

POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of Pokeno Community Committee held on Monday 27 March 2023 at 7.00 pm at Pokeno Hall.

Present:

Allen Grainger (Chair), Helen Clotworthy (Deputy Chair), Ginny Bullock (Secretary), Ric Odom, Barry Birchall, Tricia Burns, Janet Baillie, Bronwyn Heath
Councillors: Kandi Ngataki, Vern Reeves, Peter Thomson

Visitors: Clive Morgan (WDC), Jason Marconi (WDC) , Jenny Wild (Waka Kotahi), Vishnal Ramduny (WDC), Carolyn Wratt (WDC), Emma Rankin (WDC), various members of the public

Apologies

Cecilia Heta

Moved Janet Baillie

Seconded Ric Odom

Confirmation of Status of Agenda

Moved Helen Clotworthy

Seconded Ginny Bullock

Confirmation of previous minutes 27 March 2023

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Helen Clotworthy

Disclosures of interest

The register of disclosures of interests is no longer included on agendas but PCC members still have a duty to disclose any interests under this item to the Chairman

PUBLIC FORUM

Chris Harvey from Marlborough Street raised the issue of privet and woolly nightshade at the bottom of the road and whether council would remove them as she has severe allergies. She was advised that Waka Kotahi is responsible for weeds on motorway berms

She also raised the problem that there are some footpaths on Marlborough but not all the way. Some of the streets in old Pokeno do not have footpaths as these are the responsibility of the developers

She was advised by the Committee that she should send WDC an email, or alternatively a phone call, and get the requests registered. She can also find information on the council website. Alternatively, she could contact any member of the Committee who can help her contact the council.

CORRESPONDENCE

In:

Email from NZ Blood Service via WDC regarding forthcoming blood collection in Pokeno on 26 April and asking for this event to be advertised as they did not have many people at the last event. A comment was made that they were due at 10.00 am and did not turn up until after 1.00 pm so they missed out on a number of donors

Various emails from WDC forwarded by Secretary Ginny Bullock to all committee members.

Out: Nil

REPORTS

Vishnal Ramduny from WDC presented a report regarding feasibility study for rail – north Waikato. This involved NZ Rail and an indicative case for rail in the next Long Term Plan including Te Huia stopping in North Waikato in the next 3-4 years.

NZ Rail was part of the project.

No funding for new stations in Tuakau, Pokeno or Te Kauwhata. There is land in Te Kauwhata and Pokeno but not in Tuakau.

Pedestrian overbridges would be needed and these are very expensive

Whangarata is not part of the study.

Draft report will be presented in a few months.

In the meantime a bus service is available from Pokeno but this should be increased to Pokeno/Papakura or Drury to connect with rail in the future.

Liam McGrath mentioned that Mainline Steam (based in Mercer) will be part of the discussions.

Carolyn Wratt from WDC spoke about the District Plan and 274 appeals. She advised that Councillor Kandi Ngataki is on the subcommittee. Any further information to support appeals should be advised to the Environment Court otherwise the Court will rule without any referral to WDC if no progress is made

Agreement

1 Engage parties 274, Havelock block, etc

2 Environment Court assisted mediation

3 Results to Environment court

Ric Odom explained how Pokeno Committee has appealed Variation 3 regarding 3x3 housing and WDC District Plan 2018 regarding zoning and subdivision has been delayed by Covid

Councillors' reports

Cr Kandi Ngataki advised that she has been busy in council. A Civil Defence committee is to be set up. Nothing further to report

Cr Vern Reeve advised new speed restrictions around Tuakau are now in place

Ginny Bullock advised that new speed limits are being ignored in Pokeno, particularly on Great South Road and Pokeno Road. She asked Clive Morgan whether it is possible to have the speed limits in Pokeno painted on the road to reinforce the new limits

NZTA report

Jenny Wild from NZTA gave a power point presentation on new Papakura/Drury SH1 Extension. \$2.5m for the next stage. She described new stormwater treatment plans

She described new safety issues for Bombay including installation of traffic lights. She advised that closing one of the off-ramp lanes southbound would not work which is why lights are being installed this coming summer

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Strategy and Growth

Ric Odom advised that the appeals to the WDC are still in progress.

