



Minutes of the Newtown Residents Association adjourned AGM and October meeting 20 October 2025 7.30pm St Thomas's Church Community Lounge, 200 Riddiford St

Present: Merio Marsters (Chair), Steve Cosgrove (Minutes), Rhona Carson (Secretary), Kassie McLuskie, Sam Somers (Treasurer), Andrew Wilson, Penny Sturgess, Michelle Wolland, Daphne Pilaar, Keith Powell, Eleanor Carr, Kerry Finnigan, Hilary Watson, Carol Comber, Lainey Cowan, Gavin Jolly, Stephen Pritchard, Adam Awad.

Apologies: Warwick Taylor, Sam Chandler, Steve Dunn, Martin Hanley, Jane Patterson, David Jenkins, Cr Laurie Foon.

Merio Marsters opened the meeting and noted that it is her first full meeting as President.

Resumed Annual General Meeting

The 2025 AGM on September 15th received the President's Report and elected the Officers of the Association, then was adjourned until this October meeting.

Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts for 1 July 2024- 30 June 2025.

Treasurer Sam Somers presented the Income and Expenditure and the Statement of Financial Position.

It was noted that previous prudent spending by the Association has resulted in us having a term deposit which provides a significant addition to our income by way of interest.

Moved: Sam Somers, Second: Steve Cosgrove - That we accept the Treasurers Report.

Motion Carried - with thanks to Sam.

Sam then moved a series of motions about the operation of the Newtown Residents' Association bank accounts.

Background, outlined at the meeting by Sam and Rhona.

The people who have been making payments from the Association accounts in recent years are Rhona Carson, Martin Hanley, Jane Patterson and Michelle Wolland. We now want to add Sam Somers and Merio Marsters, and remove Michelle as she isn't currently an executive member.

Sam was elected Treasurer at the 2024 AGM, then filled in the necessary Westpac Making Changes to Accounts form, got it signed by Rhona Carson and Peter Frater (the designated account holders) and went to the bank to sign up as a signatory to the Association bank accounts. He found that Peter Frater's ID was out of date, and because Peter was in a poor state of health and no longer on the association executive it was unrealistic to update this and reinstall him as an account holder.

Sam discovered that the beneficial owners/account holders were Claire Pettigrew, Peter Frater and Rhona Carson, and no one else was able to approve him to be a signatory. This dates from 2014 when Peter was Treasurer, Claire was elected Association President, and Rhona was elected Secretary. However we hadn't previously realised that these people had been given greater authority over the accounts than other signatories. Account holders are the only people with authority to approve new signatories.

Most of the Association banking is done online, and the Business Online process is different again. For online banking the people who manage the Business Online access of the other users are called Administrators. Martin Hanley and Peter Frater were both Administrators, but now Martin is the only one. We have a 'Dual Administration' rule, which means that two administrators are required to approve new Authorisers, i.e. people who can authorise payments from the accounts. As we only have one administrator it is impossible at present to give Sam, and now Merio as the new President, the authority to use online banking on behalf of the Association.

The following motions are designed to approve a series of new roles for managing the accounts, which we can then take to the bank.

- Motion to reset all signature authorities on the Newtown Residents' Association Westpac Business One Account - **Moved: Carol Comber, Second: Michelle Wolland**
- Removal of Peter Frater and Claire Pettigrew from NRA accounts - **Moved: Carol Comber, Second: Michelle Wolland**
- Remove Michelle Wolland as past Treasurer from being an Authoriser of Transactions (Michelle is no longer on the executive) - **Moved: Carol Comber, Second: Steve Cosgrove**
- Retain Martin Hanley as Business Manager (Administrator) on the accounts for online banking and add Rhona Carson, Sam Somers, Merio Marsters and Jane Patterson as addition online banking Administrators - **Moved: Keith Powell, Second: Kassie McKluskie**
- Motion to appoint Sam Somers (Treasurer) and Merio Marsters (Current President) and Martin Hanley as beneficial owners / account holders of Newtown Residents' Association accounts
(*Each appointment to have a separate move and second)
 - Sam Somers: **Moved: Kerry Finnigan, Second: Daphne Pilaar**
 - Merio Marsters: **Moved: Hilary Watson, Second: Keith Powell**
 - Martin Hanley: **Moved: Keith Powell, Second: Michelle Wolland**
- Appoint or confirm Sam Somers, Merio Marsters, Rhona Carson, Jane Patterson and Martin Hanley as signatories to Newtown Residents' Association accounts - **Moved: Kerry Finnigan, Second: Hilary Watson**

All Motions were Carried

It was noted that the terms used in our draft constitution (clause 27) with regard to payments were not consistent with the terms used by the bank. This will be changed for consistency. The overall object of the clause remains the same.

Review of Constitution changes, as required by the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

The proposed new constitution was circulated in the Newsletter on 17 Oct 2025.

- It was agreed that we will retain the suggested wording to give executive members control over admitting members.
- There was much discussion about the number of executive members, as defined in clause 23. "The Executive will consist of at least 3 Officers and no more than 9 Officers." The wording of this needs refining to make it consistent with the list of officers later in that clause – a) President b) Up to three Vice-President c) A Secretary d) A Treasurer e) The immediate Past President f) Up to nine members elected at the Annual General Meeting. This brings the potential number of officers to 16. There was discussion about the pros and cons of having such a large executive. However as these Executive positions have been in our current constitution for a long time and were the basis of our elections at the

earlier part of this AGM so it was agreed to continue it for now. There can be further discussion and possible amendments in the future.

- Clause 12 has an erroneous reference to 'committee' which should be 'executive'.
- After discussion about whether to allow proxy votes Rhona Carson /Steve Cosgrove moved -The constitution will not allow proxy votes. Carried

Keith Powell /Steve Cosgrove moved - That this meeting thanks Stephen Pritchard and others who have worked on the constitution. Carried by acclamation.

Rhona Carson /Adam Awad moved -That this constitution, with the wording changes as discussed, should be processed as required. Carried

The Adjourned AGM was concluded at this point and we moved on to the October Meeting business.

- Kassie McLuskie from Roy Street talked about Fireworks and their damaging effects
 - Many of our population are migrants from war-torn areas and are sensitive to loud noise.
 - Animals at the Zoo have died as a result of being frightened by fireworks.
 - Cats and dogs get distressed by the fireworks.
 - Birds that are abundant in Newtown can be adversely affected in nesting season when frightened by fireworks.

Previous Councillors, Fleur Fitzsimons and Paul Eagle, were going to promote a local ban on fireworks, but it didn't get anywhere then. Kassie would like the Residents' Association support to approach our current Councillors, Laurie Foon and Nureddin Abdurahman, to reopen the topic.

The meeting agreed that we will support a dialogue and other measures to pursue a fireworks ban in Newtown.

- Andrew Wilson reported the next Salvation Army training in de-escalation will be on Tuesday 28th of October from 6pm to 9pm. People interested in attending can contact him.

Meeting ended at 9:02

Next meeting: Monday 17th November at 7.30pm