
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, 14 MAY 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. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2. CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

3. 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.

4. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Minutes for confirmation for a meeting held on Thursday, 2 April 2026.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

6. REPORTS

6.1 Sale of 66 Te Paea Avenue, Meremere - Options

6.2 Meremere Community Committee Discretionary Fund Report to 23 April 2026

6.3 Meremere Works & Issues Report - May 2026

6.4 Chairpersons Report (*Verbal*)

6.5 Councillors Report

6.6 Board Members Update (*Verbal*)

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, 2 April 2026.
Date:	14 May 2026
Report Author:	Elizabeth Saunders, Senior Democracy Advisor
Authorised by:	Gaylene Kanawa, 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, 2 April 2026.

2. Staff recommendations

Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Meremere Community Committee confirms the minutes for a meeting held on Thursday, 2 April 2026 as a true and correct record.

3. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

1. 1MMCC Unconfirmed OPEN Minutes - 260402

MINUTES of a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held at the Meremere Community Centre, 21 Heather Green Avenue, Meremere on **THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2026** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Mr H Solomon (Chairperson)
Mr B Brown (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms T Hall
Mrs C Macgregor
Mr J Macgregor
Ms O Rogers
Cr M Raumati

Attending:

His Worship the Mayor, Mr A Bech
Ms M May (General Manager, Assets & Infrastructure)
Mrs K Wellington (Manager, EPMO)
Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)

Public Attending:

Seven (7) members of the Public

The Meeting opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies for this meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

Resolved: (Mr Brown/Mr Macgregor)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 2 April 2026 be confirmed:

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

CARRIED

MMCC264/1

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Ms Rogers noted the acknowledgement of recently retired long time Community Committee members Mr Jim Katu, Ms Lauren Wismans and Ms Cecilia Heta and noted the requirement of the Committee to have a discussion in regards to purchasing gifts for these members.

ACTION: Committee to have an off-line discussion in relation to gifts & acknowledgement of previous Committee members.

Resolved: (Mr Brown/Ms Hall)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 19 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

MMCC264/2

PUBLIC FORUM

The following issues were raised in Public Forum:

(Te Kauwhata Fire Brigade)

- Ben introduced himself to the committee and confirmed attendance tonight was to touch base and check in with the community.

- A brief discussion ensued around smoke alarms and who the correct organisation was to test alarms.

(Meremere Puutaiao Society - Powerpoint Presentation)

- Mr C Tasker addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the Meremere Puutaiao Society.
- There is a focus on education at a rangatahi (youth) level, as well as community gardens and the Whangamarino Wetlands.
- The work being undertaken comes under four (4) categories: Meremere Reserve Restoration, Te Araroa Walkway Integration, Community Gardens and Education.
- The Society are seeking the support of the Meremere Community Committee with the work they are undertaking.
- It was noted that Storyboards have been created for Meremere but not yet ready to erect. Once the pou are ready the Committee will be advised by kaumatua (community elders) and a full presentation will be provided.
- Further information in regards to this initiative and society can be found at www.meremerepuutaiao.org.nz and although the content is light there is more information being loaded onto the website.
- The Committee will have further discussions over the next six (6) weeks to give members a chance to look over the full presentation.

REPORTS

6.1 66 Te Puea Avenue (Verbal)

The General Manager, Assets & Infrastructure addressed the Committee with a verbal discussion on 66 Te Puea Avenue with the following points noted:

- It was noted that community engagement and consultation had been undertaken previously.
- The Council Playground Strategy was outlined for the Committee and further information provided.
- Council are aware of the concern in the community if the property was to be sold and what would happen with the playground and noted that a further conversation needs to be had with the community to get feedback on the best way forward.
- If Council proceeds with the sale of 66 Te Puea Ave, all monies from the land sold goes back into the district wide pool which would be reliant on a Council resolution.
- Conversations have been had with the Church that is using the building and they are aware that Council are looking at selling the land.

- It was noted that the community Pastor of the church was not aware of Councils intentions to potentially sell the land until a recent Facebook post on the community pages.
- The building has been used by many members of the community over the years for events and the Committee noted that assurance from Council is required that the Pastor will be engaged with and further discussions will be had.

