Calton Community Council Minutes
08 January 2026
Many Studios, 3 Ross Street

Present:
Tricia Fort, Arthur McJimpsey, Charlie Kleboe-Rogers, Laura Scott, Catherine Kerr, Allan Scott

Associate Member Derek Pearson

Constituency MSP John Mason, Councillor Cecilia O'Lone

Police Scotland: Constables Craig Burns, Andrew Park

Guest speaker: Eddie Scanlon, Group Manager, GCC Refuse Collection

Members of the Public**:** 6

Apologies:
Bel Price, Mark Taylor and Members of the Public: Mary Ann O'Rourke and Jo Shoba

Chair: Tricia Fort
Minute Taker: Laura Scott

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed all attendees, outlined the agenda, and introduced representatives from Police Scotland, our constituency MSP, local councillor and guest speaker. Apologies were noted as above.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes (13 November 2025)

The Chair reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting.

- With a spelling correction and removal of notes, the minutes were approved by Laura Scott and seconded by Catherine Kerr.
- Previous actions are covered throughout this agenda.

3. Football Celebrations

The Chair updated the meeting on ongoing discussions with Glasgow City Council and local supporters' clubs.

- The meeting at Hampden proposed to be held on **5 December** regarding football-related issues was postponed and we await news of the new date.

4. Police Scotland Report

Constables Burns and Park updated the meeting on the following:

4a) It was a busy festival period, with officers taken out of the area for events elsewhere.

4b) Good work was done in the area:

- A male was arrested for indecent exposure
- There were minor drug arrests
- There were 2 house theft arrests
- A prowler was arrested while trying to scope a theft

4c) The Christmas/New Year road safety operation resulted in drink drivers being arrested and charged, illegal e-motor bikes were seized and other vehicles were found with no insurance.

4d) There was an operation on Blackfriars Street targetting drug suppliers. Drugs, cash and mobile phones were seized.

4e)

- The officers stated that intelligence from the community is important to assist the Police in obtaining warrants and making arrests.

- A new person is joining their team imminently.

- The Police had responded to an action from November's meeting to investigate concerns at Monteith Court. Nothing was noted at the time but the area is on the list for extra attention.

- A member of the public reported drug use and supply on Watson Street, Bell Street and McPherson Street and was requested to gather details and times and to call Police Scotland or report using the Police Scotland contact form – see below for details.

- A second member of the public reported increased drug use in St Andrew's Square and the Police Officers advised people to upload photos, where possible, to the Police Scotland website: **https://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community-team/greater-glasgow/glasgow-east/**
  Here you will be able to send an email, attaching photographs, direct to the Community Police.
  Action: Calton Community Council to put these details on our website.

- A third member of the public asked about the civil prosecutions discussed when Constable Park previously attended a meeting. This had proved more difficult than hoped because not many people were willing to come forward with details. However, a property was searched and a male has been charged and remanded in prison, awaiting sentencing.
  Further, but fewer, ongoing issues have been reported by the public.

5. The Thistle (SDCF)

The next meeting of the Community Forum for the Safer Drug Consumption Facility will be held on Tuesday 20 January and we should have an update at our February meeting.

6. Refuse Collection, with Eddie Scanlon, Glasgow City Councillor

Eddie apologised for the difficulties encountered and clarified the following:

- The lack of access to both Gibson Street (Barras market) and at the Merchant building (caretaker's rota) should now be sorted with uplift midweek.
  There has been a routing issue due to changes with resources, new properties and the ensuing changes of routes.
  Significant staff sickness added to the challenges faced.
  Hopefully things are improving as the number of complaints has reduced, sickness absences have reduced and routing of vehicles has been improved.
  A recruitment programme is in process to reduce reliance on agency staff.
  An ongoing audit system is being introduced.

- A question was raised about the online calendar, which does not reflect the issue on the ground. In response we were told that all issues with the online calendar should be updated by 26 January.
  A hard copy calendar is available on request.

- A local housing association carries our bulk uplifts but encounters difficulties with getting time slots at the tip. It was acknowledged that there is limited access but the Council is carrying out a pilot to reduce journeys and thus to free up slots for others. Eddie offered to provide an update to the questioner.

- John Mason, MSP, asked about confusion as to when bins should be put out for emptying and commented that paper copies of the calendar would be helpful.
  He went on to ask about contamination and incorrect use of bins and the lack of bins for garden waste and glass.
  Eddie replied that bulk bins are being rolled out for tenements and where in use they are working well. Also tenement residents may apply for a brown bin if they wish but a licence is required.

- A member of the public raised a question about the need for brown bins to be emptied in the winter. The schedule is maintained because residents are able to put food waste in the brown bins.

- This led to a question as to whether the grey food waste bin on Turnbull Street is ever cleaned? Yes, but they are replaced with a clean bin and the soiled one is taken to the depot for cleaning to prevent clogging on- rain drains.

7. Local Issues

7a, with Mèabh Bradley, NRS

i) at our November meeting a question was raised about paving slabs on the Gallowgate and, although they are not on the footway, this has been passed on for action.

ii) A bin on Stevenson Street will be relocated once the fence is removed.

Iii) Concerns at the Merchant building on Gibson Street need to be confirmed with the factor, Speirs Gumley.

iv) The neighbourhood teams have a leaf-fall and flytipping focus, now that complaints for refuse and litter have reduced.

v) St Andrew's Square, bin stores: spring closures are being installed on all the doors to prevent them being left open. The next meeting with the factor, Hacking & Paterson, will be to discuss the car park.

vi) The north end of Hunter Street was a possible location for the Community Council's next litter pick. However Mèabh confirmed that this is private land owned by Dawn Developments and they will clear it and erect a fence around their land.

