Confirmed minutes of Colinton Amenity Association (CAA) Executive Committee Meeting, 20th January 2026 in The Old Library, Merchiston Castle School.

Present: Tim Lawson (Chair); Iain Gotts (Vice Chair/Planning Convenor); Gillian Battison (Treasurer); Wendy Evans (Secretary); John Barry; Ewan Campbell; Simon Lloyd; Andrew Paterson; Stephen Wallis; Siobhán Watts.

1. Apologies for Absence: Paula McClements; Alex Robertson; Tolibjon Tursunov; Cllr Jason Rust.

2. Tim welcomed new Executive Committee Members, Ewan Campbell and Stephen Wallis to the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes of the previous meetings on 23rd September and 22nd October 2025

Minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as a true record. Action: Wendy Evans.

3.1 Matters Arising

- In Alex Robertson's absence, we were unable to confirm that the erection of the fingerposts has been completed.
- The remaining Christmas lights at The Triangle, operated by City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), provided a suitable display over the festive season. Andrew Paterson confirmed the Christmas tree lighting, previously under the control of Colinton Community Conservation Trust (CCCT), had been successfully disconnected. Andrew was thanked for sorting this out.
- Simon confirmed that CCCT was formally wound up on 23rd December 2025. He produced a letter to that effect, addressed to OSCR to be signed by Tim Lawson and Gillian Battison.
- David Bewsey of Colinton Community Council has intimated that he has received correspondence confirming that CEC plan, shortly, to paint Gillespie Bridge railings.
- CEC Archives Department have still to be consulted as to the historical importance of these papers and necessity for their retention. Action: Wendy Evans

4. Projects

4.1 CAA's Digital Presence. Wendy advised that the Communications Committee hope to progress the update of the website before the next meeting. Tim will forward some appropriate local photos for inclusion. CCCT's website to be linked with a view to being transferred into CAA's website at a later date. Action: Wendy Evans; Tim Lawson

4.2 Colinton Gateway Art Project Phase II. With Cuddies Lane Mural now complete, work is required to de-rust and repaint the neighbouring railings. With the support of Dante's Restaurant, the Executive Committee hope to complete the paintwork in the spring, however, two supports of the hand rail are broken, causing a health & safely issue and will require the assistance of City of Edinburgh Council (CEC). CEC will also have to be consulted if we plan to resurrect the effect of traditional lighting at the head of the lane, one of the lamp posts of which still remains in situ. Gillian confirmed that all agreed invoices had been paid for Phase II artwork but a further invoice, outwith the agreed budget had been received and requires further consideration. This was discussed: Tim will seek a way forward with Chris Rutterford. Action: Paula McClements, Tim Lawson; Gillian Battison.

4.3 Colinton Gateway Art Project Phase III. A call for suggestions for the next phase was raised in the recent Colinton Magazine. Several exciting suggests have been received and a separate

meeting will be planned for the Spring, to discuss more fully. Tim will speak with representatives of CVE who are also stakeholders in this final phase, as are the Scouts. Plans need to be finalised before planning permission will be sought and funds applied for. Action: All

4.4 CAA Centenary Planning for 2027. Siobhán provided a detailed suggestion list, and welcomed more suggestions, as to how the event could be celebrated. Initial indications are that an event could be staged each month with the involvement of local Colinton organisations. Siobhán will make initial contact with potential candidates. More details will be shared as planning progresses. Action: Siobhán Watts.

5. Conveners' Reports

i. Communications

Since the last meeting, the now annual Colinton Magazine has been successfully published and distributed. There was discussion as to whether the Magazine could be published twice a year but the Magazine Committee believe that not enough material or advertising could be gathered, or that the CAA has the human resources at present to do so.

ii. Environment – No report.

iii. Planning

Iain advised that expressions of concern amongst mothers with young children about the safety of the access path down from Gillespie Road arising from the stabilisation of a major landslip were investigated with the CEC. The Council advised that prior to the landslip, vegetation had obscured the steepness of the slope down to the Water of Leith and that the removal of the vegetation to enable the stabilisation work had merely exposed the slope, creating greater awareness of the potential dangers. The Council has no status since the land is private, the remedial work was undertaken by the private landowner and it did not require any Council authorisations. It has been a traumatic experience for the landowner and a very costly one and in many respects the landowner deserves sympathy and thanks for repairing a road that is not and never has been a public right of way.

Tim advised that a chance meeting with Shona Harrower had suggested that the developer who bought the old Downes Nursery on Gillespie Road appears to be progressing with development plans and the opportunity to develop the land into community allotments seems to have been lost.

iv Roads and Transport: no issues were raised.

v. CAA Membership Update

Andrew advised that the winter months, as usual, show little activity regarding membership changes.

vi. Treasurer's Report

Gillian submitted the Annual Report & Accounts to OSCR on 3rd December 2025 and now drew new members' attention to OSCR documents which set out their role as 'Trustees' under the charity regulations. Gillian reported that several advertisers are still outstanding for payment for their advertisements published in the latest Colinton Magazine. Wendy will send out reminders. RBS have advised that they will no longer issue paper statements for the CAA account. With the annual insurance being due in April, Tim suggested that Gillian look at the Charities Aid Foundation for compatibility

with heritage assets. Action: Gillian Battison; Wendy Evans, Stephen Wallis; Ewan Campbell.

6. Any Other Competent Business

- With regard to the CAA Constitution, Andrew asked that everyone read the recently circulated OSCR guidelines to Charities, both for advice to trustees and also to the requirements required of a constitution. It is ten years since the Constitution was last revised and in keeping with OSCR's and CAA's requirements several changes are necessary and will be worked upon during this year and submitted for approval at the next AGM. Action: All
- Simon asked that a section be set up under Conveners Reports for CCCT heritage business.
- Wendy reminded the Executive Committee that an unveiling ceremony needs to be organized for the Duncan Campbell memorial plaque on the Drovers Path Action: Wendy Evans
- Iain pointed out that some who importantly contributed in kind have not been acknowledged in the mural plaque on Cuddies Lane. Tim suggested it would be pertinent to erect another plaque: he has the artwork used for the others.

N**ext meeting**: Tuesday, 3rd March 2026 in Colinton Bowling Club.