ACTION: Council to engage with the Church Pastor and provide current information for discussions to be had.

- It was confirmed that there is no right of first refusal for this piece of land.
- A brief discussion was held in relation to the ongoing costs to Meremere Ratepayers if this piece of land is not sold. be if the land is kept?
- It was noted that significant maintenance is required for the piece of land and it was further noted it would be great if the potential purchaser of the land had an ongoing investment in the community.
- It was confirmed that the playground equipment will be going to the whaanau who the playground was dedicated to which is located at 65 Te Puea Avenue.
- A discussion ensued with the Committee with members giving their point of view and the general consensus is that any sale of community assets is not the best outcome as once it is gone it is gone forever.
- It was confirmed there is no rush on the timeline for a decision to be made by the community as the piece of land is a long way off from going on the market.
- It was confirmed that Council will obtain further information in regards to both the frequency of use of the Bus stop and the Pataka Kai cupboard which are both located at 66 Te Puea Avenue and what alternative locations these can be relocated to.

ACTION: General Manager Assets & Infrastructure to frame up questions for the Community Committee to present at the next meeting.

6.2 Discretionary Fund Report to 28 February 2026

The report was received (*MMCC264/1 refers*) and the following discussion was held:

- The Senior Democracy Advisor advised the commitment the previous Committee made to pay \$500 a year (up to a maximum amount of \$1,500) to the Community Response Group and noted that 2x \$500 payments have been made to date a third and final payment pending for this year.

6.3 Adoption of Standing Orders

The report was received (*MMCC264/1 refers*) and the following discussion was held:

- The options around the Chairperson's casting vote was explained by the Senior Democracy Advisor and examples were provided.
- His Worship the Mayor advised what Council has voted for in regards to the casting vote options for the Chairperson and outlined both the pros and cons.
- The Committee discussed the options and chose to adopt Option 1 (default standing orders) for the 2025-28 triennium.

Resolved: (Mr Brown/Ms Hall)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee adopts the Waikato District Council 2025 Standing Orders, with the following amendments:

- a. Incorporate SO 13.7 "Right to attend by audio or audio-visual link" into the Waikato District Council Standing Orders; and
- b. adopts Option 1 in regard to the Chairperson having a casting vote (Option 1); and
- c. chooses Option C as the default option for speaking and moving motions, for all Waikato District Council and Committee meetings.

CARRIED

MMCC264/3

6.4 Meremere Works & Issues Report – April 2026

The report was received (*MMCC264/1 refers*) and the following discussion was held:

CCTV Update:

- The update as stated in the report was provided with priority locations outlined for the committee.
- Whilst it was acknowledged that this was not the full solution as originally desired this is a good solution and good progress has been made and the committee were pleased to see type of cameras noted in the report.
- The direction from the committee at the last meeting was to get answers in relation to the original fund for CCTV (for Te Kauwhata & Meremere) and what happened to that funding.
- Cr Raumati had a discussion with the CCTV Project Lead and provided the history and context of this project which has been ongoing. The Business Owner has been asked to undertake a review of this project which will be completed and outcomes shared with the Committee once completed.

- In terms of a camera at the Southern end of the village this discussion is still ongoing and there is no funding for this option from Council at this time.
- The community & committee would prefer to have a camera located on the Springhill Rd/Te Puea Ave intersection as this is the main entry and exit out of the village.
- It was confirmed that the next step is to wait for the project review to come back to the Committee before further discussions take place.
- It was queried whether the Committee would consider putting some equity into the project and look at the potential of providing some funds to assist Council and work collaboratively moving forward. A further discussion will be held with different funding options considered.
- With all the issues and damages made to properties it could also be worth getting a report from NZ Police on the total number of incidents reported as this will show the need for the CCTV camera and could support further funding.
- Is a collaborative approach something that can be discussed with the Council Project Owner? It was confirmed that the Committee will wait for the review to be completed, put the proposal on the table and discuss further with the General Manager Assets & Infrastructure.

6.5 Councillors Report

The report was received (*MMCC264/1 refers*), taken as read and it was noted that all Committee members are welcome to attend all open meetings in the Council Chambers and the Senior Democracy Advisor confirmed calendar appointments had been sent to the Committee Chairperson.

