

MINUTES of a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held in the Meremere Community Hall, 21 Heather Green Avenue, Meremere, on **THURSDAY, 08 June 2023** commencing at **7.10pm.**

Present:

Mr Jim Katu,(Chairperson)
Ms Josephine Baker (Secretary)
Ms Lauren Wismans
Mr Jacob Calvert (arrived 7.30pm)
Ms Cecelia Heta
Cr Marlene Raumati
Cr Paaniora Matatahi-Poutapu
Ms Kirsty Wellington (WDC staff member)
Waimiria Eketone)
Dylan Herewini) *Waikato District Alliance:*
Pauline Giles)

KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Offered by Cr Paaniora Matatahi-Poutapu

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr Ben Brown (Deputy Chairperson/Treasurer)

Resolved: (Ms Heta /Ms Wismans
CARRIED

MMCC2306/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday 08 June 2023 be confirmed and all items therein be considered in open meeting.

Resolved: (Ms Heta /Ms Wismans)
CARRIED

MMCC2306/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

Confirmation of Minutes

THAT the minutes of a meeting of Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 27 April 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Resolved: (Ms Heta / Ms Wismans)

CARRIED

MMCC2306/03

REPORTS:

6.1 MEREMERE WORKS & ISSUES REPORT

a) Matters Arising

Entrances into Meremere

Ms Wellington tabled a report from Glyn Morgan, (Open Spaces Team Leader), which highlighted the following points:

- The Open Spaces team looked at the possibility to support the roading team and gorse control but their primary contractor for this work signalled limited capacity to do so. No further action was taken by the Open Spaces team.
- The Open Spaces team will be meeting initially with Ngati Naho in the future to identify possible areas of opportunity across the Meremere Village for future projects or initiatives. This will include some of the gully areas and unmaintained areas that border residential properties or existing parks and facilities and currently the Open Space team is completing a stocktake to provide visibility of all reserve areas across the village and what sustainable long-term management of these sites could look like for the future, with input from stakeholders and the community. This could likely include the road corridors as part of a wider plan for the future and the Community Committee will be included as part of any future planning or opportunities to manage these areas. Updates will be provided as and when relevant in the future.

Meremere Community Gardens Lawn

- As Ms Heta was not present at the Meremere Community 27 April, 2023 meeting, she provided an update at this meeting. She has spoken to Krystal Walker from WDC but had not received a response, as yet. In the meantime, Ms Heta has spoken to the WDC contractors who normally mow the Council berms around the Community Gardens and they agreed to mow the Community Garden area.

- Ms Heta said the padlock on the Community Gardens gate was broken and needed to be addressed so that access to the gardens can be maintained. Mr Katu said he had a pair of bolt cutters and would cut the padlock so that a new padlock can be installed.
- Ms Wisman reported on the Matariki Garden Project. The area where the gardens were situated meant it would be difficult to get a trailer to the gardens to drop off supplies needed for the Matariki Garden project. To this end, Ms Wisman was considering purchasing bags of supplies (compost, vegetable mix, etc) as these would be easier to transport to the work area. The total cost for the Matariki Garden project was estimated at \$2,063.56.
- The working bee date for the Matariki Garden Project was Saturday July 8th, 2023. There was further discussion about whether a sausage sizzle would be offered to the working bee volunteers, which was opposed by Mr Katu. Ms Wisman would put a notice on the Meremere Facebook page to invite working bee volunteers from the community.

ACTION: Mr Katu to submit an application to the Discretionary Fund for the Matariki Garden Project. Ms Wellington said she would support Mr Katu to do this by enquiring about the application process from WDC staff.

Resolved: (Mr Calvert / Ms Heta)

That the Meremere Community Committee approve the \$2,063.56 funds required for the Matariki Garden Project.

CARRIED

MMCC2306/04

- Mr Katu enquired from Ms Giles (Waikato District Alliance) what the process would be to apply for road sealing from the Heather Green Road entrance to the bottom field. He was advised to include the matter in the LTP as the matter was not a roading issue.
- Cr Raumati suggested the Committee locate the Meremere blue print documents and go through these documents to review and re-prioritise the items on them, as some projects may now be redundant or may have a high priority. Cr Raumati further, suggested the Committee convene an ad hoc meeting for this purpose.
- When Mr Katu asked where he could find a copy of the current LTP, he was advised he only needed to ask WDC staff for it. Ms Wellington offered to begin the conversation with WDC staff in this respect and advise Mr Katu. Both Cr Raumati and Cr Matatahi-Poutapu would work with Ms Wellington to ensure the Committee received the relevant information in plenty of time to discuss Meremere projects leading into the WDC LTP 2024 timeframes.

