



Confirmed minutes of Colinton Amenity Association (CAA) Executive Committee Meeting,

14th July 2026 in The Colinton Inn.

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

1. Apologies for Absence: John Barry; Alex Robertson; Tolibjon Tursunov; Cllr Neil Cuthbert; Cllr Connor Savage.

2. Approval of Minutes of the previous meetings on 6th May 2026

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

2.1 Matters Arising

Simon will compose a list of suggestions for an induction pack to be issued to new Executive members. **Action: Simon Lloyd.**

All other matters arising are covered in the following agenda items.

3. Projects

3.1 Colinton Gateway Art Project.

The response received from City of Edinburgh Council Planning Department to Tim's request, regarding what might be allowed in the way of artwork for the next stage in the project, had been slow in getting back to us and generally unhelpful. It was therefore determined that, after a public consultation with CAA members, the Executive Committee will incorporate a list of suggestions on a formal planning application. **Action: Iain Gotts, Tim Lawson.**

It was suggested that a potentially-useful walk-around be arranged with Edinburgh and Lothians' Greenspace Trust. **Action: Tim Lawson.**

Tim recently visited the chainsaw-carving exhibition at the Royal Highland Show. He saw reasonably priced examples of sculptures that could line the access road down to Spylaw Park. He also suggested a visit to New Hopetoun Gardens, South Queensferry, who specialise in garden art. **Action: All.**

3.2 CAA Centenary Planning for 2027.

Siobhán and Tim met with several local organisations with a view to working in collaboration on projects. Very much in the planning stage, the meeting was held at Tiphereth with Tobi Emonts-Holley (CEO Tiphereth); Gordon Davies (Tiphereth Development Manager); Shona Harrower (Chair, Friends of Campbell Park and Colinton Garden Club); Lorraine O'Shea (Chair, Colinton Village Enterprise (CVE)); Pam Wardell (Vice-Chair, CVE). Projects under consideration are the planting of a ceremonial walnut tree in Campbell Park; the erection of celebratory totempoles in Campbell and Spylaw Parks and at Tiphereth; picnic furniture outside the Hub in Spylaw Park (manufactured by Tiphereth); a family puzzle trail through Colinton on the morning of *Art in the Park 2027*; tote bags, coasters and other merchandise celebrating our centenary; sponsorship of a Christmas candle parade through the village to open *Christmas in the Park 2027*. A wall calendar will be produced for CAA members and a centrefold put into the 2026 *Colinton*



Magazine, listing the events planned. It is anticipated that Tiphereth will design and produce the required artwork and woodwork. A celebratory ceilidh may be arranged for CAA members later in 2027. There was an open discussion and it was agreed that reserved funds of £10,000 be set aside for the centenary celebrations.

As a separate project, Iain Gotts has met with representatives from Colinton & Merchiston Choir with a view to their holding a celebratory concert with CAA. They have been working on a programme of Colinton related music, including RLS links. This concert would be in March in Merchiston Castle School. **Action: Iain Gotts; Tim Lawson.**

3.3. AGM Planning

As a meeting is to be held for CAA members to offer their ideas on artwork for the last phase of the Colinton Gateway Art Project, it would make sense if this was to be held immediately after the forthcoming AGM. Wendy has received confirmation from Colinton Bowling Club that their facilities are available on 17th September 2026 from 7pm. **Action: Wendy Evans.**

Gillian will circulate to the Executive Committee the Annual Accounts and OSCR report so that it can be checked for accuracy. **Action: All.**

4. Conveners' Reports

i **Communications** - A time table is in place to ensure that the *Colinton Magazine* is printed and ready for delivery on 13th November. Wendy has made a couple of trial changes to the CAA website but a lot more work is required. She is currently doing an on-line *Wix* course and will share the website details with Paula McClements and Siobhán Watts who hope to work with Wendy on developing the website. Work must be completed before the AGM to enable membership payments through the website. **Action: Wendy Evans; Paula McClements; Siobhán Watts.**

ii **Heritage** – The Phoebe Anna Traquair Railings have been repaired and repainted professionally, and will only require a wipe down before being handed over to the owner in November 2027. **Action: Simon Lloyd.**

iii **Environment** – Simon noted that parts of the hedge of Merchiston Castle School along Colinton Road is overgrown to such an extent that it overhangs much of the pavement. Wendy planned to report this to Colinton Community Council as they should be the people to approach the school, but it appears to have been cut back before these minutes were issued.

iv **Planning** – The most important land use issue has been the occupation of Campbell Park by travellers. In accordance with Jason Rust's email advice of 7th July, Sheriff Officers attended Campbell Park on 8th July and served Notice to Quit by 10th July. On the 12th there were still nine camper vans and caravans present. This had reduced to six by midday on 14th. This could be indicative of a gradual retreat from Campbell Park, but the travellers know their rights and just how far to push the system (i.e. to vacate ahead of the service of a decree to evict). They will leave, but it is not easy to protect the park from future incursions, other than by local vigilance. The future maintenance of the park relies upon vehicular access and therein lies the security problem; removable bollards was suggested as a potential solution.

Cllr Rust advised that a public meeting had been held with regard to the sale of the land previously occupied by Davidson House to Cramond Residences for the construction of another care home.



v Roads and Transport – Cllr Rust advised that surface repairs are scheduled for Colinton Road around the Redford Road junction to Rustic Cottages but a more substantial job is planned for the road surface between there and the traffic lights at the head of the Village. City of Edinburgh Council has at last, repainted the Gillespie Bridge railings, ending a four-year campaign CAA has waged to get this done!

vi CAA Membership Update – Andrew advised that the 2025/2026 membership was 402. Over the year to 6th July, 303 members have renewed their memberships for 2026/2027, 6 members have died, 5 have moved away and 3 have resigned their membership. This leaves 85 members who have not renewed their memberships to date. Of these, 20 have standing orders that are set to pay later this year. That leaves just over 60 who will have reminders sent to them.

Action: Andrew Paterson.

vii Treasurer's Report – Gillian advised that the two-year bond with United Trust Bank had not been renewed, despite her having given the bank ample time to approve the transaction. The £12k involved has reverted to an Easy Access Account with an annual interest rate of 3.5%. Gillian will investigate other options. Gillian will submit a Gift Aid application; income generated should be around £450. It was agreed that a donation of £2.5k be made to The Shed in Spylaw Park to assist in the completion of their building project. **Action: Gillian Battison.**

6. Any Other Competent Business

- Ewan Campbell suggested that the cement support for the Robert Louis Statue on Spylaw Street be painted black to match the statue itself. All agreed that it is a good idea.
- Stephen Wallis was thanked for supplying the paint so that the CAA noticeboard on Bridge Road can be painted. This needs to be arranged.
- Andrew Paterson has twenty year's worth of old membership application forms. GDPR rules demand that these be securely destroyed. Gillian will investigate professional shredding of these forms as a home shredder would not be able to cope with the volume. **Action Andrew Paterson; Gillian Battison.**
- Cllr Jason Rust advised that the damaged angled memorial bench at the top of the Drovers Path has been removed by CEC. Depending upon the repair required, it may or may not be returned. Tim suggested that replacement should not be considered in this instance.
- Wendy asked that she be given assistance in tidying the cupboard behind Colinton Library that contains old CAA files. Tim will ask a local archivist to give advice as to what must be retained. **Action: Wendy Evans; Tim Lawson.**

Next meeting: AGM 17th September 2026 at Colinton Bowling Club.