
Agenda for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee to be held in the Meremere Community Centre, 21 Heather Green Avenue, Meremere 2474 on **THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST 2026** commencing at **7:00 PM.**

Information and recommendations are included in the reports to assist the Committee in the decision-making process and may not constitute Council's decision or policy until considered by the Committee.

The meeting will be opened with a karakia.

1. PRESENT

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3. CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

The register of interests is no longer included on agendas, however members still have a duty to disclose any interests under this item.

5. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Minutes for confirmation for a meeting held on Thursday, 25 June 2026.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

7. REPORTS

7.1 Meremere Community Committee Discretionary Fund Report to 30 June 2026

7.2 Meremere Works & Issues Report - August 2026

7.3 Councillors Report: August 2026

7.4 Chairpersons Report (*Verbal*)

7.5 Board Members Update (*Verbal*)

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

CL Hobbs
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

MEREMERE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Chairperson:	Haydn Solomon
Deputy Chairperson:	Ben Brown
Membership:	One Ward Councillor (Marlene Raumati) Five community representatives (Benjamin Peters, Okeroa Rogers, Tash Hall, Jamie MacGregor, Chayse MacGregor)
Meeting frequency:	Six weekly
Quorum:	Half of the members if even or + 1

It is noted that the community committee terms of reference (TOR) are being reviewed at present and are likely to be revised again, as part of the representation review, in early 2027. In the interim these TOR apply to the four community committees listed on page 51.

Election and election process

1. Members of community committees shall be elected on a three-year cycle, following the local body elections and after the establishment of a governance structure with TOR.
2. Elections shall be held by public meeting conducted by the chief executive of Council or their nominee, at which candidates will be nominated and elected (the elections meeting). The elections meeting shall be conducted in a manner deemed appropriate by the chief executive.
3. Council will advertise the public meeting and call for nominations to the committee.
4. Any vacancies occurring during the term shall be filled as deemed appropriate by both Council and the committee. The committee may, by resolution, co-opt members to assist as required if the number of members does not exceed the maximum specified in paragraph 1 of the membership of community committee section (see below).
5. Council may assist in filling vacancies as appropriate.

Purpose

The Meremere Community Committee (the Community Committee) is set up by the Waikato District Council (Council) to deal with local issues on behalf of Council in the township and surrounds of Meremere

Roles and delegations

The community committee's role shall be as follows:

1. Represent and act as an advocate for the interests of its community.
2. The consideration of and reporting on all matters referred by Council or any matter of interest or concern to the community committee.
3. Maintain an overview of services (e.g., road works, parks, recreational facilities, community activities, and traffic management) provided by Council within the community of Meremere.
4. The preparation of an annual submission to the budgetary process of the Waikato District Council for expenditure within the community of Meremere.
5. Communication with community organisations and special interest groups within the community of Meremere.
6. In the event that the committee that doesn't have specific discretionary funding to allocate, the committee can make an application to Council's Rural Ward Discretionary Fund for the funding of specific projects or events. These grants are available for projects and initiatives in rural areas and areas that are not served by a community board or other committee that receives discretionary funding.
7. To work with the elected hall committee to ensure the management and administration of halls within the Meremere area.
8. Any other function and duties may be delegated from time to time to the community committee by Council.
 - a. Pursuant to sch 7, cl 32(3) of the LGA, any sub-delegation of these responsibilities, duties and powers by community committee is hereby expressly prohibited.

Membership of community committee

1. The membership of the community committee shall consist of not fewer than three and no more than 12 elected members plus appointed member(s) from Council.
2. In line with representation reviews and any applicable Local Government Commission determinations, councillor(s) elected in the ward representing the community committee area shall be community committee members either by election or appointment.
3. The role of the appointed councillor(s) shall be the liaison link between Council and the community committee.
4. Community Committee members (of the four committees stated on page 51) are expected to act in accordance with Council's code of conduct and standing orders at all times. This includes the obligation to declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest in relation to matters under consideration.

Chairperson

1. The community committee shall appoint a chairperson from within its membership.
2. The community committee shall appoint a deputy chairperson from within its membership.
3. The community committee shall appoint a secretary from within its membership.
4. For community committees with the delegation of discretionary funding, they will need to appoint a funding representative to work with council staff.

