



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

6th May 2026 in The Old Library, Merchiston Castle School.

Present: Tim Lawson (Chair); Iain Gotts (Vice Chair/Planning Convenor); Gillian Battison (Treasurer); Wendy Evans (Secretary); Simon Lloyd; Andrew Paterson; Cllr Jason Rust; Cllr Connor Savage.

1. Apologies for Absence: John Barry; Ewan Campbell; Paula McClements; Alex Robertson; Tolibjon Tursunov; Stephen Wallis; Siobhán Watts Cllr Neil Cuthbert.

2. Approval of Minutes of the previous meetings on 3rd March 2026

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

2.1 Matters Arising

Matters arising are covered in the following agenda items.

3. Projects

3.1 The Duncan Campbell Memorial Stone. Cllr Jason Rust was thanked for the speech he made when unveiling the stone on the wall of the Drovers Path on Monday, 6th April 2026. Around 30 people attended on this warm, sunny day. Colinton Inn provided very good refreshments after the unveiling.

3.2 Colinton Gateway Art Project

It was suggested that a representative visits those artists exhibiting at the next Pentland Open Studios Art Trail in August to discover local artistic talent. New Hopetoun Garden Centre has a garden art area which could be investigated further. At some locations along the Water of Leith can be found little doors for children to open and discover nature, an idea we could incorporate into the proposal. Information boards beneath the bridge on the route down to Spylaw Park from Spylaw Street was another suggestion to add to those already submitted by members. Iain advised that CAA should have a plan in mind before approaching the City of Edinburgh (CEC) Planning Dept. Cllr Rust has already supplied the name of the appropriate planner to Wendy. She will share this with Tim and Iain. **Action Tim Lawson; Wendy Evans.**

3.3 CAA Centenary Planning for 2027. Having spoken to the secretary of The Colinton & Merchiston Choir, Iain has sourced the music, Child's Garden of Verses by Howard Blake, that he believes would be appropriate for a Robert Louis Stevenson themed musical performance. CAA could offer financial assistance in adapting the music for the choir. Negotiations are on-going.

After Tim's suggestion that a traditional Highland Ball could be a possibility for a major local social evening, Gillian has forwarded details to Siobhán of a local company who arranges all the elements required to host ceilidhs.

A budget for the event will be discussed at a future meeting and a sub-committee set up to work with Siobhán. **Action: Siobhán Watts; Iain Gotts.**



3.4 Cuddies Lane Mural

Another plaque requires to be added to the mural to thank those who have contributed and also to advise details by a QR code for anyone wishing to donate further. Tim will pass details to Iain.

Action: Tim Lawson; Iain Gotts.



4. Conveners' Reports

i Communications – Paula McClements and Siobhán Watts hope to work with Wendy on developing the website before the next meeting. **Action:** Wendy Evans; Tim Lawson; Paula McClements; Siobhán Watts.

ii Heritage – Nothing to report.

iii Environment – There is little likelihood of the toilets in Bonaly Country Park opening soon. It is believed that disabled access is proving to be a problem. Accordingly, parking fees, at present, can only be recommended, not enforced.

iv Planning – Nothing of note has occurred in Colinton recently but it is speculated that a planning application might be in preparation for the former Downes Nursery site on Gillespie Road, where a large tree was recently removed.

v Roads and Transport – Cllr Savage advised that West Mill Road is scheduled to be resurfaced in the CEC 2026/27 budget. Tim complained that the surface of Colinton Road from Merchiston School entrance to Bridge Road has deteriorated almost into a gully by the traffic lights and Andrew complained that the speed bumps in Bonaly are disintegrating into potholes. Any complaints he has raised through appropriate channels have been actioned as individual small repairs, with little regard to neighbouring potholes. Jason will report the last two problems back to the Roads Dept at CEC. **Action:** Cllr Rust.

vi CAA Membership Update – Andrew advised that membership has dropped to 402. With no *Art in the Park* event planned this year, there will be little opportunity to recruit. He intends to send out subscription reminders within the next couple of days. **Action:** Andrew Paterson.

vii Treasurer's Report – Gillian produced the Annual Accounts. Simon suggested a couple of changes that could aid understanding. Gillian advised that the Accounts reflected two years' insurance payments for both CAA and CCCT, hence the large payment listed. She had negotiated this figure down from a much higher premium. She will shortly pass the Accounts to David Robinson, for his independent examination. Mural funding is complete and has been finalised. Gillian has sent a report to CEC, advising of how their grant was spent, but Sustrans do not require further feedback on their grant. **Action:** Gillian Battison.

6. Any Other Competent Business

- The Magazine Committee plan to meet within a fortnight to discuss the production of the next Colinton Magazine.
- Alex advised that the new fingerpost signposts scheduled for the lower part of Colinton village are proving difficult to install into position due to their heavy weight and bad weather conditions. Replacing of similar fingers for Spylaw Park have been held back because of the building work currently being done to develop The Shed. **Action:** Alex Robertson.

- There appears to be no need to organize a wood clean-up for Dreghorn Woods as the Scout movement has that in their agenda, however we will check the condition of Redford Woods and act accordingly. **Action: Stephen Wallis.**
- A Committee Member recently advised that the angled memorial bench at the top of the Drivers Path is in a poor condition. Gillian has attempted to make it safe from splinters but more work is required. The bench was installed by CCCT following a family donation. Andrew and the late Duncan Campbell tried to trace surviving family members, but were unsuccessful. The original donor, an only child, had since died with no direct successors. It may be necessary to remove the bench as repair costs are high and the bench is seldom used but Cllr Rust will try to find a CEC Dept that issues tasks to those undertaking community service. **Action: Cllr Rust.**
- Bonaly Primary School is shortly to celebrate having been on the current site for fifty years. Former pupils will be invited to attend a celebratory event.
- Simon suggested that an induction pack be designed and issued to new Executive members and that consideration be given to CAA's policies regarding risk assessment and key aims. **Action: Simon Lloyd; Tim Lawson; Wendy Evans.**
- Wendy asked that the Executive Committee read the CAA constitution with a view to changes being discussed at the next meeting and amendments perhaps being implemented at the next AGM. To compare the CAA constitution to that suggested by OSCR would be useful. **Action: All.**

Next meeting: Tuesday, 14th July 2026 at 7.15pm in The Colinton Inn. The AGM is being planned for late September 2026.