p>	<p>LG to co-ordinate meeting of St.K's subgroup</p>
<p><b>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting would be on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00 pm in CYP, Bridgend, Callander.</p>	