Meeting procedures

1. The community committee shall follow the general principles of the New Zealand Standards (NZS 9202:2003) Model Standing Orders including Amendment 1 for Meetings of Local Authorities and other public bodies.
2. Any variance to the standing orders can be decided by a simple majority vote of those members present at a meeting.
3. A quorum of members of the committee shall consist of no fewer than five members.
4. The committee will be responsible for completing, and submitting to Council's Democracy team, minutes for each committee meeting in accordance with guidance provided by Council.
5. Members of the public and external presenters (including Council staff) will be treated with respect and courtesy by committee members.
6. All councillors are entitled to attend community committee meetings and are granted 58 speaking rights on agenda items and general matters. Aside from those formally appointed as members of the committee, attending councillors do not hold voting rights.

Communication

1. The objective is to retain quality relationships between Council and the community committee and the community committee and the public.

Responsibilities of Council

1. Council agrees to hold at least one combined workshop per annum, at which Council will participate with all community committees in discussing issues of mutual interest and clarification will be given on future Council direction.
2. Council may accept representations from the community committee at its ordinary meetings on issues of significance contained within the community board minutes.
3. Council employs the chief executive, and the chief executive employs all staff. The chief executive is accountable to Council, not to the community committee.

Winding-up of the committee

1. The committee may be wound up by resolution of Council in consultation with, or as a result of a request from the committee.

To	Meremere Community Committee
Report title	Minutes for confirmation for a meeting held on Thursday, 25 June 2026.
Date:	6 August 2026
Report Author:	Elizabeth Saunders, Senior Democracy Advisor
Authorised by:	Gaylene Harvey, Democracy Manager

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To confirm the minutes for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee (MMCC) on Thursday, 25 June 2026.

2. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Meremere Community Committee confirms the minutes for a meeting held on Thursday, 25 June 2026 as a true and correct record.

3. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

1. MMCC Unconfirmed Minutes - 260625 - final

MINUTES for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held at the Meremere Community Centre, 21 Heather Green Avenue, Meremere on **THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2026** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Mr H Solomon (Chairperson)
Ms T Hall
Mr J Macgregor
Councillor M Raumati

Attending:

His Worship the Mayor, Mr A Bech
Mrs K Wellington (Manager, EPMO)
Ms H Jansen (Transformation Office)
Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)

Public Attending:

Five (5) members of the Public, including:
Ms C Heta
Mr R Chester
Mrs E Kinsey

The meeting opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Agenda Item 1

Resolved: (Mr Macgregor/Cr Raumati)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee accepts the apology of Mr Ben Brown for non-attendance.

CARRIED

MMCC266/1

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 2

Resolved: (Mr Solomon/Cr Raumati)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 25 June 2026 be confirmed:

- a. with all items therein being considered in open meeting; and
- b. all reports be received.

CARRIED

MMCC266/2

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 3

There were no disclosures of interest.

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Agenda Item 4

Resolved: (Mr MacGregor/Ms Hall)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 14 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

MMCC266/3

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no issues raised in public forum.

REPORTS

Meremere Community Committee Discretionary Fund – 9 June 2026

Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received (*MMCC266/2 refers*), and no further discussion was held.

Meremere Works & Issues Report – June 2026

Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received (*MMCC266/2 refers*), taken as read and the following discussion was held.

CCTV Cameras:

- i. A question was raised regarding CCTV cameras and a privacy impact statement. It was noted that previous CCTV installations that were Council led that have generally been in public places, any footage recorded was not for the viewing of public or council staff and fed directly to the Police.
- ii. Members of the public noted that they had previously been given direction that Council hold footage of CCTV cameras and it was confirmed the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) representative will follow this up for the next meeting.
- iii. In closing the one-page brief attached to the report from the Facilities Manager was highlighted and it was noted that if further feedback is presented the Councillor will be happy to take this back to Council.

ACTION: SLT representative to follow up on Council responsibility re: footage and privacy of CCTV Cameras. Item to remain on the Works & Issues report.

Off-line Committee Discussion – Gifts for previous members:

- i. No further discussion was held.

ACTION: Item to remain on the Works & Issues report.