6.6 Chairpersons Report

A brief written report from the Chairperson was tabled at the meeting (attached to the meeting minutes) and the following issues were raised:

- Mr Ben Peters resigned from the Committee yesterday (Wednesday, 1st April) via email effective immediately and the resignation of Ms C Heta at the last Committee meeting was also formally acknowledged.
- As a newly elected Committee there are a number of requirements we need to address regarding our Terms of Reference, namely our conduct, membership and roles.

- Our current membership number as a committee stands at 6. The committee can operate with a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 12 members. The committee can either co-opt community members or continue to operate with 6 members.
- In accordance with our Terms of Reference the Committee need to appoint a Secretary and a Funding Representative. The Senior Democracy Advisor confirmed she will continue to collate the agenda and meeting minutes until a secretary stepped forward.
- The Senior Democracy Advisor also outlined the role of the funding representative and what the role entails. The Senior Democracy Advisor is happy to conduct any training with members who wish to take on these roles.
- With the adoption of the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct the Chairperson noted the need to also be mindful of the following points:
 - i. 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; and
 - ii. The treatment of Council officials, staff and representatives with the utmost respect and courtesy at all times.
- The Chairperson has invited the following organisations to be present at the next meeting to speak to their various projects that have a direct impact on our community:
 - iii. Te Araroa Trail Trust
 - iv. Ward Construction Ltd
 - v. National Green Steel Mill Ltd
 - vi. Waikato Tainui re: Power Station
 - vii. Waikato Regional Council re: Whangamarino Wetland.

6.7 Board Members Update (Verbal)

The following issues were raised by the Committee members for discussion:

- On behalf of the Committee and the Community it was queried whether the Chairperson would initiate discussions with Waikato Tainui regarding the state of their property located on Springhill Rd where berms are overgrown and general state is untidy.

ACTION: Chairperson to initiate discussions with Waikato Tainui in relation the state of their property on Springhill Road.

- The Committee could look at using some Discretionary Funding to facilitate working bees in the Community for the purpose of 'beautification work'. Funding could cover sausage sizzle and cleaning products and the committee could really encourage the community to put some elbow grease back into the village.
- The property on Springhill Rd as you are coming into the Village on the left hand side is unkempt and overgrown and needs to be maintained and does not set a good view for visitors coming into the village.
- It was confirmed that Meremere Reserve is a Council Reserve and the neighbouring property is owned by Waikato Tainui. It was noted that the planting undertaken looks great but waste was dumped on the neighbouring property once planting was completed.
- The Committee could potentially look at assisting Council by having discussions with those members of the community that are causing damage or dumping rubbish however it was noted that the members of the committee are not Police and cannot enforce any action.
- Mr Brown noted an application for funding of murals for Meremere had been lodged with the Creative Community Scheme committee and the meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15th April.
- It was further noted by Mr Brown that he has been successful in obtaining \$5,000 of funding for pest control in Meremere and it was noted that the committee want to stretch that money as far as they can to assist the village.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed with a karakia.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.07pm.

Minutes confirmed and approved on day of 2026.

Mr Hayden Solomon
CHAIRPERSON

To	Meremere Community Committee
Report title	Sale of 66 Te Puea Avenue, Meremere - Options
Date:	14 May 2026
Report Author:	Megan May, General Manager Assets & Infrastructure
Authorised by:	Megan May, General Manager Assets & Infrastructure

1. Purpose of the report

Te Take moo te puurongo

To present options for the Meremere Community Committee to consider in relation to the proposed sale of 66 Te Puea Ave, Meremere.

AND

To seek guidance on next steps to progress community engagement.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopotanga matua

Council is considering selling 66 Te Puea Avenue, Meremere (approximately 1,094 m²), a site that currently includes a small playground, patakai, a bus stop and a building occupied informally by a local church.

The building is ageing and requires repair and ongoing maintenance, creating ongoing cost to ratepayers.

Through Long Term Plan engagement in 2025, the wider district was asked whether to retain, dispose of part, or dispose of the full site; of 120 responses, 70 supported disposing of the site and 26 supported disposing of part.

Given the local impacts, staff then engaged directly with the Meremere Community Committee to advise them of Councils intent and seek feedback on the future of the assets on this site.

