



# Callander Community Council

Minutes of the meeting Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Venue: CYP, Callander 7.00-9.00pm

**Community Councillors present:** John Kennedy (JK), Fiona Kerr (FK), Ruth Barrie (RB), David King (DK), Robert MacLean (RM), Olga Watkins (OW). Loucas George (LG), David Shearer (DS)

**Also in attendance:** Caroline Stewart (CS), minute taker, Richard Johnson (RJ) (National Park Board Member), Martin Earl (ME) (Ward Councillor), Chiara Fingland (CF), (Development Officer), plus 1 member of the public in person.

**Apologies:** Marilyn Moore (MM), David Moore (DM),

**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 = St Kessogs, BoD = Braes of Doune Community Fund

**Chair of Meeting:** John Kennedy (JK)

Item	Action
<b>1. Introduction, Apologies and Meeting Procedures</b> JK welcomed everyone to the February meeting. Apologies were received from DM and MM. JK advised that 8 members of the CCs were present, therefore the meeting was quorate. The meeting was being recorded for the purpose of minute taking only.	
<b>2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated but RJ stated that he had not received them. He was then given a copy during the meeting. The minutes were proposed by LG and seconded by FK, although RJ will be able to ask for amendments if he feels they are necessary as he had not been able to read the minutes before the meeting.	
<b>3. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Park – Trossachs Explorer – chasing up external consultant</li> <li>The lease for Callander Connect is up for renewal and the Development Trust wants to keep the current premises for another 3 years. There was a discussion about whether the CC would want to help support this and if this was the case, could the CC put in an application for funds from the B of D. There were questions raised about the cost implications and if rent was something that B of D fund could cover.</li> <li>MM security document – MM not available to give an update. MM had submitted her report with an update.</li> </ul>	RJ will report on Trossachs Explorer once final report received by NP
<b>4. Report from Police</b> No representative from Police Scotland was present. JK read out the report.	
<b>5. Special Items</b> <b>St Kessogs</b>	

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<p>The future of St. Ks was raised at the last Finance and Economy meeting, and it was decided that SC would proceed with the sale. A prospective will be prepared by the end of February. JK and LG attended a Zoom meeting with Drew Leslie and asked about the possibility of the CC being provided with information on the condition, cost to repair the building etc. and it was agreed that this information can be made available. There is another visit to the building planned for the 26<sup>th</sup> of February with interested parties from SC.</p>	
<p><b>6. Questions from Members of the Public</b></p> <p>A member of the public highlighted that SC are planning to take away the regular street cleaner from Callander for roughly 2 hours per day to cover duties in Stirling. RMcL and DS have been in contact with SC and have received a response from Scott Mason advising that the decision will mean no change to the service to Callander and the northern beats and as the cleaner was temporarily based in Callander, he could be deployed elsewhere. The role will now start from Stirling depot to meet operational needs. Councillor Earl has also received the same response from SC and has asked for clarification on when the position was designated as being “temporary”. He will forward on any response when he receives it. MM has already been in contact with Stephen Bly regarding the matter and JK will meet with MM to write a letter to SC.</p> <p><b>Waste Management Service at Callander</b></p> <p>There was an issue with a member of the public who had just bought a restaurant in Callander. He was prevented from using the waste management service in Callander with his household waste from renovations to the accommodation above the restaurant, as he was a business owner, and this was regarded as commercial waste. The issue is being dealt with by Stephen Bly.</p> <p><b>Callander car parking – Cash option?</b></p> <p>There was a discussion about the lack of paying with money when paying for parking in the car parks. Although this is difficult for some people, it was felt the cost of handling cash at the machine is unlikely to be financially viable and as a society we are moving away from the use of cash. There have also been issues with machines being out of order and no signage to say where the nearest operational machine was situated, which resulted in people being issued with fines.</p>	<p>JK/MM to write a letter to SC</p>
<p><b>7. LPP/Callander Connect</b></p> <p>Headline and circulate the report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Meadows and Station Road car park Masterplan – The funded phase of the project is complete, and the final report is available in Callander Connect. They continue to get people dropping in and a wrap up steering group meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> February between 10 and 12pm, anyone is welcome to attend.</li> <li>• Climate Seed Fund, funding was granted some time ago, need to sit down with other partners and decide on the best way to spend the money. Also need to nominate reps for CC, money had to be spent by the end of March, and it is up to CC to decide what it is spent on.</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An application has been made to the National Centre for Resilience for funding and a decision is expected by the end of April.</li> <li>• Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February to discuss criteria and requirements for eligibility. LG is currently involved, and discussions are at an early stage. There is also the opportunity for other people to get involved if they are interested.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund – The Development Trust is not eligible to apply but CC could make an application as the lead applicant. CF will provide further information.</li> <li>• St K's – CF was keen to thank LG for his support with the work that has been going on. JK and LG attended the meeting with Drew Leslie. Drew will speak to residents of Callander and have a walk round and work together to ensure a positive outcome for the community.</li> <li>• Callander Connect – the lease at 43 Main Street will be continued for another 3 years. Funding support to help with running costs may be applied for through B of D.</li> <li>• The 4 areas that were previously agreed were highlighted and CF advised it was good practice to have a review to check they are still the correct priority areas.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Footbridge – A business justification case is being prepared by SC to be able to draw down funds from the Scottish Government to progress with the feasibility design stage of a pedestrian footbridge and the associated connecting active travel routes. A joint letter from 7 other local organisations is due to be send to the locals MSPs and Scottish Government,</li> <li>2. Safe walking route to the Primary School - joint business case treated as one project along with the footbridge.</li> <li>3. Meadows' masterplan - All the information is available in Callander Connect and Freddie can take people through it. The information is also available online.</li> <li>4. Regeneration including Main Street, survey underway to confirm what shop fronts will receive grant. Supplementary funds from Hydro to get signage improved – MM lead on this project.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• There was a discussion about Callander Connect. It was highlighted that the Development Trust are keen to keep the current premises. It was agreed that LG will gather information on usage before the CC decides if it wants to get involved in the funding application to B of D. The information will be provided at the next meeting, and the matter will then be put to a vote.</li> <li>• An application has been made for the Bird feeder. There is currently a delay as need to find out the ownership of the property. It was stated that information on the ownership has been provided by Freddie.</li> </ul>	<p>LG to gather information on usage of Callander Connect</p>

