Unconfirmed Minutes of Colinton Amenity Association's Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 18th November 2025 in Colinton Bowling Club.

Present: See Appendix 1 for list of those present at the AGM.

1. Apologies for Absence: See Appendix 2.

2. Introduction

The Chairman, Tim Lawson, welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked them for attending both in person at Colinton Bowling Club and via Zoom in such numbers that we have easily met our quorum of twenty-five this year to meet the requirements of the Constitution. For those attending by Zoom, he thanked them for their patience while we sorted out a few gremlins: this was our first attempt at a 'mixed media' AGM.

3. Approval of the 2024 AGM Minutes and Matters Arising

The Chairman said he believed the minutes circulated to members before the meeting to be an accurate record of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th December 2024, but asked if there were any errors, omissions or amendments to these Minutes from those in attendance this evening. No comments were forthcoming. No matters were arising, so the meeting voted the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the 2024 AGM.

Proposed: Iain Gotts **Seconded**: Andrew Paterson. All votes were in favour of the motion.

4. Chairman's report and overview of CAA projects planned for 2025/26

"In this report of activities undertaken by the Executive Committee on behalf of the CAA membership, I wanted to start with the most recent to ensure it wasn't forgotten: the production of another issue of Colinton Magazine. It has long been agreed that for the Association to produce a quality magazine for distribution to all households in 'greater Colinton' – regardless of whether they are members or not – was an important part of our charitable endeavours, as a means to encouraging a sense of belonging and a way to disseminate information about the area. In the past this was paid for by (mainly) local businesses advertising in the magazine. The Covid pandemic changed many things, and one seemed to be how local businesses attracted attention, so advertising revenue fell so that it became unsustainable that we were using a significant proportion of our membership subscriptions to subsidise production costs. This recent Magazine was the only one produced in 2025 as we moved to an annual format, with a different editorial team at the helm. Whether a one-a-year publication really ticks all the boxes for information dissemination I am unsure, but we thank the editorial team for their hard work and for the businesses who stuck with us and took out advertising space. I would encourage anyone who would like to get involved in the Magazine, in whatever role (writing, proof-reading or delivery), to come forward and make themselves known. Their help will be gratefully received.

One of the great things about living in Colinton is the fact that it is very much "a leafy suburb". We do not currently have anyone with responsibility for 'Environment' issues on the Executive Committee and would welcome someone who holds an interest in protecting our locality's natural surroundings to act as a 'hub' for enquiries and suggestions. We helped to organise a Covenanters Wood Clean-up with the 108th Pentland Scouts in April. We will need to do something similar in Redford Woods next year, and hope members will turn out to help. Another longstanding issue is trying to get the Council to paint the railings on the Gillespie Road Bridge over the Water of Leith. As one of the main ways into Colinton Village, visitors confronted by the shabby appearance of these railings does Colinton no favours. I feel we may have to take things into our own hands and organise some working parties to tackle the problem.

Our main focus through the year since the last AGM has been on working our way carefully through the requirements for our merger with the Colinton Community Conservation Trust (CCCT). Their funds were amalgamated with ours during 2025, and CAA has formally acquired their artwork assets: the RLS statue by the parish church, the RLS archway and self-guided walk down the Long Steps and along Dell Road, maintenance of the Phoebe Traquair Railings opposite the Redeemer Church on Bridge Road (due to be handed back to the property owners in November 2027), and the Colinton Timeline Railings at the top of the village. The maintenance of these important heritage features will have to be monitored and we hope volunteer assistance with many of these will continue 'as is'. We are

now awaiting the final official dissolution of CCCT as an entity with Companies House. We hope to continue organising things with former CCCT members acting as a new 'Heritage' convenorship within our organisational committee framework. It is important to note the recent installation of a plaque in the wall of The Drovers' Steps in memory of the passing of Duncan Campbell, organised by CCCT and CAA. It was Duncan's drive and vision which led to so many heritage installations in Colinton, and it was important to mark this.

Another main project has been the Cuddies Lane Mural as part of the Colinton Gateway Artwork Project. The mural boards were officially opened by Dr Scott Arthur MP and Sue Webber MSP with various other elected local representatives present on 25th July in front of a good crowd of local people. We have received many positive comments to date, including recognition that our repainting of the oppressive red-brown walls in a more subdued creamy-white has itself improved the overall appearance of this part of the Colinton Conservation Area. I have written about the mural in more depth in the recent issue of the Colinton Magazine, and need not repeat it here. We feel there are a few more things we can do to improve the environment of the mural, as rusty railings and a broken handrail support rather detract from its outlook.

