

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held via Audio Visual Conference on **THURSDAY, 16 March 2023** commencing at **7.15pm.**

**Present:**

Mr Jim Katu (Chairperson)  
Mr Ben Brown (Deputy Chairperson/Treasurer)  
Ms Josephine Baker (Secretary)  
Ms Cecelia Heta  
Cr Marlene Raumati  
Mr Miles Swann  
Ms Kirsty Wellington  
Ms Lauren Wismans  
Mr Jacob Calvert

**Attending:**

Ms Pauline Giles (*WDC Roding team*)  
Ms Dylan Herewini (*WDC Roding team*)  
Karlene Rhind (*WDC -Senior Community Engagement Officer*)  
Jennifer Stewart (*arrived at approximately 8pm*)  
Ms. Sonya Singh (*arrived at approximately 8pm*)  
Mr Dilgi Singh (*arrived at approximately 8pm*)

**KARAKIA TIMATANGA**

Offered by Josephine Baker

**APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

No apologies were received.

**CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS**

**Resolved: (Mr Swann/Mrs Heta)**

**THAT** the agenda for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday 16 March 2023 be confirmed and all items therein be considered in open meeting.

**CARRIED**

**MMCC2303/01**

## **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Cr Raumati raised issues on page four relating to the spelling and incorrect names of:

- a) Jacob Calvert, recorded as Mr Jacob Smith
- b) Mr Miles Swann, recorded as Mr Miles Swan
- c) Ms Okeroa Rogers, recorded as Mr Okeroa Rogers

**Resolved: (Cr Raumati/Mrs Heta)**

**THAT the minutes of a meeting of Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 1 December 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting, with amendments as listed above.**

**CARRIED**

**MMCC2303/02**

## **APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE SECRETARY**

The Chairman called for a volunteer from committee members, to take the role of Committee Secretary. Jacob Calvert offered his services, if no-one else was willing and Josephine Baker offered her services. The Chairman accepted Josephine Baker's offer and Josephine was officially designated the Meremere Community Committee Secretary and took up her position immediately.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Meremere Works and Issues Report**

Agenda Item 6.1 (there were no updates to report since the December 2022 MMCC meeting, therefore, the December 2022 report was received for reference.

The following items were discussed:

- **Street Lighting in Naho Place**

Mr Katu asked if the street lighting in Naho Place could be replaced as these had been removed several years ago, but now that there were several new homes in Naho Place, replacement of the street lighting should be considered for security reasons.

- Ms Pauline Giles and Dylan Herewini would look into this as lighting may have been deliberately removed by WDC (Waikato District Council) many years ago at the same time residential houses were removed, for safety reasons.

- **Footpaths in Naho Place**

Mr Katu also noted that there were no footpaths in Naho Place. Discussion around whether this was a health and safety issue, especially if there were children navigating

Naho Place to school or the shop. A point was made that footpaths were an asset to the community and Council.

In response to Cr Raumati asking if Meremere wanted footpaths, Mr Katu resolved to ask the residents of Naho Place, if they wanted footpaths, which would determine the need for footpaths and drive future Committee discussions on the issue.

- Toilets on Lower Sports Field

Mr Swann raised the issue of inadequate ablution facilities on the lower sports field (below the Meremere School). He said, every Thursday afternoon, there are 30+ children using the grounds for sports and with no toilet amenities, this is a concern for organisers.

Ms Heta said this important issue has been raised in previous years, but nothing has been done about it.

Ms Pauline Giles offered to raise the matter with the WDC Parks team.

Cr Raumati asked if the Meremere sports organisers had asked WDC if they could play touch on the lower sports field. Mr Swann answered in the affirmative to which Cr Raumati said she would check historical WDC records to see what ablution facilities had been on the field in years past. Further, she explained there is a process to follow to have an ablution block either installed or updated.

A further explanation about the process of Kirsty Wellington's team receiving the Committee minutes, extracting the resolutions from the meetings and Cr Raumati raising these points at Councillor meetings.

Ms Wellington explained the importance of utilizing the WDC's 'Service Request' process, a form which could be found on the WDC website or by ringing the WDC 0800 number, which ensured any issues raised went to the right team at WDC.

- Entrances into Meremere

Mr Calvert raised a concern about the two entrances into the Meremere Village from State Highway One. He feels the entrances do not reflect the beautiful Meremere environment as there is a lot of gorse and rubbish in those areas, which made the entrances look 'a little grubby'. It was advised by Cr Raumati that Mr Calvert submit a 'Service Request' to WDC on behalf of the Committee.

- Meremere Community Gardens Lawn

Ms Cecelia Heta questioned why lawn-mowing contractors mowed the area adjacent to her home, on Te Puea Avenue, but not the Meremere Community Gardens lawns, which was opposite her home, and formed part of WDC land. Cr Raumati advised Ms Heta to submit a Services Request form so that WDC staff could look into the issue.

