



**Minutes of the Newtown Residents Association 2026 Annual General Meeting
Newtown Salvation Army Worship & Community Centre at 4 Normanby Street,
Monday 21 September 2026**

The AGM started at 8.10pm, following September meeting general business.

Present: Merio Marsters (Chair), Sam Somers (Treasurer), Steve Cosgrove (Minutes), Jane Patterson, Keith Powell, Lainey Cowan, Carol Comber, Chris Rabey, Vania Szymkowiak (WREMO), Raymond Matthews, Leah North, Steve Dunn, Tom Law, Don McDonald, Nicholas Pointon, Helen Blenkin, Tolis Papazoglou, Robin Payne, Hilary Watson, David Jenkins, Andrew Wilson, Bryony Hales, Malcolm Menzies, Graeme Carroll, Tatenda Tayingeyi, Felicity Ebrahimjee, Faiza Abukar, Cr Laurie Foon, Cr Nurreddin Abdurahman.

Apologies: Rhona Carson (Secretary), Sam Chandler, Jan Gould, Kerry Finnigan, Peter Frater, Kassie McLuskie, MP Julie Anne Genter

Amendment to previous AGM minutes - Carol Comber was present, arrived late but not recorded.

Minutes of last year's AGM meeting were taken as read: That the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record. Moved with the addition of Carol being present: Steve Cosgrove/Jane Patterson.

Jane Patterson took the Chair and called for nominations for President

Merio Marsters was nominated. There were no other nominations and Merio was reappointed by acclamation

Merio read the current executive members of the Association and called for other nominations - there were no other nominations.

Current executive member Jane Patterson is not standing again.

Merio read a note of acknowledgement and appreciation at our AGM from Rhona Carson on behalf of the Association, thanking Jane for her time as an executive member of many years. Sam acknowledges and thanks Jane for her support in his transition into Treasurer role

President: Merio Marsters - Nominated Jane Patterson/Sam Somers; appointed by acclamation

Vice Presidents: No nominations.

Immediate Past President: Rhona Carson ex officio

Secretary: Rhona Carson: Nominated Merio Marsters/Sam Somers (absent but had agreed to nomination).

Treasurer: Sam Somers: Nominated Merio Marsters/Carol Comber

Executive Committee: (can be up to 9 members)

Steve Cosgrove: Nominated Sam Somers/Andrew Wilson

Hilary Watson: Nominated Carol Comber /Keith Powell

Steve Dunn: Nominated Hilary Watson/Carol Comber

Carol Comber: Nominated Sam Somers/Jane Patterson

Andrew Wilson: Nominated Merio Marsters/Sam Somers

Merio noted those who were nominated and seconded. All nominations were accepted and elected unopposed at a vote of the meeting.

3 current executive members weren't at the meeting (Stephen Pritchard, Marion Leighton and Martin Hanley; Marion and Martin were overseas.) Our new Constitution requires nominees to agree in writing. The Executive can co-opt members and will discuss this with the absentees.

In response to a question from the floor Merio outlined the role of members of the executive. There was some discussion about Association activities and time commitment.

Cultural diversity representation was discussed and welcomed.

There was further discussion regarding the makeup of the Association membership.

President's Report

This report has been circulated and was taken as read.

That this meeting accepted the President's report.

Moved - Steve Cosgrove / Andrew Wilson

Passed by Acclamation

Treasurer's Report

Sam read his report as circulated, commenting on outstanding items.

That this meeting accepted the Treasurer's report.

Moved - Carol Comber/Merio Marsters

Passed by Acclamation

There was a mention of the Honorarium item in the annual accounts, this will be discussed by the executive committee further for clarity.

AGM closed at 8:40pm