A final phase of the Gateway Artwork Project remains, to connect the Cuddies Lane mural to Spylaw Park. We hope to be working on proposals for this which may well include a variety of art media besides murals. The intention would be to hold an Open Meeting of CAA members and other interested parties to discuss ideas sometime in the Spring next year. Again, people with experience in fund-raising and/or in creative arts who would like to be more directly involved are invited to contact the CAA Secretary and make themselves known.

The saga of new fingerpost signs is nearly over. New signs were eventually delivered to us at the start of the year, but their weight has proved difficult to manage without a suitable contingent of sturdy helpers and sufficient equipment. We thank our friends at SW20 for their assistance in this matter. The final signs should hopefully be on the fingerpost at the bottom of Bridge Road very soon. A new website for the Association is being developed; it still needs a few tweaks of content and some additional, more relevant images, but again is very near completion.

Finally, 2027 sees the 100th anniversary of the founding of Colinton Amenity Association. We are starting to plan some dedicated events, an update of the earlier CAA booklet detailing some walks around the area and other celebratory physical items to mark the event. Such proposals can also form part of the discussion at the proposed Open Meeting, and we look forward to seeing many of our members at such an event. CAA membership currently stands at just under 400. We would really appreciate if you would go out and persuade others, particularly younger members of the Colinton community, to join up and perhaps bring them along to future events, but at least to offer ideas of where CAA could improve the environment. "

5. Treasurer's Statement of Annual Accounts 2024/25

Honorary Treasurer, Gillian Battison, presented the Association's annual report and accounts, the document having previously been circulated by email to those attending this AGM and placed on the CAA website. No advance questions had been forthcoming. The accounts have been prepared on an 'income and expenditure' basis in accordance with the guidance provided by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

There was a slight deficit for the year of £120. This, however, meant very little change to the overall balance held by the CAA at 31st March 2025 of just under £33,400.

Gift Aid amounts were significantly up in 2024-25. This was mainly due to the Gift Aid claimed on donations for the Colinton Mural.

Interest was up as we had invested in a two-year interest-bearing account; interest being paid on maturity. We have since reinvested in another bond - a fixed term interest savings account.

Magazine income appears to be significant when compared to the previous year. This was because two magazines were issued in the year under, one in Spring and one in Winter.

Tim commented that previous AGMs have noted that our reserves have slowly been increasing in recent years, but it is nice to see that in supporting several projects, CAA has spent some significant money this year.

Colinton Mural

Funds of just over £6,000 had already been donated prior to 1st April 2024. Around £7,500 was received in donations during the 2024-25 year and £6,000 was spent on Phase 1 of the project (the mural on the side of the pharmacy). In consequence, there was a balance of just under £9,000 as at 31st March 2025. This includes the balance from previous years; the additional donations received over our expenditure in the year and the Gift Aid claimed.

Other expenditure items to note in 2024-25 were the costs of printing and publishing the magazine which looks significant compared to the previous year but that was due to two magazines being published.

Local projects in 2024-25 included: A CAA donation of £2,500 to the mural project fund and new finger post signs costing £2,700.

David Robinson,reported via a letter that as Independent Examiner of the CAA's 2024-25 accounts, he is pleased to report that he has no concerns about the integrity and accuracy of the accounts. In particular, he has checked all items of expenditure against invoices or receipts and confirm that no payments were made inappropriately. He also confirmed the accuracy of the split of the reserves between those earmarked for the mural project and the remaining unrestricted reserves, stating that CAA's Treasurer, Gillian Battison is very well organised and keeps excellent records – this makes his task so much easier. In the event of the Accounts being approved this evening, he would have no hesitation in signing an unqualified Independent Examiner's report.

Should CAA wish him to continue as Independent Examiner for the 2025/26 financial year, he will be happy to do so. However, he has already served eight years as independent examiner, so 2025/26 will be his 9th year. Ideally, he would like to hand over the task to someone else for the 2026/27 financial year.

The annual accounts were passed unanimously by the meeting.

Proposed: Andrew Paterson **Seconded:** Michael Pearson

Re-election of David Robinson as Independent Examiner

Proposed: Wendy Evans **Seconded:** Simon Lloyd

6. Vote on Constitutional Changes

No changes were made.

