

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 19 November 2023
11:20 am to 11:48 am
MINUTES

WELCOME: by Chairperson, Peter Bryar

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY: by Peter Bryar

We acknowledge this land forms part of the traditional lands of the Dja DjaWurrung. We respect the spiritual ancestors of this land and their descendants.

May all hurts be healed; may all sufferings cease and may all be at ease.

QUORUM: The quorum was met.

ATTENDANCE: Ven Dondrup, Ven Chodak, Ven Tsapel, Ven Drime, Jan Stewart, Robyn Ralton, Peter Bryar, Jan Townsend, Gail Haig, Chris Bohle, Pauline Walden, Cameron Young, Kathy Rice, Andy Melnic, Diane Gee, Jason Isma, Brian Ashen, Carmela Quimbo, Peter Lane, Elizabeth Masters, Mary Leet, Roger Callaway, Peter Korevaar, Jill Lancashire, Mark Allaway, Amy Isma, Ken Fox, Cilla Brady (arrived during Ordinary Business).

APOLOGIES: Ruby Karmay, Lee Lim, Helen Sleswick, Alan Molloy, Ian Green, Judy Green, Kerrin Beecher, Leizel Noble, Jock Noble, Jane Lewis.

MOTIVATION: Venerable Dondrup

1. ORDINARY BUSINESS:

1.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous AGM

The Minutes of the previous AGM were sent via email to all members.

Motion: That the minutes of AGM held on 20 November 2022 be approved.

Moved: Peter Bryar **Second:** Carmela Quimbo **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

1.2 Confirmation of Minutes of Special General Meeting (SGM)

A SGM was held on 25 May 2023 to consider a Special Resolution to include a "School Building Fund" clause in the Atisha Centre Rules of Association. The clause was an Australian Tax Office (ATO) requirement in its consideration of granting Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for an Atisha Centre public fund. DGR status was approved by the ATO.

Motion: That the minutes of SGM held on 25 May 2023 be approved.

Moved: Ven Dondrup **Second:** Jill Lancashire **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

1.3 Business arising from the Minutes of the 20 November 2022 AGM

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous AGM.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VARIATION OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION AND JOINING FEE [as per rules 12 and 30(4)(d)]

We are required by our rules to confirm our membership fees at each AGM.

2.1 Annual Fees for Membership

Motion: That the annual fees for membership at Atisha Centre remain unchanged from the rates ratified at the previous AGM and that they are implemented as soon as possible in the new year.

Membership Level 1 - “Benefactor”

Single Membership ~ \$100.00pcm = \$1200.00pa

Family Membership ~ \$150.00pcm = \$1800.00pa

Membership Level 2 - “Supporter”

Single Membership ~ \$50.00pcm = \$600.00pa

Family Membership ~ \$75.00pcm = \$900.00pa

Membership Level 3 - “Member”

Single Membership ~ \$25.00pcm = \$300.00pa

Single Membership Concession = \$20.00pcm = \$240.00pa

Family Membership ~ \$40.00pcm = \$480.00pa

Family Membership Concession = \$30.00pcm = \$360.00pa

Membership Level 4 - “Pet Membership”

Single Membership ~ \$5.00pcm = \$60.00pa

Family Membership ~ \$7.00pcm = \$84.00pa

Moved: Robyn Ralton **Second:** Elizabeth Masters **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

2.2 Annual Fees for Sangha Membership

Motion: That the annual fee for membership at Atisha Centre for Sangha with International Mahayana Institute (IMI) membership be \$5 per annum.

Moved: Diane Gee **Second:** Cameron Young **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

3. REPORTS

3.1 Annual Report 2023

Copy of Annual Report 2023 provided to all members via email.

Motion: That the Atisha Centre Annual Report 2023 be approved.

Moved: Ven Dondrup **Second:** Carmela Quimbo **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

3.2 Treasurer’s Report – Presentation of audited financial statement

Copy of Financial Statement 2022 - 2023 provided to all members via email.

Ven Dondrup made special mention that the Machig Labdron Nunnery has raised over \$400,000 for building construction.

Motion: That the Atisha Centre Audited Financial Report for 2022 – 2023 be accepted and the Chairperson and the Treasurer be empowered to sign the accounts including the Certificate by Members of the Committee on behalf of Atisha Centre.

