



Callander Community Council

Minutes of the meeting Monday 17th March 2025

Venue: CYP, Callander 7.00-9.00pm

Community Councillors present: John Kennedy (JK), Marilyn Moore (MM), David Moore (DM), Fiona Kerr (FK), Ruth Barrie (RB), David King (DK), Loucas George (LG), David Shearer (DS)

Also in attendance: Caroline Stewart (CS), minute taker, Richard Johnson (RJ) (National Park Board Member), Lorna Deans (LD), Police Scotland plus 2 members of the public in person and 1 person online.

Apologies: Olga Watkins (OW), David Shearer (DS), Robert MacLean (RM), Gene Maxwell (GM) (Ward Councillor), Chiara Fingland (CF), (Development Officer),

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
1. Introduction, Apologies and Meeting Procedures JK welcomed everyone to the March meeting. Apologies had been received from OW, DS, RMcL, GM and CF. One member of the public joined the meeting online. JK advised that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of minute taking.	
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting The minutes of the February meeting had been sent out and everyone had the chance to read them. RJ requested an amendment to the information he had provided regarding the Trossachs Explorer. Based on this change the minutes were proposed by LG and seconded by RB.	
3. Police Report LD from Police Scotland was present at the meeting and went through the report. The report covered the period between 14 th February and 14 th March. The main points of the report were: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There have been issues with anti-social behaviour.• Two fires have been reported at the derelict property at Gart farm which is being used as a hang out by older children.• There have also been two arrests with regards to road safety issues, one person was issued with a vehicle defect ticket, and the other driver was stopped due to careless driving, the vehicle was checked and found to have no valid MOT and therefore was issued with a fixed penalty ticket.• A male entered a premises in Callander and carried out theft. He was identified by CCTV and appeared at court.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the period the police have received calls about bogus callers attending properties in Callander offering maintenance and gardening work. There was a question about a recent incident at McLaren High school, LD advised she was unable to divulge any further information with regards to this matter. 	
<p>4. Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RJ advised that a report was presented to the NP on the performance of the Trossachs Explorer. The NP feel that the bus was a success and are working to try and make sure it runs again this season. Funding is the major issue. The NP are willing to invest some money but also need other sources of funding. Ideally, they would like to have guaranteed funding to ensure it runs long term. A letter was sent to SC regarding reduction in hours of the local cleaner. It was felt the reply from SC was unsatisfactory and another letter has been sent. Councillor Earl has also written a letter and was advised that Colin was only every in Callander temporarily and SC have now gone back to their original arrangement. It is unclear what else can be done. LG proposed that the CC, go back to SC and ask for additional resources due to the additional litter in the town during tourism season and write a letter to SEPA with regards to the environmental and health issues. It was agreed that MM & JK will meet and write a letter asking for additional resources and to SEPA highlighting issues with health and hygiene. RB raised the issue with the barriers on the bench. RMCL has written to and had replies from SC. Stephen Bly is involved and will keep chasing up the matter There was a long conversation with regards to the CC taking on part of the lease of Callander Connect. It was agreed that Freddy will be invited to the next meeting to present the facts around the performance of Callander Connect and any decisions will be deferred until then. JK will write to Freddy and Alison inviting them to come and present at the next meeting and the CC will prepare questions they want to ask in advance. A member of the public highlighted that an alternative needs to be available if the CC decide not to provide support as it is the only venue locally that community groups such as scouts can use free of charge. 	<p>JK & MM to meet and write a letter to SC asking for additional resources and SEPA</p> <p>Invite Freddy Bowen-Bate & Alison Boa to next meeting</p>
<p>5. Special Items</p> <p>Callander Citizen of the Year</p> <p>The Callander Citizen of the Year award was awarded to RMCL. He wasn't present at the meeting therefore FK will email him and let him know he has won the award which will be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>St Kessogs</p> <p>The building is now up for sale. The subgroup is looking at ways to keep the building for community use, but this is proving difficult. In the meantime, the condition of the building continues to deteriorate. A member of the public asked for a letter to be sent to SC highlighting that they have a duty to look after the building as it is a listed building. It was asked if the CC could approach other</p>	<p>JK & MM to meet to decide who is</p>