7. Election of Office Bearers

The Chairman asked for any member who would be prepared to become an Executive Committee member to come forward. After the meeting closed, two members made it known that they were willing to be elected on to the Executive Committee.

Co-opted Executive Committee members required to be formally elected.

Election of Simon Lloyd and John Barry

Simon Lloyd	**Proposed**: Iain Gotts	**Seconded**: Andrew Paterson	Passed by the meeting
John Barry	**Proposed:** Paula McClements	**Seconded**: Steven Wallis	Passed by the meeting

Executive Committee members required to be elected or re-elected.

Re-election of Tim Lawson and Gillian Battison

Tim Lawson	**Proposed**: Gillian Battison	**Seconded**: Simon Lloyd	Passed by the meeting
Gillian Battison	**Proposed:** Tim Lawson	**Seconded**: John Barry	Passed by the meeting

No Office Bearers stood down, but Gillian has intimated that she would prefer to relinquish being Treasurer as soon as someone can be found to take her place, due to having too many other commitments.

8. Any Other Competent Business

i. Ewan Campbell said he was touched and expressed his thanks that CCCT and CAA had commissioned and placed a plaque on the Drovers Path in remembrance of the work of his late father, undertaken over many decades. He also thanked Ian Boyter for the beautiful poem '*One of A Kind*' he wrote about Duncan. The poem can be read on page 18 of the 2025 edition of Colinton Magazine. Tim then thanked Wendy Stewart for managing the project through to its conclusion.

ii. Several members who had tendered their apologies suggested that the AGM be held earlier in the year, when the evenings are lighter. Another suggestion was to serve some refreshments, and a further suggestion was that perhaps it could be held as part of a Colinton Local History Society meeting, thus introducing more residents to the CAA. The Chairman confirmed that holding the meeting earlier in the year is a definite possibility.

iii. Yvonne Chowdhry said that she had been unaware of the clean-up in Dreghorn Woods or she would have assisted. Gillian advised that, this year, it had been mostly a Scout event but that CAA would make an attempt to raise the profile of their activities going forward.

Appendix 1

Attendees

First name	Surname	
Tim	Lawson	Chair
Iain	Gotts	Vice-chair
Gillian	Battison	Honorary Treasurer
Wendy	Evans	Honorary Secretary
Andrew	Paterson	Membership Secretary
Paula	McClements	Executive Committee
Tolibjon	Tursonov	Executive Committee
Charles	Ambrose	
John	Barry	
David	Bewsey	
Ewan	Campbell	
Libby	Campbell	
Margaret	Campbell	
Yvonne	Chowdhry	
Bill	Cooke	
Alison	Cousins	
Marion	Downie	
Margo	Gilchrist	
John	Jamieson	
John	Lang	
Simon	Lloyd	
Murdo	McEwan	
Ian	McKee	
Mitchell	McLean	
Aileen	McNestry	
Barbara	Murray	
Margaret	Nairn	
Ben	Panter	
Michael	Pearson	
John	Rees	
Cllr Jason	Rust	
Cllr Connor	Savage	
Mike	Scott	
Austin	Simpson	
Catriona	Simpson	
Alex	Stewart	
David	Tweedie	
Steven	Wallis	

Appendix 2

Apologies

First name	Surname	
Alex	Robertson	Transport Convener
Siobhán	Watts	Executive Committee
David	Robinson	Independent Examiner
Scott	Arthur, MP	
Eddie	Banks	
Andrew	Beattie	
Kate	Brown	
Catriona	Burns	
Naomi	Clemson	
Mr P.	Cousins	
Cllr Neil	Cuthbert	
John	Dent	
Ann	Duncan	
Ian	Forder	
Tori	Graham	
Caroline	Halliday	
Bob	Henderson	
Eileen	Henderson	
Anne	King	
Ken	Lauder	
Ian	Lochhead	
Alison	Lochhead	
Donald	MacLeod	
Penny	McKee	
Mr B R	Macdonald	
Gordon	Milne	
Aileen	Mitchell	
Ken	Mitchell	
Barbara	Mitchelmore	
Andrew	Rushworth	
Euan	Scroggie	
Angela	Simpson	
Michael	Spence	
John	Sutherland	
Bob	Todd	
Jo	Todd	
Lorraine	Veitch-Rutherford	
Vivien	Wightman	
Iain	Wright	