It is important that all WDC issues are advised to PCC in a timely manner. Point of contact for all communications to PCC is Secretary Ginny Bullock (ginnyb2108@gmail.com)

Finance

Helen Clotworthy again asked how funding from WDC is happening now as the old system has been abolished. There is now no money to run the committee's activities

She advised that the Committee still has not received payment of \$20700+ from the Council in compensation for the removal of a protected oak tree dating back to 2015.

Bank balance

Date Transaction Description Debit/Cheque Credit/Deposit Balance

10 Feb 2023 Opening Balance \$5,903.50

Santa Parade Pipe Band \$460.00 \$5,443.50

Santa Parade Signage \$74.00 \$5,369.50

27 Mar 2023 Closing date Closing Balance \$5,369.50

Account Balance \$5,369.50

Available Balance \$5,369.50

Moved Helen Clotworthy

Seconded Ric Odom

Communications

Work is continuing on improvements to our website, a Calendar/Events tab has been added to aid users to find out when and what's happening in the community.

We are also working on our Business Community adding new businesses to our Services section.

As will the latest updates from WDC and Waka Kotahi.

In the last month we had 239 users of which 115 new users of our website, viewers are from

New Zealand	99
United States	93
Ireland	22
Sweden	9
Australia	5
Indonesia	5
Canada	3

Moved Helen Clotworthy
Seconded Ginny Bullock

Facilities

Pokeno Sports Park Stage 2

400 trucks of dirt from Ridge Road and behind Yashili are being laid subject to weather. There will be an invitation to PCC members to inspect once complete.

There was an issue with water retention which is being addressed

Events

Allen Grainger advised the following events are in the pipeline:

“Round the Pokeno” Fun run/walk 2 April 9.30 am. Spot prizes, bouncy castle, lolly scramble, free sausage sizzle and iceblocks

Anzac Day Parade 25 April 2023 9.30 am

Santa Parade 2023 now 9 December 2023 at 6.30 pm

Ice Cream Day postponed until 2024 due to unavailability of resources

Community Patrol Report from Doug Rowe

It has been fairly quiet since the last report.

Countdown and Indian Takeaway at Market Plaza both had break-ins.

Incident regarding group of young girls running around late at night knocking on people’s doors and generally making a nuisance of themselves. Police were called and dealt with the situation.

Tuakau patrols now operating using patrol car previously used by Pokeno Patrol

Still looking for more volunteers – 31 at present but more always welcome

Meet and Greet

This is held every second Thursday morning at Pokeno Hall. Andrew Bayly MP to speak on his recent trip to Mongolia at the next meeting

NEIGHBOURING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Liam McGrath from Mercer Committee spoke about Mainline Steam. New shed is up for steam trains. Rolling stock being moved from all over the country to be based here. A working museum will be established
Ric asked about the steam train mural which used to be at Mercer and Liam advised that they hope to reinstate it.

He advised that their Anzac Daylight Service will be at 11.00 am at Mercer

Tuakau not operating at the moment due to insufficient members

KEY WORKS PROGRAMMES

Clive Morgan advised the following:

Pokeno Main Street

90 degree parking is approved for Wellington Street. Work will commence in about 4 weeks

Sports Park

\$3M+GST for earthworks to be completed by end-May

Carpark works to be completed by October 2023

Drainage/stormwater works to be completed by October 2023

New Toilet Block

This should be completed by end June 2023 with work for Elliott Park to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS

Clive also advised a new extended medical centre with physio, pharmacy is approved for 86 Great South Road

LTP

10 year time frame which is reviewed every 3 years with the first step is the economic situation across Waikato which starts 31 March prioritising any issues

There will be funding opportunities

The Mayor is looking at funding for committees and boards with a report due in the next month or so.

Civil Defence Group

Pre-Covid Todd Miller was the coordinator. However he has moved from the area so a new designated person as coordinator is required

There needs to be an area for a rescue helicopter to land safely.

A HQ is required. Pokeno Hall is suggested, or perhaps new marae, sports Park, Market Street as alternatives

Jason Marconi advised he is in discussion with Te Kauwhata and will report back

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Meeting dates for 2023 are below. 7.00 pm at the Hall

- Monday, 8 May 2023
- Monday, 19 June 2023
- Monday, 31 July 2023
- Monday, 11 September
- Tuesday, 24 October
- Monday, 4 December