66 Te Paea Avenue – Community Engagement:

- i. The Committee noted that it was very clear from the presentation provided by the General Manager, Assets & Infrastructure at the last Meremere meeting what was being reported on and the position of both the Committee and Council.

- ii. The Committee wanted it noted for the minutes that the position of the Committee remains unchanged and any correspondence from other members of the community is not shared by the Committee and they remain supportive of the approach from Council.

ACTION: Item to remain on the Works & Issues Report.

Discussions with Waikato Tainui – Chairperson:

- i. The Chairperson noted he had a discussion with Tainui Group Holdings and they will appear at the next meeting to address the Committee.
- ii. A property on Springhill Rd as you enter into the village was highlighted as being in need of attention and cleaning as it looks unkempt.

ACTION: Item to remain on the Works & Issues report.

Projects Update:

- i. No further discussion held.

ACTION: Item to remain on the Works & Issues report.

Chairperson's Report (Verbal)

Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received (*MMCC266/2 refers*), and the following discussion was held:

- i. Next Thursday 2 July there will be a soil turning ceremony at the site of Green Steel Ltd.
- ii. The hearing, for the extension of current limits for the rubbish dump at Hampton Downs, was being held next Thursday 2 July as well. The consent holder is looking at an extension of the current limits of landfill until 2050 which appears to have opposition in the community.
- iii. It was noted by the Committee that the opposition from the Community in regard to the extension of the rubbish could be related to the communications that were released. The Community thought that the hearing was for new limits of landfill rather than an extension of existing limits so the way this was communicated could be looked at and better work done moving forward.

Councillors Report

Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received (*MMCC266/2 refers*), taken as read and time was provided to His Worship the Mayor, Mr A Bech, to discuss the Head Start Pathway initiative:

- i. His Worship addressed the Committee and members of the public and gave an overview of the history of local government reform.
- ii. An overview of the options being considered was provided along with the ten (10) key criteria government are looking for with any proposals submitted from Councils.
- iii. His Worship noted that a high-level proposal would be submitted by 9 August and the government would come back by September 2026 with a decision on whether the proposal would proceed.
- iv. If the proposal is accepted Council have until March 2027 to provide the finer details and then public consultation will commence in May or June 2027.
- v. Four options are currently at the forefront: All of Waikato Region, Hamilton Metro and Waikato Towns; Hamilton-Waikato-Waipā and Do Nothing (let government decide for us).
- vi. An overview of the maps was outlined for the Committee with each map highlighted and what those options mean for the district.
- vii. Engagement forms were handed out to the Committee and members of the public for their consideration and the Senior Democracy Advisor confirmed that forms were also on the Council website and could be handed into the library.
- viii. The current debt levels of both Hamilton City (HCC) and Waikato District Council (WDC) have been discussed with WDC carrying a \$7,000 per ratepayer level of debt vs HCC that is carrying an \$18,000 per ratepayer level of debt.
- ix. It was noted that current unitary models like Auckland City are off the table for submissions or consideration however the Minister has advised if a very strong view existed from residents of Pookeno in the north to return to Auckland the conversations should be had.
- x. Mr R Chester noted that as of tonight (25 June), 92% of responses to a Facebook poll on the Pookeno Residents Facebook page was for a return to the Franklin Local Board area
- xi. It was confirmed that the Head Start Pathway consultation and submission forms were located on the front page of the Council website under "Have your Say".
- xii. Under s26 of the Local Government Act (LGA) Council have done everything possible to get out to communities within the district within the very limited timeframes given by Central Government.

- xiii. In closing His Worship noted the importance for everyone across the district to have their say and submit their thoughts on the options proposed or to even identify options that may not have been considered yet.
- xiv. Cr Raumati noted that Council were working with WEL Networks in regard to the lighting issue and hopefully it would be rectified by the end of July.

Committee Members Update (*Verba*)

Agenda Item 6.5

The following issues were raised by Committee members:

- i. There will be a formal poowhiri at Turangawaewae on Wednesday, 1 July to commemorate the 'go live' of IAWAI – Flowing Waters.
- ii. Ms C Heta advised the Committee there will be a Matariki event held next Saturday, 4 July in the Meremere Community and all whaanau are welcome to attend the Community Hall.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed with a karakia.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.19pm.

Minutes confirmed and approved on day of 2026.

