



Minutes of the Newtown Residents' Association Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm, 20 September 2021; followed by the Monthly Meeting, at St Thomas's Community Lounge 200 Riddiford St.

Present: Rhona Carson (Chair), Steve Cosgrove (Minutes), Don McDonald, Penny Sturgess, Marion Leighton, Margaret Franken, Joyce Gibson, Carol Comber, Peter Cooke, Basia Smolnicki, Chris Rabey, Hilary Watson, Sambrene Chandler, Martin Hanley, Ann Devoy, Jane Patterson, Tom Law, Warwick Taylor, Sam Somers, Adam Awad, Brian Dawson (from Paul Eagle's office).

Apologies: Steve Dunn, Kassie McCluskie, Dave Jenkins, Anna Kemble Welch, Graeme Carroll, Jan Gould, Kevin Lethbridge, Daphne Pillar, Keith Powell, Léonie Walker, Peter Frater, Michelle Wolland, Alan Ottaway, Cr Fleur Fitzsimons, Cr Laurie Foon, Paul Eagle MP.

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 2020 AGM

Rhona Carson moved from the Chair that the minutes from the last AGM, which had been circulated, be taken as read and accepted. <https://newtownresidents.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/minutes-nra-agm-september-2020.pdf>

Carried Unanimously.

Matters arising.

- **History Project.** Martin Hanley outlined the history of this (long-running) project. It has now been prepared for publication as an online document. There is a need to enhance the presentation of photos, and this will be followed up. Peter Cooke noted that the photos will be mostly out of copyright by now, and could be included in a printed book. Rhona moved a vote of thanks for all involved. Passed by acclamation
- Don McDonald queried Jared Corston's role with WCC, which had been discussed in the September 2020 meeting which followed the 2020 AGM. Agreed to discuss this following the formal AGM.

President's Report

This has been circulated, and is available online.

<https://newtownresidents.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/2021-agm-presidents-report-2.pdf>

Rhona summarised the report, with a month by month account of meeting topics, issues addressed and submissions made.

Moved (Warwick Taylor/Steve Cosgrove): A vote of thanks for the President's work for the most recent year.

Carried by acclamation.

Moved (Chair) that the President's Report be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Michelle Wolland, our Treasurer, couldn't be at the meeting. Sam Somers read the Treasurer's Report. There was a small operating surplus in the 2020-2021 financial year, and the Association has a healthy financial position. It was noted that we handle funding for Mount Cook Mobilised because they are not an incorporated society (Carol Comber is the link person between Mt Cook Mobilised and the Newtown Residents' Association Executive).

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts will be available on the Association website.

Moved (Sam Somers/Martin Hanley) that the Treasurer's report and the Annual Accounts be accepted. Carried Unanimously

Election of Officers

Nominations:

President: Rhona Carson (nominated by Jane)

Secretary: no nominations

Treasurer: Michelle Wolland (nominated by Rhona)

Vice Presidents: Jane Patterson & Martin Hanley (nominated by Rhona)

Executive Committee: Sam Somers (nominated by Carol), Carol Comber (nominated by Sam), Peter Frater (nominated by Tom Law), Marion Leighton, Steve Cosgrove,, James Coyle, Hilary Watson, Penny Sturgess (all nominated by Rhona), Adam Awad (nominated by Martin).

There was no response to a call for further nominations.

Moved (Tom Law/Peter Cooke) that the nominations be closed. Carried

Noted that we have the requisite number of officers, so these people were declared elected unopposed. Rhona noted that she had been acting as Secretary as well as President, and would be happy to hear from any member interested in this position. It was also noted that as we have reached the number of Executive committee members designated in the Rules we can't co-opt further members (unless there is a candidate for the vacant Secretary position) but there are only a few issues that the Executive need to make formal decisions about - primarily financial approvals. For most issues all members are welcome to join the discussions.

The Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 8:32

September Monthly Meeting started at 8:33

Wellington City Council Representation Review

Sam Somers circulated and spoke to his written notes on this subject.

A review of the number of Councillors and how they are elected is necessary because the Council has decided to add a Maori Ward (to be called Te Whanganui-a-Tara Ward) for the election in 2022.

The WCC Councillors have decided that their preference is for as close as possible to the status quo - ie having the current number of Councillors in the current Wards, and adding the Maori Ward to be elected at large. This continues the situation where the Paekwakawa Southern Ward elects 2 Councillors and all the other general wards have 3 Councillors.

However there are 3 other options that were considered and are part of the current public consultation:

1. four general wards of 2 councillors each one (Northern) Ward with 3 Councillors, 1 Maori Ward and 2 councillors at large.
2. three wards of 3 councillors each, roughly following General Electorate boundaries, 1 Maori Ward and 3 councillors at large

3. six wards of 2 councillors with 1 Maori Ward and 3 councillors at large.

Sam noted that his preference was for option 3, which equalises the number of Councillors elected by each of the general wards. Noted that the electoral commission has a guideline for the number of constituents per councillors. The status quo does not meet this requirement.

Sam is doing a personal submission and encouraged others, including the Association, to make submissions. Consultation closes 4 October

There was a general discussion about issues pertaining to Council and Councillors. In particular it was noted that before wards were introduced Councillors almost always came from the northern areas.

Moved Warwick Taylor/Martin Hanley. "That the Association supports the establishment of the Māori ward." There was one abstention and all others supported this.

Tom Law (Chair of the Newtown Community and Cultural Centre Trust) reported on the **Community Centre Upgrade**.

This is going very, very, slowly. Plans are on the [City Council website](#), and on the [NCCC website](#).

- The Theatre will be upgraded. An application has been made for Lottery Grants Board Funding, which was supported by the Newtown Residents' Association and Newtown Festival.
- Escalating building costs have led to a request to Council for more funds.
- Lift and office space upgrades are planned.
- The Community and Cultural Centre is nearing the end of its one-year lease in the current replacement location (2 Green Street). An extension to this is being progressed.

Update on Jared Corston's role as WCC Community Liaison officer

- Jared now has a wider range of responsibilities liaising with Community Centres across the City. However he is still focussing on Newtown issues. As before he asks people to use the WCC fixit app to report issues, but he is happy to be contacted when this doesn't solve the problems, or if there are other Newtown issues to discuss. He can be contacted at Jared.Corston@wcc.govt.nz
- CAB is currently occupying Kia Ora Newtown. Jared has a desk at the library and uses community spaces for meeting people.
- Steve asked about what has happened to the Keep NZ Beautiful mural from 15 Constable St? This needs to be followed up.

Brief Notes

Warwick noted that previous long term Newtown Residents' Association member and past Secretary Johnathon Hunt has returned to Newtown.

Don McDonald advised that stairs at Newtown Park Apartments were blocked by discarded shopping trolleys. This was an emergency danger. The meeting suggested contacting the supermarket.

In response to a question from Warwick, Martin described the company that has purchased the old Plumbers Supreme building 26 Constable Street. The ground floor is being used as a Gallery.

The new venue

Martin Hanley moved a motion of thanks to Mark and Kirsty from St Thomas's for the use of the Community Lounge for this meeting, and suggested we also have the October meeting there. This was supported by the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:05. The next meeting will be on October 18th, 7.30 pm, at the St Thomas's Community Lounge 200 Riddiford St.