- Cr Raumati advised Committee members to attend any workshops they were invited to and asked that we ensure Democracy have all our updated emails. Ms Baker advised she had provided Committee member email updates to Grace Shaw from Democracy, prior to her departure from her role and she had asked Democracy if all Meremere Committee members email addresses had been updated, but had not received a response as yet.

6.2.1 Discretionary Fund Report

- Cr Raumati conveyed an apology from the Democracy Manager regarding the reimbursement to Ms Wisman for the \$43.48 she had paid to purchase a gift for Melysa Tapiata's baby and that this and all other Disbursement reimbursements would be actioned at the July/August meeting.

Resolved: (Ms Heta / Ms Wismans)

CARRIED

MMCC2308/05

6.3 Councillor's Report

The report was received and Cr Raumati provided details on the following matters:

- Security cameras valued at \$77,000, which is a project between WDC and Hamilton City Council is due for rollout, for the Meremere community area, in the near future. It was proposed that two 360° cameras set up in the village with one opposite the Meremere Superette to assist with the security concerns of 2022 robberies. A number of smaller cameras would also be installed in locations agreed between WDC and the Meremere community. However, more discussion on the shop camera will be needed because the closed gates at the shop could pose a problem.
- Cr Raumati was working in consultation with Ms Wismans for the installation of fire alarms into 22 homes in Meremere, which were to be supplied and installed by the Te Kauwhata Voluntary Fire Brigade in collaboration with the Pookeno Voluntary Fire Brigade.
- An update on the City Care's Horticulture and Community Project to plant 2,000 daffodils in Meremere. Mr Katu, advised he had not been able to contact Mr Ben Brown to set a date for the planting. Ms Wismans informed the Committee that Mr Brown had been working long hours of late and had asked Ms Wismans to ask Mr Katu to go ahead with a plan.
- There was a reminder comment about the actions needing to be completed prior to the project rollout and these included:
 - Secure volunteers (minimum of six people)
 - Complete a Volunteer Form
 - Complete Health and Safety requirements, including training for volunteers
 - Co-ordinate with Antoinette from City Care
- Theresa Lang, Events Officer at WDC was overseeing the project and contact could be made with her and Antoinette from City Care.

- Mr Jacob asked Cr Raumati and Cr Matatahi-Poutapu why WDC felt they were not obliged to consult the community regarding the recent WDC announcement about the 7% increase in rates for the 2023/2024 financial year. Cr Raumati advised, she believed WDC were not legally required to consult with the community if rate increases were below a certain threshold, but she was not 100% sure what that threshold might be, but felt it could be 10%.
- Cr Raumati went on to explain the recent weather conditions damage had impacted severely on WDC budget proposals and alluded to the lower number of ratepayers in our Waikato region compared with bigger regions such as Auckland and if WDC were to afford their basic responsibilities (e.g. roading, rubbish etc) plus unexpected expenditure, such as the storm/weather damage, then an increase in rates was the likely outcome to resolving budget shortfalls. She further advised that there was a team of local representatives who meet to discuss and strategise community well-being issues.

Moved: Mr Calver/Mr Katu

CARRIED

MMCC2306/06

General Business

Rats issue in the Meremere Community

- Ms Baker raised an issue of seeing large rats (but not water rats) in the long grass of vacant sections, on Te Puea Ave and wanted to know if WDC could do something to encourage absent owners to cut their lawns as she felt the unkempt sections were a fire and health hazard to the community.
- Cr Raumati advised that WDC were not permitted to touch private land and to contact a local Pest Control entity. However, as the company was likely to be a private for-profit entity, the cost would be a barrier for anyone in the community to engage the company to address the issue.

Rubbish Dumping

- Illegal rubbish dumping seems to be escalating in the community and not only is it an eye sore but also a health hazard.
- Mr Katu asked if the berm on the corner of Te Puea Ave and Heather Green Ave could be mowed by Council as the grass was long, an eye-sore and a haven for breeding vermin. WDC representatives advised Mr Katu to put in a 'Service Request' via the WDC website.
- Ms Heta noticed there were many cars parking on the public footpaths, and asked if WDC could enforce stricter control of this potentially hazardous practice. Cr Raumati advised Ms Heta to check the WDC by-laws to see if there was a case to raise with WDC.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at approximately 9.05pm.

KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA offered by Cr Paaniora Matatahi-Poutapu

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2023.

Mr J Katu
CHAIRPERSON