

Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting

When:	Thursday 14 April 2021, 7:30-9:00pm
Where:	Zoom videoconference
Present:	Maureen Gillon (Chair), Simon Wright (Secretary), Dave Henderson (Committee), Andrew Ecclestone (Committee), Ross Patel (Committee), Alayna Ashby, Bryce Edwards, Caitlin Borgfeldt, Charlie Devenish, Chris Cameron, Garry Moore, Geoff Simmons, Gray Southon, Helen Bichan, Helen Grant, Jan Rivers, John Stowell, Julianne Evans, Cathy Kern, Kay Jones, Keitha Booth, Mary Harrow, Max Rashbrooke, Neville Queen, Paddy Plunket, Paul McGregor, Phil Saxby, Rebekah Kim, Steven Ensslen, Suzanne Snively, Valerie Bos, Yvonne Curtis

Maureen Gillon opened the meeting at 7:30pm, welcomed people and gave a brief account about Trust Democracy.

Presentation by Max Rashbrooke

Simon Wright introduced Max Rashbrooke, one of New Zealand's leading democracy and inequality researchers and writers, and invited him to present for 20 minutes on 'Overcoming the obstacles to deeper democracy in New Zealand'. People were asked to post questions using Zoom's chat function. After the presentation, John Pennington led a 20-minute Q&A.

A recording of the presentation and Q&A is available at [to be added]

After thanking Max Rashbrooke for his contribution, Maureen Gillon opened the formal part of the meeting.

Minutes of the previous AGM

No issues or questions were raised about the minutes of the inaugural general meeting that was held on 4 May 2020. Maureen Gillon moved, and Dave Henderson seconded, that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record, and the motion was carried.

Annual Report, Financial Statements and Committee disclosures

The Annual Report and Financial Statements were taken as read as they had been emailed to everyone several days before the meeting. Maureen Gillon thanks members of the committee for their work in establishing Trust Democracy. Maureen Gillon moved, and Dave Henderson seconded, that the Annual Report, which included the Committee disclosures, be approved, and the motion was carried.

Simon Wright provided a summary of the Financial Statements for 2020-21 and moved that they be approved. John Pennington seconded the motion and it was carried.

Setting of membership fees

Simon Wright noted that the committee wanted membership to be affordable and was proposing annual membership fees of \$20 for waged people and \$10 for unwaged people. After discussion, there seemed to be consensus about the idea of 'membership by koha' with the committee reviewing this approach before the next Annual General Meeting.

Andrew Ecclestone moved, and Dave Henderson seconded, that Trust Democracy's membership fee be set at whatever level of donation that an applicant feels comfortable donating to the organisation and that ahead of the Annual General Meeting in 2022 the committee review whether or not this is meeting Trust Democracy's basic operating costs and whether it needs to review the membership donation system. The motion was carried.

Election of a new Committee Member

After a discussion about increasing the diversity of the current committee, Simon Wright called for nominations. Maureen Gillon nominated, and Dave Henderson seconded, Paddy Plunket after she had expressed interest in the position. The motion was carried.

Maureen Gillon informed members that Ross Patel had stepped down from the committee and thanked him for his valuable service and ongoing commitment to the organisation.

Motion to amend the constitution

Referring to presentation slides giving the reasons for the proposed amendments to Trust Democracy's constitution and showing the proposed amendments, Simon Wright moved that:

The following clauses be added to clause 58:

58.4 No addition to or alteration of the aims, personal benefit clause or the winding up clause shall be made which affect the non profit body status.

58.5 The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

That the following clause be substituted for clause 60.3:

60.3 If upon winding up or dissolution of the organisation there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the organisation but shall be given or transferred to some other organisation or body with similar objects to the first organisation or for some other charitable purpose, within New Zealand.

Andrew Ecclestone and Keitha Booth seconded the motion and it was carried.

General business

Maureen Gillon asked if there were any matters of general business.

Paddy Plunket was referred to the Annual Report in response to a question about Trust Democracy's strategic direction over the next year. Her offer to run a strategy workshop for the committee was accepted.

Jan Rivers initiated a vote of thanks to the committee for its achievement of starting a new incorporated society and having over 30 people at its first Annual General Meeting.

Simon Wright noted the upswing in interest in democracy and acknowledged the efforts of Aotearoa Climate Emergency and Te Reo o ngā Tāngata - The People Speak to initiate citizens assemblies.

Maureen Gillon closed the meeting just before 9:30pm.

These draft minutes were prepared by the Secretary of Trust Democracy, Simon Wright.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Wright', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Dated: 23 April 2021

These draft minutes were approved at Trust Democracy's Annual General Meeting held on 12 April 2022.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Wright', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Dated: 13 April 2022