



The Polish Association in Christchurch Inc.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 26 June 2020 at 6.15 pm at the Piharau Room, Te Hapua Halswell Centre, Christchurch

1. Present

Members of the retiring Executive: Anna Gruczyńska (President), Ela Sawicka (Vice-President), Dorota Zabielski (Treasurer), Darek Rauhut (Secretary), Monika Mather, Magda Pawłowski and Erwin Polczak (members).

In addition to the members of the retiring Executive, 10 full members of the Association were in attendance. Two further proxies were received from members eligible to vote, but unable to attend the meeting.

The Honorary Consul of Poland to the South Island, Winsome Dormer, was in attendance.

2. Agenda

Anna Gruczyńska welcomed the attendees and thanked everyone for making the time to attend the Annual General Meeting.

The agenda for the meeting was confirmed, as previously circulated to members with the Notice of the AGM:

In accordance with the Rules of the Association, s. 12.2, the Agenda is as follows:

- a) *Approval of the Minutes of the last General Meeting*
- b) *Receiving reports of the retiring Executive:*
 - i. *A report from the President in respect of the activities of the Association in the past year*
 - ii. *A report from the Secretary in respect of membership*
 - iii. *A report from the Treasurer in respect of financial statement for the past year*
 - iv. *A report on activities from each of the special purpose or interests groups existing within the Association during the past year (Polonus and Polish Preschool & School)*
- c) *Election of the new Executive made up of:*
 - i. *President*
 - ii. *Treasurer*
 - iii. *4 other Executive members*
- d) *Establishing a plan of activities for the coming year*
- e) *Opening the meeting for general discussion.*

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

The Minutes of the previous AGM, held on 11 May 2019 and 22 June 2019, had been circulated.

The Minutes of the 2019 AGM were confirmed as a true record of the meeting and **received**.

4. Reporting of the Retiring Executive

4.1. President's report

Anna Gruczyńska tabled the President's report on activities of the Polish Association in Christchurch during 2019/2020, covering regular activities and special events held during the year which marked the 75th anniversary of Pahiata Children's arrival in New Zealand.



With members' agreement, the report was not read out in full but copies were made available to those present, in Polish and in English.

Anna thanked members of the retiring Executive, members of the Association and all others who assisted with and supported the Association's work during the year. The financial support received from The Polish Charitable and Educational Trust was acknowledged with thanks.

4.2. Polonus report

Ela Sawicka presented the report on Polonus Folk Dance group activities during 2019/2020, the highlight of which was the group's participation in the celebrations in Auckland and in Christchurch of the 75th anniversary of Pahiataua Children's arrival in New Zealand. The group also performed at local community events such as Culture Galore, Culture Fest and a multicultural concert Erasing Boundaries. The financial support received from the Polish Charitable and Educational Trust and the Embassy of Poland in Wellington was acknowledged with thanks. The group's focus on fundraising has continued throughout the year, in early preparation for PolArt 2021.

4.3. Polish Pre-school and School report

Monika Mather presented a report on the Polish pre-school and school activities during the year. There are currently 12 families attending regular sessions, with participating parents responsible for preparing, on a rostered basis, the programme and activities for the children. During the year, more structured Polish lessons were introduced as part of each session led by a trained teacher. Initiatives to grow membership are planned in the coming year. The financial support of Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (via the Embassy of Poland in Wellington) was acknowledged with thanks. The Honorary Consul of Poland confirmed she would like to visit the Polish preschool and school during one of its upcoming sessions.

The President's Report, Polonus Report, and Polish Preschool and School Report were **received**.

4.4. Treasurer's report

Dorota Zabielski presented the Treasurer's report for the financial year ending 31 March 2020, including a report on membership.

Summary Financial Statements for the Polish Association account, Polonus sub-account and Polish School's sub-account were tabled and copies handed out to the attendees. Questions from the floor were invited, and answers provided.

The opening bank balance for the Polish Association general account for the 2019/2020 year was \$6,667.38. The expenses incurred during the year, particularly in relation to the celebration of the Pahiataua Children's 75th Anniversary, were partly covered from grants received. Thanks to ongoing fundraising efforts, the closing position for the Association's general account was \$4,969.29. The membership fees collected in the 2019/20 year were \$900.

The opening balance for the Polonus sub-account for the 2019/2020 year was \$746.94 and the closing position was \$2,831.40. This was largely achieved through fundraising efforts during the year. Polonus was congratulated by members of the Association for the excellent fundraising results achieved in preparation for PolArt.

The opening balance for the Polish preschool and school sub-account for the 2019/2020 year was \$7.36 and the closing position was \$457.36.

The Treasurer's report for the financial year ending 31 March 2020, including a report on membership, was **received**.



5. Election of the new Executive

The members present were reminded that in accordance with the Rules of the Association, the AGM elects :

- i. President*
- ii. Treasurer*
- iii. 4 other Executive members*

Including proxies, 19 eligible members cast votes. Candidates with the highest number of votes received were offered a seat on the Executive. Ela Sawicka and Kasia Dybka declined a seat on the Executive. Anna Gruczyńska accepted a seat on the Executive but declined the nomination for President.

Members unanimously voted that the Executive Committee of the Polish Association in Christchurch for the 2019/20 term is:

- Jacek Pawłowski – President
- Dorota Zabielska – Treasurer
- Anna Gruczyńska – Secretary
- Monika Mather, Darek Rauhut, Mariusz Talaśka and Erwin Polczak – members

The Vice President of the Association will be selected by the Executive at its first meeting in the new term.

6. General Business

Members present discussed the Association's plans for the coming year. The annual ski trip to Mt Cheeseman is not possible this year due to the Forest Lodge being fully booked for the season, however a ski day will be organised instead. Regular events such as National Reading, Seniors' afternoon tea, Christmas get together etc. will continue. All agreed a dance party should be organised this year as there hasn't been one for some time.

With business completed, the meeting terminated at 7:20 p.m.