This report outlines options for disposal and potential mitigations (including playground, patakai and bus stop relocation) and seeks the Committees guidance on preferred next steps.

3. Staff recommendations Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi

THAT the Meremere Community Committee receives the Sale of 66 Te Puea Avenue, Meremere - Options report.

4. Background/Discussion Koorero whaimaarama/Matapaki

Through Long Term Plan engagement, the community was asked to provide feedback on the review of a number of Council-owned properties. This was a districtwide engagement because these properties are funded through general rates (i.e., all ratepayers contribute), not solely by the towns or villages where the properties are located.

One of the sites included in that review was 66 Te Puea Avenue, Meremere. People were asked whether they wanted to:

- a) retain the site as it is
- b) dispose of part of the site, or
- c) dispose of the site.

There were 120 responses: 70 people said they wanted to dispose of the site and 26 said they wanted to dispose of part of the site.

Following this feedback, staff have progressed further work on disposal options for 66 Te Puea Avenue for Council consideration through the Long Term Plan process.

Discussion:

Whilst the sale of 66 Te Puea Ave was approved through the LTP, staff understand this proposal has specific impacts for Meremere residents and therefore attended the recent Community Committee meeting.

Topics of conversation included the playground at 66 Te Puea Avenue, the patakai location, options for bus stop retention or relocation, potential approaches to selling the land, and whether any sale proceeds could support associated changes.

Staff were asked to provide a proposal to the Committee for consideration, and this report serves that purpose.

Rationale for disposing of the site

The site is costly to maintain due to the condition and age of the building, which requires repairs and ongoing maintenance. The building is currently occupied informally by a local church (no lease and no payment) and is used by a small number of the community, meaning the ongoing costs are not matched by broad community benefit. Since the previous Community Committee Meeting, WDC staff have been in contact with the Church Pastor and have advised of our intentions to dispose of the site.

Disposing of the property would reduce ongoing operational expenditure and the future liability associated with maintaining an ageing building. Meremere has an alternative modern community facility in the Meremere Community Centre (Heather Green Avenue), built in 2015. The hall is currently underutilised. Council has invested significantly in this facility and would like to see increased use. The availability of this alternative reduces the impact of the existing building being sold.

Methodology to dispose of the site

Council doesn't have a fixed methodology for sale; however, the sale should be fully transparent, publicly competitive and on the open market. The market and property characteristics drive the methodology. Subject to elected member approval, certain conditions may be able to be included in the sale methodology. An example of this would be if the tender option was used, potential purchasers could be required to include documentation outlining their intention with the property and then Council staff can evaluate the tenders against pre-determined criteria.

Relocation of the playground

Meremere currently has three playgrounds: two on Te Paea Avenue and a newer, larger playground at Te Whero Crescent.

The Te Whero Crescent playground was developed on the basis that the playground at 65 Te Paea Avenue would be removed. The equipment at 65 Te Paea Avenue is old and presents safety concerns; staff propose it be removed as part of progressing disposal and the old equipment will be donated back to the Carr family who are recognised at this site for their contribution to the community. Staff also acknowledge that the equipment at Te Whero Crescent may be less suitable for younger children than the equipment currently located at 65 Te Paea Avenue.

Maintaining three playgrounds is not considered feasible for a small community; visual inspections and operational safety checks cost approximately \$1,130 per month for the three playgrounds.

A potential mitigation is for Council to consider adding additional equipment at Te Whero Crescent to better cater for younger children.

A condition assessment of the play equipment planned to be removed at 66 Te Puea Ave will need to be completed and a decision made on how this could be used or disposed of.

Relocation of the patakai

The site at 66 Te Puea Avenue includes a patakai that provides a community benefit. If disposal proceeds, the patakai would need to be relocated to another suitable, accessible location. Staff propose engagement with the community to seek preferred location(s) for it to be moved to, and any practical considerations (visibility, access, proximity to other community facilities). Any relocation would be planned in coordination with community representatives to minimise disruption and ensure ongoing accessibility.

Locations that could be considered include 66 Te Puea Ave, the Hall/Library area on Heather Green or other sites suggested by the Committee.

Relocation of the bus stop

The site includes a bus stop that is used by the community and is located within the boundary of the property.

