

## Minutes from Special General Meeting of The Danish Society Inc

Date of Meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Venue: Danish House, 6 Rockridge Road, Penrose

Attending: 45 members including committee members

Apologies: Fanny and Graham Wright, Dawn Nissen, Greg Taylor, Donna Barrett, Lorraine Nielsen, Lene Scott, David Jorgensen

Agenda: There is only one item on the agenda. The purpose of the meeting is to alter rules 3 and 22 of The Rules of The Danish Society Inc to comply with requirements for registering with the Charities Commission. Technical changes are also required for rules 8.4 and 8.5. The notice of the Special General Meeting sent out to all members and an article in the May newsletter have provided the background and reasons for these changes.

Meeting Start/Finish: 1.30pm/2.05pm

Finn Nielsen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Jack Yates asked how many members are needed at a meeting to change rules. Roger Knights replied that according to our rules, ten members make a quorum at any meeting, and two thirds majority is needed to make changes.

Roger moved, Carsten Danstead seconded, that the rules changes be accepted as circulated and invited the meeting to discuss the proposed changes.

Rolf Siggaard asked whether becoming a charity would require a name change for the society. Roger's reply was that this isn't necessary; however, a lot of societies choose to add wording to the effect of "charitable organisation" to their name.

Karen Andersen Yates stated that our current rules are simple but functional. New rules might be confusing. We need to maintain clarity of the actual objective.

The committee agrees, and we thought our existing rules meet the Charities Commission's requirements perfectly; however, they think differently which is why we've had to propose the changes.

Karen was worried that rule 3.6 would give too much power to the committee and didn't want to lose the feeling of friendliness. Finn replied that the committee already has certain "powers" as set out in the rules, and the new rules do no change those.

Richard Logan pointed out that rule 3.6 clearly states that the committee's work has to be to the benefit of the members, and the rule changes do not change that objective.

Jack Yates moved, Karen seconded, that we link rule 3.6 to rule 21 just like rule 3.4 does, so that it reads: "To do all such acts or things and make such arrangements whatsoever which, in opinion of the Committee of the Society, are incidental or conducive to the objectives of the Society (including rule 21) and which..." etc.

All in favour, none opposed. Carried.

Roger clarified to the meeting that we're not a charity as such. However, in future organisations like ours will not receive any funding from Auckland City Council or any grants, gifts etc unless we're listed as a charitable organisation, and any potential benefactors would not get tax exemption.

Rolf asked whether membership fees will become tax-deductible as a donation. Roger said he wasn't sure about this, but it is possible.

The meeting then proceeded to vote on the proposed rule changes, including the amendment moved by Jack Yates, by show of hands.

All were in favour, none opposed, none abstained. Carried.

Finn thanked everyone for coming. The meeting finished at 2.05pm.