Mr Hayden Solomon
CHAIRPERSON

To	Meremere Community Committee
Report title	Meremere Community Committee Discretionary Fund Report to 30 June 2026
Date:	6 August 2026
Report Author:	Catherine Murray, Finance Team Leader
Authorised by:	Paul Conder, Chief Financial Officer

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

The purpose of this report is to update the Meremere Community Committee on the Discretionary Fund spend to date, commitments and balance as at 30 June 2026.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopototanga matua

Six weekly report outlining total funding payments to date from discretionary funds 2025/2026.

3. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Meremere Community Committee receives the Discretionary Fund Report to 30 June 2026.

4. Background/Discussion

Koorero whaimaarama/Matapaki

Waikato District Council provides funding to the Community Boards and Community Committees to assist community groups, non-commercial groups and voluntary organisations operating within their district for events and projects.

5. Next Steps

Ahu whakamua

Continue to report to the Meremere Community Committee on the balance of the discretionary fund and provide any accountability reports as they are returned.

6. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

1. A - MMCC- Discretionary Fund to 30 June 2026

MEREMERE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE DISCRETIONARY FUND REPORT 2025/26 (July 2025- June 2026)**As at Date: 30-Jun-2026**

	GL	10-2090-0000-00-25904
2025/26 Annual Plan		1,550.00
Carry forward from 2024/25		14,498.61
Total Funding		16,048.61
Income		
Total Income		-
Expenditure		<i>excl GST</i>
23-Aug-25 Payment to Meremere Hall Committee to celebrate hall opening - 10th Anniversary inv 1099 23/08/2025	MMCC250//01	1,812.00
03-Feb-25 Transfer of \$500.00 to the Community Response Group per year	MMCC2308/01	500.00
27-Nov-25 Payment of \$600.00 (plus GST, if any) to Te Kauwhata Volunteer Fire Brigade for the Christmas Lolly Run inv00184 12.12.2026	MMCC2511/08	600.00
Total Expenditure		2,912.00
Net Funding Remaining (Excluding commitments)		13,136.61
Commitments		<i>excl GST</i>
01-Aug-23 Commitment of \$500.00 to the Community Response Group per year (maximum amount \$1,500.00)	MMCC2308/01	1,500.00
18-Oct-24 less \$500.00 transferred 18/10/2024 for FY2025		(500.00)
03-Feb-25 less \$500.00 transferred 03/02/2025 for FY2026		(500.00)
Total Commitments		500.00
Net Funding Remaining (Including commitments)		12,636.61

To	Meremere Community Committee
Report title	Meremere Works & Issues Report - August 2026
Date:	6 August 2026
Report Author:	Karen Bredesen, Executive Assistant
Authorised by:	Roger MacCulloch, General Manager Enterprise, Optimisation & Services

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To update the Meremere Community Committee and provide information on works and issues raised at previous meetings.

2. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Meremere Community Committee receives the Works & Issues report for August 2026.

3. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

1. MMCC W&I -6 August 2026

Works and Issues Report – August 2026

Meeting Date	Item and Action	Person/Team Responsible	Status Update
25/6/2026	CCTV Cameras SLT representative to follow up on Council responsibility re: footage and privacy of CCTV Cameras.	Asanka Meththa, Senior Infrastructure Project Manager	The ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) and bullet camera at Site 2, located at the intersection of Te Puea Avenue and Taniwha Street is live. The 360° and PTZ (Pan Tilt and Zoom) at Site 1 located near the Post Office on Te Puea Avenue, is still waiting for the fiber connection from Chorus, which they still have trouble connecting. The v-grid gateway will be installed in the next 2-3 weeks.
	Items to remain on the Works & Issues report		
1.	Committee to have an off-line discussion in relation to gifts & acknowledgement of previous Committee members.	Committee	No staff update required.
2.	Chairperson to initiate discussions with Waikato Tainui in relation the state of their property on Springhill Road.	Chairperson	No staff update required.
3.	66 Te Puea Avenue – Community Engagement		No staff update required.

To	Meremere Community Committee
Report title	Councillor's Report
Date:	Thursday 6 August 2026
Report Author:	Cr Marlene Raumati Waerenga-Whitikahu Ward

Purpose of the Report - Te Take moo te Puurongo

To provide a report since the Meremere Community Committee Thursday 25 June 2026.