As the bus shelter is built with bricks, relocation of the existing asset would be difficult. Staff propose to either retain its current location, if an easement can be negotiated with the future owner. If this is not possible, the current bus stop will be demolished and a new shelter will be installed in the same location but within the road reserve, aligned with the footpath. This would require minor concrete works at the location to ensure a safe and accessible path remains available around the bus shelter for all users. An example layout of a bus shelter located at the back of the footpath is illustrated below.



Sale Proceeds

The Committee has asked whether there is potential for a portion of any sale proceeds to be used to support associated changes (for example, relocation of facilities or additional playground equipment). Any use of sale proceeds would be subject to Councils decision-making and relevant financial policies, noting that the property is currently funded through general rates (districtwide).

It is estimated that the cost to relocate the bus stop, relocate the patakai and move the play equipment would be approx. \$50-70,000 which would need to be funded by Council. Staff are open to receiving a request from the Committee if there is further support they are seeking, which will be presented to Council for consideration.

5. Next Steps

Ahu whakamua

Following presentation of this report and feedback provided by the Committee, staff propose to support the Committee to undertake engagement with Meremere residents to seek direction on the play equipment and preferred location(s) for the patakai to be moved to.

6. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

None

To	Meremere Community Committee
Report title	Meremere Community Committee Discretionary Fund Report to 23 April 2026
Date:	14 May 2026
Report Author:	Jennifer Schimanski, Support Accountant
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 23 April 2026.

2. Executive summary

Whakaraapopotanga 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 23 April 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 23 April 2026

MEREMERE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE DISCRETIONARY FUND REPORT 2025/26 (July 2025- June 2026)

As at Date: 23-Apr-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 - May 2026
Date:	14 May 2026
Report Author:	Karen Bredesen, Executive Assistant
Authorised by:	Kirsty Wellington, Enterprise PMO Manager

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 May 2026.

3. Attachments

Ngaa taapirihanga

1. MMCC W&I - May 2026

Works and Issues Report – May 2026

	Issue	Area	Action
1.	Committee to have an off-line discussion in relation to gifts & acknowledgement of previous Committee members.	Committee	
2.	Te Puea Avenue Council to engage with the Church Pastor and provide current information for discussions to be had.	Strategic Property	Discussions held with Irene. Church has expressed their interest in buying, if the decision is to sell.
3.	General Manager Assets & Infrastructure to frame up questions for the Community Committee to present at the next meeting.	Megan May	This item is covered in a separate agenda report
4.	Chairperson to initiate discussions with Waikato Tainui in relation the state of their property on Springhill Road.	Chairperson	

Projects Update (As of 28 April 2026)

Water

A major water leak repaired on the 180mm PE line on Friday 24 April 2026 by Waipa Civil. This required a lane closure on the State Highway.

Fortunately, the leak was on the electrofusion weld on the T in the roadside berm, so excavation of the highway was not required.

Wastewater

Background

Continuous renewals of all pump stations throughout the district to ensure optimal operation.

Progress Update

Waipa Civil/ Streamline have been engaged to carry out relining works in Meremere using a new UV cured resin technology, approximately 220m of pipe. This comes off the back of the wastewater network CCTV carried out earlier this year.

This work is due to commence late April. This will address the inflow and infiltration issues experienced in the Meremere WW network.

To	Meremere Community Committee
Report title	Councillor's Report
Date:	Wednesday 14 May 2026
Report Author:	Cr Marlene Raumati Waerenga-Whitikahu Ward

Purpose of the Report - Te Take moo te Puurongo

To provide an update on the activities of Councillor Raumati since the Meremere Community Committee Wednesday 2 April 2026.

Staff recommendations - Tuutohu-aa-Kaimahi

THAT the report from Cr Raumati for the May 2026 period be received.

Executive Summary - Whakaraapopotanga Matua

RATES REBATE ELIGIBILITY

Council's Rates Rebate Scheme is designed to aid homeowners, who are on a low income. Eligibility is determined by how much income is coming into the home, the number of dependants and how much one's annual rates bill is.

The maximum rebate is \$805.00. The closing date for property rebates for the 2025/2026 fiscal year is 30 June 2026.

