

Callander Community Council

Minutes of the meeting: Monday 14th December 2020

Community Councillors present: Susan Holden (SH-Chair), David Shearer (DS- Vice-Chair), Brian McKay (BM-Treasurer), Alex Mitchell (AM- Secretary), David Moore (DM- Planning), Marilyn Moore (MM), Roger Watt (RW), Elaine Watterson (EW), Brian Luti (BL), Mike Luti (ML), John Watson (JW), Richard Johnson (RJ), Moe Guertin (MG).

Apologies: none

Also in Attendance: Katarina Cech (Minute Taker-KC), Helen Terry (Town Co-ordinator HT), Jackie Leeds (RSHA), Peter Davies (RSHA), Michelle Flynn (SC), Cllr Martin Earl (SC), Cllr Evelyn Tweed (SC), Cllr Jeremy McDonald (SC), Olga Watkins plus 12 members of the public.

Chair of Meeting: Susan Holden

PART A Introduction & Minutes

1. Welcome, people attending + apologies

BM reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

ML proposed Lucia Luti's statement to be minuted in full as she had requested.

Michelle Flynn suggested if a statement was put in and read out in full, it doesn't have to be minuted but it can be recorded in the minutes as an appendix at the end of the minutes as it is a statement.

EW agreed with Michelle Flynn.

MM noted that there was an error in Lucia's statement which she has acknowledged, so if her statement goes out as an appendix, it should also have that correction included.

DM proposed approval of the minutes with those amendments, EW seconded the minutes with those amendments.

3. Co-option of new member: Presentations-Voting

SH noted there were two people who had applied to be a community councillor.

Olga Watkins- gave her short introductory statement

Wayne Johnson- withdrawn his application during the meeting as he has been appointed as a member of the St. Kessog's working group. EW clarified that when the St.Kessog's working group was set up it was said that community members represented one organisation only and should not be a member of any other community organisation. It was pointed out that DM has been appointed to represent CCDT but is also a member of other community organisations.

Olga Watkins was therefore the only candidate and a vote followed.

It was noted that MG couldn't vote because he is a co-opted member.

Olga Watkins was proposed by ML, seconded by MM. 12 votes in favour of OW becoming a community councillor. The vote was unanimous. OW was co-opted as a community councillor.

EW noted that it is disappointing that we don't have young people to put themselves forward as community councillors.

Part B-Visitors

Claish Farm housing development

Jackie Leeds and Peter Davies from Rural Stirling Housing Association (RSHA) were both present at the meeting. Jackie Leeds noted that as a local housing association, one of their aims is to meet rural housing needs. For the Claish Farm development RSHA will allocate properties to people who have the highest housing priorities. There are some people on the housing list for Claish who have a local connection and have to live in the area for work reasons so RSHA will give priority to those people. ML noted that locals should have the priorities.

Claish Farm: several phases of the development:

Phase 1: 14 units due Mid-April to Mid-May - a mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroomed houses.

Phase 2: 14 units due end of June,

Phase 3: units to be available at the beginning of October,

Phase 4: units due end of November

Applications for phase 1 housing are open until 31.12.2020 and allocations will start early in the New Year.

RSHA will be accepting applications from SC which is aware of the local letting initiative and are keen to work with RSHA to meet those goals.

DM asked will the buildings have proper deep cleaning before the people move in. The answer was yes, it will be done for the new builds.

In terms of other developments in the area, it was noted that the High School does not currently have enough space for recreation and there are discussions about re-locating the Primary School in the area. SH noted to think about it at the January CCC meeting.

Part C: Submitted reports: Questions and Action Points

4. Office Bearers` reports

a) Chair- written report submitted

Questions:

BL asked SH to reply to his email (with 6 questions in it) from 14.11.2020.

EW noted that CCC is a democratic organisation, any matters should be agreed by all councillors, not just office bearers.

Clarification: Michelle Flynn noted that it is not uncommon that office bearers from community councils come together and discuss matters but wider proposals and planning should be brought to the meetings and voted upon at the meeting.

b) Vice-Chair- written report submitted.

c) Secretary-

AM received a letter from Gordon Watson (LLTNP) about an impending consultation. AM attended a meeting, the consequence of that is that a questionnaire will be circulated.