Moved: Andy Melnic **Second:** Robyn Ralton **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

3.3 Director’s Report

Report presented by Ven Dondrup, highlights as follows:

- Ven Dondrup thanked the Board and Atisha Centre community for the support received over the last three years.
- Numerous projects have been completed and more are underway.

- Kadampa Stupa is near completion.
- The gardens around the Kadampa Stupa are also near completion; Mark Allaway's dedication to travel from Melbourne to spend 2 to 3 days a week at the centre developing the gardens is appreciated.
- The spiritual program is doing well.
- Accommodation is booked out during retreats; the recent upgrades have been well received.
- The kitchen and café have been revived by Ven Chodak; Sunday chai and cake are appreciated.
- Retreats continue to be well attended.
- The shop continues to be well managed and a source of great income for the centre.
- The Nunnery is progressing well.
- The next 12 -24 months will be very exciting times for Atisha Centre.
- All of these elements work together to provide refuge here for people.

Motion: That the Atisha Centre Director's Report 2023 be accepted.

Moved: Jason Isma **Second:** Kathy Rice **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

3.4 Spiritual Program Co-ordinator's Report

Report presented by Andy Melnic, highlights as follows:

- The spiritual program is doing very well with amazing Geshe teachings that are so rare.
- Special thanks to Ven Tsapel for her tireless support to retreats, Ven Drime for her much-loved yoga sessions, and Ven Damcho for leading the popular meditations in Bendigo.
- Next year events include a high-level tantric retreat (60 participants have expressed interest) and the 16 Guidelines.
- Help is needed to make these events possible.

Ven Dondrup thanked the Nuns for their spiritual energy and the Shedrup Ling Monastery for their support including accommodation during retreats.

Motion: That the Spiritual Program Co-ordinator's Report 2023 be accepted.

Moved: Dianne Gee **Second:** Peter Lane **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

4. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

We are required to appoint an auditor at each AGM.

Motion: That the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board be appointed as the Atisha Centre auditor.

Moved: Andy Melnic **Second:** Jill Lancashire **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

5. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The Chairperson declared all positions on the Board vacant, with the exception of the Centre Director and SPC. Elections for all other Board positions in accordance with rules 52 to 56 were conducted.

Ven Dondrup took control of the meeting as Director.

Election of Chairperson

Motion: That Peter Bryar is elected Chairperson of the Board for the next 12 months.

Moved: Janet Townsend **Second:** Jill Lancashire **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

Peter Bryar took control of the meeting as Chair.

Election of Vice-Chairperson

Motion: That Jill Lancashire is elected Vice-Chairperson of the Board for the next 12 months.

Moved: Andy Melnic **Second:** Ven Tsapel **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

Election of Secretary

Motion: That Janet Townsend is elected Secretary of the Board for the next 12 months.

Moved: Peter Bryar **Second:** Andy Melnic **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

Election of Treasurer

Motion: That Mary Leet is elected Treasurer of the Board for the next 12 months.

Moved: Ven Dondrup **Second:** Janet Townsend **Objections:** Nil **Carried:** Unanimously

Announcement of New Co-Directors

Ven Dondrup announced the appointment of the Atisha Centre Co-Directors Ven Chodak and Jan Stewart. Welcome Ven Chodak and Jan Stewart to your new positions.

6. NOMINATION OF THE NUMBER OF ORDINARY MEMBERS FOR 2023 - 2024 BOARD

We are required by the rules to decide at AGM every year by resolution, the number of ordinary members (if any) on the Board.

This year Peter Bryar advised that there had been one nomination for the position of Ordinary Member, Peter Lane.

In accordance with the Atisha Centre Rules of Association, clause 44 (4), agreement will be sought from FPMT Inc. to appoint an additional Board member as there are already 7 Board members.

Peter Bryar, in his capacity of Chair, will seek approval from FPMT Inc.

7. ELECTION OF ORDINARY BOARD MEMBER:

There was no election of an Ordinary Member.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Ven Dondrup and the Board thanked outgoing office bearers for their dedication and support over the past 12 months:

- Robyn Ralton – Chair and Manager of Lama’s Dharma Shop
- Lee Lim – Treasurer
- Jason Isma – Ordinary Member

9. CLOSE MEETING

The meeting was closed at 11:48am.

10. DEDICATION

Ven Dondrup.