



**Newtown Residents Association Minutes of the September meeting
Newtown Salvation Army Worship & Community Centre at 4 Normanby Street,
Monday 21 September 2026 at 7.30pm - 9pm**

The September Meeting and the 2026 AGM were both held on 21 September, but were minuted separately.

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

The chair indicated that the meeting would start with September general business, and the AGM would start at about 8pm.

Cr Laurie Foon had asked if one of her constituents could raise an issue for those at the meeting to consider. She introduced Faiza and Felicity. Felicity shared her experience of being assaulted, a month earlier in Newtown. She noted that she did not get much support from those around the area at the time. The meeting supported Felicity's situation and agreed that we will raise awareness amongst our contacts. Violence in our community is not the norm and not wanted in our community, it is unacceptable and the general public should respond to support individuals if matters arise like this.

Cr Nureddin Abdurahman reflected on his own personal experience of an assault on his young daughter at a local supermarket. He acknowledged and supports Felicity's call for consideration of how our community can better support both the perpetrators and victims in these situations.

Cr Nureddin went on to list key activities of Council last week:

- A report on the April floods was accepted by Council, and our local Councillors undertook a range of actions to improve resilience. <https://wellington.govt.nz/-/media/Your-council/meetings/Committees/City-Strategy-and-Delivery-Committee/2026/2026-09-17-Minutes-CSD#page=9>
- Harbour Quays Bus route during peak hours
- District Plan
- Northern suburbs Dog Park
- Courtney Place Revitalisation
- Moving Wellington City Museum to Takina on the 1st floor
- He also suggested that we all consider submitting to the Taiki Wai consultation
- Earthquake prone buildings, still in process

Mt Cook Mobilised update from Carol

- Social Housing projects - Kainga Ora - Arlington Apartments - changed from 300 units to be built reduced to 104 dwellings
- Nairn Street - some social housing was demolished several years ago. Council is considering which of several options could happen on this site. Carol suggested that these developments could be made more resilient if they included water storage, naming multiple social housing complexes
- Te Mara units in Hopper Street are showing negative effects from lack of parking

- Presentation from Iona Pannet spoke to Mount Cook Mobilised about the effects of the Waka Kotahi Mt Victoria tunnels proposal, fast track project and 20 days to reply with delay to receive notice in the post

Coromandel Street Kainga Ora social housing developments, it was noted that there have been earthworks on the vacant site. We will ask for further information about plans for this site.

The **meeting adjourned at 8:09pm for the AGM**

The **meeting resumed at 8:40pm**

Motion to approve the Minutes of the August Newtown Residents' Association Meeting - Proposed - Sam Somers 2nd – Nicholas Pointon. **Carried.**

Other matters:

Vania announced a Community Response update of details needed for Anna at Newtown Community Centre.

Meet the Candidates meeting on 13 October at the Salvation Army, with executives to get a plan and begin this process.

Wellington City Council Flood Response Report

Andrew attended a meeting to discuss this report. He summarised the proceedings for this meeting with add-on updates from Bryony Hales. A review from previous 1995 report.

Meeting closed at 8:51pm