<https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/rates/rate-rebates>

COUNCIL CONFIRMS BELOW INFLATION RATE INCREASE

Earlier this month, at a Draft Annual Plan meeting, Council approved a below inflation general rate increase of 2.8% and a resulting average rate increase of 3.79% including targeted rates.

Individual rated increases will vary for ratepayers according to the capital value of each property and the specific services they receive, such as rubbish collection. For properties connected to water services, there is a \$31.50 increase for drinking water and a \$110.72 increase for wastewater for the year – a total fixed charge increase of \$142.22 for 2026/2027.

The Annual Plan will be presented to Council in June, inclusive of forecast financial statements for the relevant year and will highlight any variations for the 2025/2026 LTP, such as the reduction. The Annual Plan will be adopted on 30 June together with the rates strike for the upcoming fiscal year.

GREEN STEEL FAST TRACK APPLICATION

Central government has approved the Green Steel Fast Track Application for the Hampton Downs Steel Manufacturing Plant.

The new plant will process about 200,00 tonnes of recycled steel annually. The project will reduce structural steel imports and reduce the amount of scrap steel being exported. Green Steel has collection

yards in Auckland, Hamilton, Putaaruru, Wellington and Christchurch. These yards recover metal resources from end-of-life vehicle, sheet metal, and beams.

The project is expected to create about two hundred skilled jobs in the region and will mean that the domestic industry can now re-use steel, using material sourced from across the country.

IAWAI-FLOWING WATERS

Inaugural Water Services Strategy

The IAWAI-Flowing Waters Strategy sets out a clear, long-term direction for water services across the sub-region. It provides a coordinated framework for how IAWAI will respond to rapid population growth, manage ageing infrastructure, meet increasing environmental and regulatory expectations, and continue delivering safe, reliable, and resilient water services.

The ability to plan and invest at a sub-regional scale will enable efficient delivery, smarter sequencing of infrastructure, and clearer alignment with growth and environmental objectives. The strategy also includes reduced water charge, down by \$247 per Waikato District households.

The financial model commits to a \$3 billion dollar capital programme over ten years to renew, upgrade and expand the network that our communities depend on. Smoothing price increases ensures that future users, who will benefit from past and current investments, will financially contribute.

The novation of the Watercare contract to IAWAI will ensure water services and commitments in Te Kauwhata, continue without interruption or variance.

Workshop Updates

Annual Plan	09 March
IAWAI	10 March
Annual Plan Overflow	11 March
Guidelines for Temporary Traffic Management	17 March
LTP – Core Services	24 March
LTP – Draft Timeline, Finance & Infrastructure Strat	08 April
LTP – Core Services (PEX)	22 April
Roading Corridor Bylaw	28 April
Roading Corridor Bylaw Part B	29 April

Council Meetings

Community Voice and Choice	10 March
Council	11 March
Roading Sub-committee	23 March
Council	23 March
Policy and Regulatory	31 March
Council	08 April
Community Voice and Choice	21 April

Other Meetings and Community Events

Te Kauwhata Community Committee	04 March
Whitikahu Tennis Club	12 March
Strategy, Growth and Finance Briefing	17 March
Whitikahu Hall	18 March
JP Meeting	23 March
Citizenship Ceremony	26 March
TK Domain Walkway	01 April
Meremere Community Committee	02 April
Dawn Ceremony TK College Wharekai	20 April
Rangiriri Council/Ngaati Naho	21 April
Solar Farm Opening	24 April
ANZAC	25 April

MAY CALENDAR 2026

Gordonton Woodlands Trustee Panel	01 May
Council	04 May
LTP Workshop	05 May
TKCC Meeting	06 May
Levels of Service Engagement Workshop	11 May
Roading Sub-committee	11 May
Strategy, Growth and Finance Pre-meeting Brief	11 May
Halls Workshop	12 May
MCC Meeting	14 May
Strategy, Growth and Finance	18 May
IAWAI Workshop	18 May
Assets and Infrastructure	19 May
Council	20 May
Seismic Risk Workshop	20 May
Orini Hall Meeting	21 May
Zone 2 Meeting	22 May
JP Meeting	25 May
Policy and Regulatory	26 May
Reserves and Beaches Bylaw Workshop	26 May