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<p>organisations such as Historic Scotland to put pressure on SC. MM & JK will meet and discuss who are the best people to contact</p> <p>New Procedure - Dealing with Requests, Enquiries and Complaints</p> <p>OW has asked that no decision is made until she is present, JK has looked at draft prepared by MM and OW that takes in experience of other CC, has been distributed to everyone on the CC, amended version will go out before next meeting and OW to add comments. **</p> <p>** MM emailed an amendment to JK original comments as OW wasn't present at the meeting: this was mentioned in the meeting but not publicly recorded by the Chair. The original group of people drafting the current procedure was DM, MM and Stephen Bly of SC. It will be based on other CC procedures. The draft version was then circulated to the full CC for comments, amendments and change. OW did not receive the email via the google group so was resent separately but was not able to comment prior to the meeting.</p>	<p>appropriate contact.</p>
<p>6. Questions from Members of the Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A member of the public asked for a draft copy of the document around dealing with requests to be put on display in Callander Connect to give the public the opportunity to view it. There was also a request for paper copies. RB advised that Ancaster Road is being used more due to issues on the Main Street. The road is not being salted regularly, and more people are parking. RB asked if the road is likely to be upgraded. JK will follow up with DS and RMCL. 	<p>JK to follow up with DS & RMCL re: Ancaster Road</p>
<p>7. LPP/Callander Connect</p> <p>CF wasn't present at the meeting but had submitted the development report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC will work with the Development Trust on a case-by-case basis as any agreement between the two parties has not been formalised or discussed. Applied for the Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund to support further work on the Meadows Masterplan, specifically around Biodiversity. The deadline for submission was 3rd March and a decision is due in April. Climate SEED Fund - The Flood Bus visited the Meadows today and there was valuable information provided on flood protection of residential properties. A walkaround has been arranged with SC officers, Drew Leslie and David Hopper and will take place in April. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss key challenges and opportunities including St. K's. the existing Primary School, Pedestrian bridge. LG will be in attendance. LPP priority update including the pedestrian footbridge, safe walking routes etc. A letter of support has been sent to support the Business Justification Case with the support of a wide range of community organisations. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadow's masterplan materials on display in Callander Connect to raise awareness of the project and to seek funding and partnership opportunities for developing the various strands of work. • Main street – MM will cover in her report 	
<p>8. Reports from office bearers</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p>Planning</p> <p>JK went through the planning report and highlighted there were four items included. There was one item of concern which was an application for a 2-storey extension at Balgibbon Drive. The main concern was that it might cut off parking. This has been investigated further and this isn't the case.</p> <p>Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regeneration of Main Street - had a final quote for the upgrading of around 15 shop fronts. The quote and signed contract have been submitted to SC An application has also been made to the hydro fund grant for 5 shop signs. • Loss of landlines - BT are holding a drop-in session on 16th May between 10am and 4pm, Councillor Earl also involved in looking at what will happen when the telephone mast is removed. • Local fire service is involved in fundraising for the cleaning of the phone box on Camp Place. • St K 's heard from LG already. • Camp Place benches, awaiting response from SC, MM has written on numerous occasions, asked for a quote which hasn't been received. • Finance – The balance is £2257.54, however a large sum of this is committed to work on Camp Place. Bank of Scotland are now charging £4.25 per month for each account. It was raised that RB was voted on as treasurer in May 2024 but still hasn't started in the role. MM is still working on last year accounts before she can pass over to RB. <p>Roads</p> <p>RMcL and DS not present. A copy of the report was received from RMcL and DS everything on the report completed, all up to date</p> <p>Licensing</p> <p>Nothing to report</p> <p>Stirling Council</p> <p>Councillor Maxwell wasn't present but had submitted a report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social behaviour in town, Councillor Maxwell has already met with Police and Council Housing staff about this issue. He will also be raising concerns 	

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<p>about the Councils allocations process and to ensure tenants abide by their tenancy agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St K's is now on the market and there are concerns about its future. • Main subject within the council and for residents is the budget. <p>National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NP budget was approved by the board last week, headline funding is the same as previous years. • Nature Restoration Fund is being reinstated in the next financial year which will allow the NP to undertake major nature restoration projects. • LDP still progressing – The board are promoting 2 main areas, firstly the restoration of peat lands and of nature in urban areas, in order to improve natural habitats to bring back bird lives etc. • Natural Environment bill which is going through the Scottish Parliament. This will change the targets for nature restoration include the management of wild deer. • Cornish gold mine, new investors coming in, will open and start production again 	
<p>9. AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been communication from a resident of the Mollands regarding the lack of public transport. She has asked the CC oof they were able to speak to the bus company about reinstating the two buses that used to cover this area, as people are struggling to get to Dr appointments etc. RB previously attended the focus group for the C60 and MM also attended but not had an invite recently. • RJ is making progress with the work on St.K's graveyard. Currently waiting on a licence from SC and developing a list of volunteers and potential contractors who will come into to do addition work. • A public procession notification has been received on behalf of Cancer Research. The procession will take place on 17th May between 730am & 830 pm. They have gained permission from the NP and Forestry Scotland and no objections were raised. • Update on duck feeder – NP preplanning has come back with a list of objections to the preferred location. LG asked for more information on the cement plinth behind St K's as he felt this would be perfect for the duck feeder – this may have been the site of a previous bench. 	
<p>10. Date of the Next Meeting 21st April 2025</p>	