With regret. the deaths of two people were noted, Stuart Ballantyne (Trossachs Search and Rescue) and Ken Dunn (former Callander community councillor)

d) Treasurer- written report submitted.

e) Planning- planning panel report submitted.

Stirling Council:

Stirling Council written report was submitted, no questions asked. Evelyn Tweed noted the Community Engagement Strategy which was distributed on 9th December 2020 has a very short timescale for comments and the e-line link provided was not working. She informed SC about this issue and asked SC to look at it. Callander Flood Evaluation Team are due to brief SC officers later that week. It was felt that more work was required before any webinar to happen at the end of January. The officers have quite a lot of work to do before they go back to speak to the community.

PART D: FOCUS GROUPS & ONGOING PROJECTS: Updates

5. Groups and projects

Airtricity

- BL noted that Airtricity had given £191 to help with Christmas lights in Ancaster Square which had been organised by Callander Enterprise and installed by the local Fire Service. Thank you to everybody who helped.
- £14 500 committed into projects:
 - i. £10,000 for CYP for a disabled special changing facility;
 - ii. £4,500 for a contribution towards the Camp Place Playpark.
- Approximately £15,000 still left for this coming year.
- £50 000 has been ring fenced for a development of an appropriate community project which will benefit the whole community,

Camp Place Play Park – MM has applied for 2 grants for the upgrade of the playpark (£40,000 and £50,000). The application were submitted on 1st December and the outcome will be known in March 2021.

Residual money from Towns Centre Accessibility Improvement Award given to Callander Enterprise for accessibility aids in Main Street can be used for improving accessibility in Camp Place.

There was a question asked about access to the playpark from Camp Place including disabled parking.

DM noted that playpark facilities are very poor in Callander that people go out to other places. The idea is to stop people travelling away and let them enjoy the facilities at home. RJ noted that when the planning gain from Robertson Way had been offered to Callander, CCC had a free hand to decide which area to develop for a playpark. It was discussed in CCC and also a consultation took place within the community resulting in the Camp Place playpark being selected for development.

MG asked about the condition of the footbridge at the Meadows Playpark, DS will check the situation.

ML noted that we should do something about older generation down where the new playpark is going to be to see what it is going to be there, suggested leaflet drop about the playpark.

OW suggested to put an article in Ben Ledi View about that. MM noted that this is the plan for the next BLV issue. Leanne Johnson noted that it should be posted all over the social media.

St. Kessogs

Written report was submitted. EW noted that architects and designers' consultants have been fantastic with options which they put forward. Idea of how to make maximum use of minimal space. January 2023 is now the earliest date when the work is going to be

completed. Once they get down to a few options, they will produce videos for us to place on social media, so that the consultation can go as wide as possible to the community. Next step is for SC to get together with architects, designers and Norr Associates to determine exactly what requirements are for area, space, etc. for the library and also the digital hub. The key aspect is flexibility which means never having space which is not used.

The next step is for SC to work with Norr Associates on the requirements of the library and digital hub.

Flooding

Concern was expressed that Stirling Council's consultants are going ahead with the Meadows car park flood wall proposal without consultation across the community. Public consultation is very important and a good idea, but it needs to be prepared properly.

SH noted that RJ's Facebook page was mentioned at that meeting as a good place to put suggestions and questions. RJ noted that it is a private Facebook page, not connected to CCC.

Jen Shearer explained that the group which is called The Bridgend Group includes South Church Street and Grant Court was only identified by the people whose houses might be in danger of flooding.

PART E: SPECIAL TOPICS Discussion

6. From CAP to LPP (HT)

HT noted there is a material difference between an Callander Action Plan (CAP) and a Local Place Plan (LPP). A primary focus of a LPP is to tie in with the planning decisions made by the statutory authorities. In past consultations there has been a problem engaging with those between 25 and 45 year old. There is also a resistance in certain parts of Callander to perceived authority in Callander. Any consultation done must be as inclusive as possible and must represent the community.

BM & RW have offered to sit on a LPP steering group to represent CCC. The steering group has been drawing up a research plan and a scope for public consultations. HT has asked for 2 volunteers from CCDT but nobody has come forward yet. HT also hopes to get 1 representative each from CE, CYP, the Leisure Centre and a teacher representative from one or both schools.