7b) CCC's January Litter Pick, Sunday 18 January

Area to be targetted is Armour Street, Barrack Street, Hunter Street, Sydney Street, Melbourne Street and also Millroad Street. Councillor O'Lone suggested that we put a note or business card through doors to say the litter pick was by the CC.
Meet at Barrowland Park at 10:00 hrs.

Action: Charlie to arrange equipment and to progress business cards

7c) A member of the public raised concern that refuse staff do not pick up items that drop from bins as they are being emptied.
Action: Mèabh to raise this issue with Eddie Scanlon.

7d) **"Winter Wonderland on Glasgow Green"**

The petition proposed by the Community Council was supported by 86 members of the public and was submitted, and approved for forwarding to Committee by the City Council prior to the end of the year.
We may be invited to speak to the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee on 22 January, but the agenda is not yet agreed.

Issues:

- Residents have made numerous complaints, with emails sent to City Councillors, visits to the event being met with little interest, Environmental Health not operating over Christmas and New Year so complaints not recorded.

- Attendance has been low on midweek evening but there has still been loud music from the bar.
  Deliveries for the bar have been made before 8am.

- Concern about licensing and the use of a succession of temporary licences, plus a question about the effect on local public houses.

- A check on the information provided by the City Council demonstrates that Glasgow Green was used on 140 full days for events since March 2025 plus there were 18 events of just a few hours.

- Councillor O'Lone proposes a full assessment of the number and duration of events on local parks.

- Concern was also expressed about the illumination and noise from the installation at Glasgow Cross, when money could have been better spent on maintaining the Tolbooth Steeple.

Actions:

1. Councillor O'Lone to progress full discussion about events on parks.
2. Tricia Fort and Arthur McJimpsey to prepare for Council Committee meeting.

8. Area Partnership Report

Catherine Kerr reported that she attended the last Area Partnership meeting, held on Teams on Wednesday 12 November. Items discussed:

- The membership list was updated
- Festive lighting programme: additional funding was agreed.
- Area budget 2026 – 2026
  Applications for funding were discussed.
  £44,397 was available to be allocated.
  13 projects applied for funding and 5 were approved:

1. Green Trees Nursery (outdoor for all) £7,399
2. Church House (Christmas programme) £2,910
3. Parkhead Youth Projects (Get active sessions) £1,641
4. Create & Thrive £6,134
5. Baltic Street Adventure Playground £9,750

Two were rejected and the remainder deferred,

The next meeting is on Wednesday 04 February

9. Planning Issues

Mark Taylor provided the following written report, which Laura read out:

"*This item covers planning activity since our last public meeting on 13 November. Key updates: CCC has supported modest local investment at Moncur Street (Refs 25/02373/FUL and 25/02445/ADV) and at the site adjacent to 327 Gallowgate (25/02584/FUL). The Mercat Building temporary advertisement (25/02745/ADV) is supported in principle by CCC but we have asked that it be considered alongside the pending listed-building and full planning applications to protect amenity. The appeal for the digital hoarding at*

329 Gallowgate was dismissed. CCC has submitted a consultation response on the proposed demolition of the East Boathouse on Glasgow Green. The Charlotte Street development (23/00026/FUL / 23/00027/CON) remains a major ongoing matter and we continue to press for full documentation and fair hearing arrangements for objectors.
Tonight we are seeking public views on the short-term let application at 73 Stevenson Street (Ref 25/02318/FUL). CCC currently proposes neither to approve nor to object but will record community concerns about the impact of STLs in the area; we note the property appears not to be a shared-stair conversion.
For regular updates on planning activity please check our website and social media channels where we post weekly planning lists and representations.
If you have any comments or want further details on any planning activity in the areas please contact Mark Taylor at planning&licencing@calton-community-council.scot"

There was discussion on the proposal for the Short Term Let and it was agreed that because of the number of STLs already in the area, the shortage of permanent housing and the effect on the community of a transient population that the Community Council could submit an objection.

Action: Mark Taylor

10. Licensing Issues

Mark Taylor submitted a report of a procession that Charlie read out:

March of circa 50 people on Sat 28th March from 11am for the Glasgow No Surrender Apprentice Boys of Derry Branch Club - route Alexandra Park War Memorial, Alexandra Parade, Wishart Street, John Knox Street, Duke Street, Gateside Street.

While we do not particularly welcome the March, it is an established practice on the edge of our area.

11. Treasurer's Report

Laura reported that:

Our opening balance at the last meeting on 13 November was:	£1297.10
Expenditure for the public meeting rental:	£ 124.00
Annual allowance from GCC (based on pop at last census):	£ 646.15
Closing balance:	£1801.25

Action: Laura to investigate webmail costs (not charged since September)

12: Councillor, MSP reports

12 a)
Councillor O'Lone reported that she is focussing on the use of our parks and is looking to

receive the full schedule in advance. She expressed the view that our Public Parks are being over-used.
She stated that no environmental levy was charged for the Winter Wonderland.

12b)

John Mason MSP reported on from the Scottish Parliament:

- Dog theft is now a specific crime
- Children are now all entitled to a one-week residential outdoor break
- The Finance Committee is discussing the cost and time of Public Inquiries. Professor Alexis Jay is to do a review with respect to Police Scotland and Social Work and make recommendations as to whether there should be a Public Inquiry into Grooming Gangs.
- Building Safety Levy: Developers now need to pay a levy to offset the overall money (£1.7 – 3.1 billion) estimated to fix cladding issues.
- Two bills are currently in progress
  1. to criminalise people who pay for sex
  2. assisted dying

John confirmed that he is retiring in April as the Parliament dissolves and he intends to join his Community Council.
We thanked him for attending our meetings and wished him well.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:30pm

The next meeting will be on Thursday 12 February, 7pm at Many Studios