



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

26th August 2026 in The Spylaw.

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

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

2. Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting on 14th July 2026

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

2.1 Matters Arising

Simon has yet to 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. AGM Planning

The Kennedy Suite at Colinton Bowling Club has been booked from 7pm, Thursday 17th September. The meeting will start at 7.15pm with AGM business, and at 8 o'clock CAA Members will be invited to submit suggestions for the continuation of the Colinton Gateway Art Project. Tim asked that everyone look at the previously circulated Constitution changes and send their agreement or otherwise to Andrew Paterson. Gillian advised that David Robinson will write a formal request for his previous position to be filled. Andrew will shortly send out the invitations to the AGM, the invitation having already been approved by the Chairman. Wendy will renew the Zoom subscription. Andrew advised that he and Iain Gotts will be up for re-election in 2026.

4. Projects

4.1 Colinton Gateway Art Project Site Visit

Prior to this evening's meeting, Executive Committee Members met at the gates into Spylaw Park to explore some possibilities for artwork in the area. Stopping at the Scout hut, close to the gates, they looked at the possibility of erecting a mural depicting various scouting activities on part of the front wall, following a previous discussion between Tim and Simon Innes, Group Scout Leader of the 108th Pentland Scouts. Further down the driveway they explored an area where it was thought that a discovery pathway with erected animal statues and/or wood sculptures, perhaps aimed at children, could be installed between the pathway and the Water of Leith. With a steep path and close proximity to the river and the need for several trees to be removed or pruned back, the committee think City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) are unlikely to approve the plan without reservations. Looking next at a dark tree-lined open area, to the left. walking down towards Gillespie Bridge, it seems a viable option that the area be luminated and an information board erected, making the main path feel a more secure access route. Consideration was given to an 'Anthony Gormley type' statue in the river, but the cost is likely to be prohibitive. However, consideration could be given to some form of artificial heron sculpture on the pier of the bridge. Passing through the gateway before crossing the footbridge, the group



considered the steeply-wooded slopes with footpaths above the bend in the river for the erection of large chainsaw animals and woven willow creatures/faces hung in the trees. A path is already in place but contains several weathered railway-sleeper steps, broken trees and the fence between it and a sharp drop to the river is broken in places, making it a rather unsuitable area for artwork unless further improvements were to be made.

4.2 CAA Centenary Planning for 2027.

Siobhán advised that Tiphereth had advised today that they are unable to complete the centenary calendar order. She will search for an alternative. As a separate project, Iain Gotts has met with representatives from the Colinton & Merchiston Community 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 the Memorial Hall, Merchiston Castle School. **Action: Iain Gotts; Tim Lawson.**

5. Conveners' Reports

i **Communications** – Siobhán has spent considerable time in updating the CAA website. A link to joining the association and paying for membership is now in place but a *GiftAid* link has still to be inserted. New scenic photographs have still to be put in place and Siobhán asks that everyone send her a head and shoulders photo for the Executive Committee page and also that they examine the webpage in detail, advising her, on distribution@colintonamenity.org.uk of changes that need to be made. Articles and advertisements are being collated for Colinton Magazine and work is progressing as anticipated for the November delivery date. **Action: Wendy Evans; Paula McClements; Siobhán Watts; All.**

ii **Heritage** – no update required

iii **Environment** – Tim will co-ordinate the rub down and painting of the railings beside Dante's Restaurant. Ewan, Paula and Stephen hope to participate. Stephen has supplied paint for the weathered CAA noticeboards and will liaise with the committee regarding work being completed **Action: Tim Lawson.**

iv **Planning** – no update required.

v **Roads and Transport** – no report required

vi **CAA Membership Update** – Since the last CAA Executive Committee meeting, the July-August bank statement (04-Jul to 05-Aug) has come in, and shows two standing orders received, both for couples, and one cheque has been received, also for a couple. Therefore, the paid-up membership for 2026-2027 currently stands at 311 (was 305 at the last meeting). **Action: Andrew Paterson.**

vii **Treasurer's Report** – no report required

6. Any Other Competent Business

No comments were forthcoming.

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