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<p><b>8. Reports from office bearers</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>Copies of the report for weeks 50 and 51 of last year and weeks 1 to 6 of 2025 had been sent out prior to the meeting. Activity has been low with 3 planning applications included. There is one significant application for Invertrossachs House to demolish the stable block. The building is remote from the community, and it was felt there was no reason to object or comment.</p> <p><b>Secretary</b></p> <p>MM was not present at the meeting but has submitted a report. JK summarised the report.</p> <p><b>Roads</b></p> <p>RMcL had issued the report. It was noted that there is a sign at the traffic lights at Bridgend advising of a road closure further up the A85.</p> <p><b>Licensing</b></p> <p>There was a recent meeting which DK was unable to attend but watched online, no unusual applications made.</p> <p><b>Stirling Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The budget gap is likely to be around £10.5 million and the Scottish Conservative and Labour group are trying to work together to come up with proposals for a balanced budget. The budget setting meeting is on 27<sup>th</sup> February with proposals published the week before the meeting.</li> <li>• There was a discussion about the visitor levy and how this may operate.</li> </ul> <p><b>National Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning committee dealing with several planning applications, currently nothing relevant to Callander</li> <li>• Next version of LDP, officer dealing with compiling the evidence that is used as a basis, producing an evidence report which will come to CC for comments and review.</li> </ul> <p><b>9. AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plants will go out in the heather barrels in South Ancaster Square this weekend</li> <li>• RJ has put in an application to Development Trust to make use of the phone box on Camp Place. He organised Callander Window Wonderland previously and the plan is to take over the phone box and install a light, three sides have glass windows for displays, so they are illuminated.</li> <li>• RJ has made a formal application for a licence to occupy the site at Bridgend Cemetery and will work with SC. He will take responsibility for</li> </ul>	

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<p>sorting out vegetation and grass cutting over the next 3 years, SC will be responsible for maintain gravestones that need structural renovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 'bicycle tree' at Brig O Turk was a casualty of the recent storm. Now looking at how to preserve the tree.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>10. Date of the Next Meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b></p>	