- Walkway by the Waikato River

Josephine Baker questioned why the walking trail, which had been established along State Highway One, from the Island Block Road sign to the Orams Road intersection, had not been maintained as the pathway had become overgrown with grass and it was

difficult to enjoy the walkway now. Ms Baker was also advised to submit a Services Request form, at which, WDC staff would be able to determine who was responsible for the upkeep of this walking trail.

### Discretionary Fund Report

#### Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received and the following discussions held:

- Miles Swann asked what happens to funds that had been allocated in the report, but had not yet been spent. Cr Raumati advised that there were three options:
  - a) Complete the allocation commitment and spend the funds
  - b) Re-allocate the funds to a new project
  - c) Return the funds to the Discretionary Fund pool.
- There was a discussion about all three 'commitments' in the report where funds had not been expended. When asked by Mr Chairman, Ms Baker said she had a personal laptop which she would use for Committee secretary duties and did not need a new laptop, nor did she want the responsibility of having to care for a laptop if the Committee purchased one. The other commitment items were still pending.
- Mr Calvert moved to strike the laptop but this was deferred until further discussion.
- Cr Raumati asked where the quotes were for all commitment items and the Chairman explained that WDC expected the Committee to purchase the items and then apply for a reimbursement. Cr Raumati will investigate the current status of the commitment items. Mr Calvert then withdrew his motion.

### Councillor's Report

#### Agenda Item 6.3

Ms Wellington gave a verbal report (Recovery Team Report) on the WDC Cyclone Gabriel strategy. In response to a question by J Calvert, Ms Wellington said some strategies had been action by WDC and some were still pending. Mr Chairman advised he had received emails from WDC regarding updates on the strategy.

Ms Heta queried a supposed meeting of Councillors in Meremere, some weeks prior, to discuss the Gabriel Cyclone. No committee members knew of any such meeting. Cr Raumati indicated a Council-wide meeting had been held at Port Waikato, after the cyclone, as it was the area most severely impacted.

Cr Raumati gave a verbal report and answered questions from the Committee. Discussions included:

- a) Weather events had impacted WDC priorities relating to WDC services and funding priorities.
- b) In February 2023 a self-reliant programme was instigated to focus on getting all local communities in the district to work towards Civil Defence strategies and building

resilience. Cr Raumati indicated her admiration for the Meremere community and viewed this community as being resilient.

- Advised there are some by-laws coming up relating to public places, traffic and cemeteries, dogs on leads, which were explained and an invitation was issued to have our say via the WDC submission process.
- Several other discussions relating to the Bambina rally starting this week, one last funding round in June 2023 for Trust Waikato, Department of Internal Affairs funding opportunities and security cameras for Meremere via a Hamilton City council provider. Where to put the cameras in Meremere, needed to be discussed.
- The issue of boy racers and the cost of this social group on the WDC community at large was also raised. Cr Raumati invited support for the pending changes to the traffic by-laws to help alleviate the boy racer issues, via a WDC submission.

## General Business

### Meremere Superette Security

As a follow up to the Meremere Superette owners, (Mr and Mrs Singh) attending the 1st December 2022 Committee meeting to seek support to alleviate further threats of the armed robberies they had experienced in 2022, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Singh, Josephine Baker tabled a written proposal, including three written quotes, to install security measures, which focused on automating the front gate and front door and installing a security camera to monitor an untoward activity at the front gate.

When asked by the Chairman what the Singhs wanted from the Committee, Mr Singh replied that they needed financial support to implement the quoted security strategies. He said he and his wife could not afford the financial outlay, due to a major decline in their turnover as a result of the armed robberies, last year.

There was much discussion amongst committee members, about whether the Committee could support the Singh's with this matter, including:

- Mr Calvert said he had been to the superette and spoken to the Singh's and could organise automation of the gate for approximately \$3,500.00 as opposed to the current quotes.
- Whether the Discretionary Fund was an eligible avenue, for funds, given this was a Meremere-wide issue as there was a possible risk that the superette would close in the event of any further attacks, leaving the community without it's only local convenience store. Council staff and Cr Raumati stressed the criteria for applications for Discretionary Fund funds and expressed doubt that the proposal would meet this criteria, due to it being a commercial enterprise.
- Cr Raumati suggested the Meremere community could consider fund-raising to help the Singhs install the security measures they needed, or apply for funding from various organisations to pay for the security measures, which she then outlined.

- Lauren Wisman offered to look at the proposal to determine if the Meremere Development Committee could assist with applying for funding. Ms Baker would email the proposal to Ms Wisman the next day.

The Chairman suggested that the Committee consider options to help Mr and Mrs Singh, including an application to the Discretionary Fund Committee, as a previous application to same, for a similar superette incident, had been successful. The committee would also look at the LT Plan to see if there were avenues to benefit the Meremere community, in general.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at approximately 9.15pm.

Minutes approved and confirmed this    day of    2023.

**Mr J Katu**  
**CHAIRPERSON**