Staff recommendations - Tuutohu-aa-Kaimahi

THAT the report from Cr Raumati for the June - July 2026 period be received.

Executive Summary - Whakaraapopototanga Matua

Head Start Draft Proposal

On Wednesday 22 July, Council met to discuss the findings of the recently conducted Head Start Pathway community engagements, and to determine the appropriate way forward for our district. Over a five-week period there were close to 1,350 interactions. Those interactions derived from a diverse set of communication channels and pathways.

From the “Quick-Poll” face-book pulse survey respondents put everyday affordability first. Maintaining and improving infrastructure, value for money, strong local voice for communities, consistent services, keeping council debt manageable, reducing bureaucracy and improving efficiencies, also featured as priorities.

However, from the website survey, the key significances were prioritised wiith reliable core services and infrastructure first, followed by strong local representation and voice, protecting rural voice from urban dominance, and affordable rates and value for money. Overall key findings were local representation, infrastructure and core services, and debt, rates and financial fairness.

In addition, the mana whenua and iwi voice identified stronger Te Tiriti partnerships, enhanced mana whenua participation and partnership, catchment and river-based governance, and preservation of established relationships.

The five criteria that every proposal will be assessed against is deliverability, supports the new planning system, simplifies local governance, economies of scale, and maintains local voice. These criteria are exactly what our communities have demanded.

Failing to submit a proposal by 9 August does not bode well. If we don't decide, central government's “Back Stop” substitution will. The risks from a back stop perspective could result in reduced local control, accountability without authority, financial and resource risk, reputational impact, and reduced flexibility. A back stop process would see reorganisation arrangements determined for the region rather than by it.

The evidence-based proposal, scheduled for ratification by Council Wednesday 5 August, is a proposal built around the river and its communities. The Waikato District Council proposal seeks to converge with Hamilton, Waipaa, South Waikato, and Taupoo. The success of this proposal depends on whether the parties agree to come together as a single Western Waikato Unitary Authority (“WWUA”).

The finer details are yet to be worked on. For example, ringfencing legacy debt, ensures that the debt each council brings, stays attached to them rather than being spread across the new entity. Moving forward, Council will determine

the scope of the proposal, governance direction, Maaori representation and partnership, financial principles and risk appetite.

Mayor Aksel will release a statement shortly after the 5 August Council decision.

Meremere CCTV Camera Project Update

The ANPR and bullet cameras located at the intersection of Te Puea Ave and Taniwha Street, have now been fully installed and are live.

The 360 degree and PTZ cameras at site 1 Te Puea Ave, are not yet live. Unfortunately, Chorus is experiencing difficulties locating their own existing fibre line to connect into. Everything else at this site is completed and ready to go, with the remaining connection dependent on Chorus.

The V Grid gateway is currently being programmed by SaferCities and will be shipped to Council once completed. This will allow Police to connect to the cameras for live viewing, with installation expected to take place over the coming weeks.

Programming and connection of the video feed to the centralised server in Ngaaruawaahia is now progressing.

JUNE CALENDAR 2026

Meremere Community Chairs Meeting	03 June
TKCC Meeting	03 June
TK JP Meeting	06 June
Council – Annual Plan Adoption	09 June
IAWAI Go-live Workshop	11 June
LGNZ Women’s Zoom	12 June
Audit, Risk and Opportunities Meeting	15 June
Development Agreements Meeting	15 June
LGNZ Briefing – Auckland’s Amalgamation	15 June
Roading Sub-committee Meeting	23 June
Councillor/ELT Briefing	23 June
Meremere Community Committee Meeting	25 June
Council Meeting	29 June
Reserves and Beaches Bylaw Workshop	29 June
Chief Executive Performance Committee	30 June

JULY CALENDAR 2026

IAWAI-Flowing Waters Official Inauguration	01 July
Green Steel Groundbreaking Ceremony	02 July
Whitikahu Head Start Community Engagement	06 July
Head Start Workshop	07 July
TK Domain Committee Meeting	07 July
North Waikato Wards Excursion	09 July
LTP Second Iteration	15 July
Mayoral Awards	17 July
Head Start Draft Proposal Update	22 July
Head Start Draft Proposal Iteration 2	27 July