RW circulated a brief paper to ask CCC to agree to the next steps. The report has 3 parts:

- I. Statement of CCC involvement
- II. Immediate steps
- III. Additional Context

RW proposed to use this LPP process to strengthen the sense of community in Callander. Next step is that HT will come back with a definite plan for the consultation in January meeting. All councillors unanimously agreed to RW's proposal.

7. Communication (RW)

RW stated that the fundamental duty of CCC is to ascertain, co-ordinate and represent the range of views held in the community.

At the heart of communication is the need to know who we are communicating with. We need to distinguish two types of communication: informing and consulting.

- I. Informing- is provided to the community from the CCC. It has to be neutral, plain, factual, clear and authorized.
- II. Consulting- with the community empowers CCC to understand and report the range of views in the community.

Questions and comments: EW noted that we should be careful in deciding what the means of communication should be. It was also noted that under 45s communicate through social media. We might think about "community champions" who would be appointed to consult with community. DM asked if SC has any internal statistics on the demographic changes within Callander.

Can we agree to empower our community? Can we bring our community together more often? RW would like every community councillor to come up with a proposal under those 3 questions (stated in CCC Community Building Paper) in January 2021. SH proposed to have a major communication prior to January meeting.

PART E Planning ahead

8. AOCB

Outstanding Citizenship proposal

It was proposed that Callum Menzies should receive an award for outstanding citizenship. This is in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Callander community over a long period of time. Proposed by RW, seconded by RJ, unanimously voted.

Motion to contact CCDT regarding a concern about purchase of 55 Main Street by CCDT

RJ submitted a motion to ask CCDT to suspend the purchase of 55 Main Street, Callander, until there had been a full community consultation. This motion was seconded by EW. Declaration of conflict of interest: SH said that she had an interest but no conflict of interest. AM noted that there can't be a conflict of interest because CCC doesn't have any interest in 55 Main Street. RJ disagrees with AM, because we as CCC have an interest because we represent the community, and the community has an interest in purchase of this building because they have an interest in the use of the funds from the Hydroscheme and also have an interest in projects which CCDT promotes. Everything seems to be done for the community but in this case there has not been any community consultation and there hasn't been any information put forward to CCC until the last few weeks. It is a commercial purchase because of use of community money. RJ thinks that it is a conflict of interest. AM noted that it is a private charity money, private debt, not the community money. BL agrees with RJ, he thinks that this is a classic example of conflict of interest and whether it is a perceived or actual conflict, in the eyes of community in which this CCC serves, it will be a conflict of interest.

Michelle Flynn noted that if any organisation wants to purchase a building which includes applying for funding, there will be a certain point when they will have to seek the views of the wider community. There will be a point when they have to discuss the purchase with the main stakeholders (in which case one of them will be CCC). If individuals are not happy with the process, they can discuss it directly with the organisation themselves in

the first instance and then if they are not happy with the feedback and they want to, then they have an opportunity to take it to CCC.

SH asked for a vote on the motion. The result was 7 votes in favour, so SH declared the motion carried. It was not clear how many voted against the motion and how many abstained.

SH rejected the points of conflict of interest. ML noted that SH should not be part of this motion because the perception is that she is biased on that.

BL said that he begins to question loyalties of certain people, thinks that SH and AM have higher loyalties towards CCDT rather than CCC.

Wayne Johnson said that everyone has a right to speak and should not be muted. John Kennedy noted that we should go back to standing order which says that a member of the other organisation which is being discussed at the meeting has an interest and shall declare that interest and shall remove themselves from any discussion. It was also said that there was maybe one way forward how to reduce a conflict of interest perception and that is to follow the rules, follow the standing order, pass the motion, vote in motion and show the people in Callander that CCC cares.

Mark Nicols expressed his opinion and noted that it is not right to cut off people.

Michelle Flynn (SC) noted that all votes should be done the same way, she advised to put it in the agenda for next time to discuss it and decide.

DS- CCC should obtain a legal explanation on the conflict of interest.

ML noted that who votes for what should be recorded. BL agreed with ML that it should be recorded on how CCC voted. He will be also taking legal advice on the conflict of interest issue. EW noted that she would like an assurance that the notification of the decision will go to CCDT as quickly as possible.

9. **Date of next meeting:** 11th January 2021