



The Polish Association in Christchurch Inc.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 11 May 2018 at 6.00 pm at the Landsdowne Community Centre, Christchurch

1. Present

Members of the retiring Executive: Anna Gruczyńska (President), Dorota Zabielski (Treasurer), Katarzyna Dybka, Jacek Pawłowski, Ilona Pawłowski (members).

The President, Anna Gruczyńska, advised those present that Krzysztof Pawlikowski (Secretary) and Barbara Pawlikowska (member) tendered a resignation from the Executive Committee the previous day.

Apologies were received from Ela Sawicka (Vice President) and Piotr Sawicki (member of the Association) due to overseas travel.

In addition to the members of the retiring Executive, 8 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 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, Polka Radio, Polish School and Polish Language Playgroup)*
- 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 12 May 2019, had been circulated and a copy was available for inspection by those present.

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were **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 2018/2019, covering regular activities and special events held during the year which marked the centenary of Poland's regained independence.

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.

4.2. Polonus report

Anna Gruczyńska tabled the Polonus report prepared by Ela Sawicka on activities during 2018/2019, the highlight of which was the group's participation in the PolArt 2018 Festival in Brisbane.

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

4.3. Polish School report

Anna Gruczyńska tabled the Polish School report prepared by Sylwia Śmiarowska on activities during 2018/2019. The Polish School ceased its operations at the end of November 2018.

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

4.4. Polish Preschool report

Magda Pawłowska-Wang presented a verbal report on the Polish preschool activities during the year. The preschool meets fortnightly, with participating parents responsible for preparing, on a rostered basis, the programme and activities for the children.

4.5. Radio Polka report

No representatives of Polka Radio were present at the meeting, nor a report on Polka Radio's activities received by the Executive prior to the meeting. POLKA Radio finished broadcasting in March 2019 when a decision was made by the Executive Committee to end the sponsorship of the programme.

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

4.6. Treasurer's report

Dorota Zabielski presented the Treasurer's report for the financial year ending 31 March 2019, 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 2018/2019 year was \$9604.56, including grants received for the commemoration of the centenary of Poland's independence in 2018. With significant expenses incurred during the year, the grants have been fully spent. Thanks to ongoing fundraising efforts, the closing position for the Association's general account was \$6,667.38. The membership fees collected in the 2018/19 year were \$1,335.

The opening balance for Polonus' sub-account for the 2018/2019 year was \$6856.71 and the closing position was \$746.94. The majority of expenses were in relation to the participation at



PolArt 2018 Brisbane festival. Polonus was congratulated by members of the Association for the excellent fundraising results achieved in preparation for PolArt.

The opening balance for the Polish school sub-account for the 2018/2019 year was \$566.47, and the closing position was \$7.36. The sub-account will be closed with the balance of funds transferred to the Association's general account.

The Treasurer's report for the financial year ending 31 March 2019, 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*

and that therefore a minimum of 6 nominations are required for the election to proceed.

One member of the retiring Executive offered themselves for re-election. No further nominations were received from members present.

In the absence of the required minimum of nominations, the election of the new Executive Committee was not able to proceed.

In light of the above, a general discussion was held regarding next steps and options for the future of the Association.

One option is to inform members of the Association, and the Polish community in Christchurch generally, of the current situation and the implications for the future, in the hope that this will encourage nominations to serve on the Executive Committee.

Another option, if the Executive Committee cannot be formed, is to wind up the Association in accordance with s. 18 of the Rules, which requires a Special General Meeting to be held and a resolution passed by a minimum of 2/3 of Full members of the Association.

In both cases, a further meeting of the members of the Association is required to be held.

After discussion, it was agreed that the matter be deferred. The deferred meeting is to be scheduled on Saturday 22nd June, to discuss the future for the Association.

6. General Business

There was no general meeting.

With business completed, the meeting terminated at 7:05 p.m.

Addendum: Election of the 2019/2020 Executive

Due to insufficient number of nominations received by 11 May 2019 (date of the AGM), the election of the Executive Committee for 2019/20 was deferred and was held on 22 June 2019 with 17 members present. 3 valid proxies were also received.

Voting was duly held, further to which The Executive Committee of the Polish Association in Christchurch is:

- Anna Gruczyńska – President
- Ela Sawicka – Vice President
- Dorota Zabielska – Treasurer
- Darek Rauhut – Secretary
- Magda Pawłowska, Monika Mather, Erwin Polczak – members