1. **Apologies and Leave of Absence**

Received from; Chairperson Mr. Jim Katu, Lauren Wismans, Cr Marlene Raumati, Dominique Thurlow & Kirsty Wellington.

*Moved - Ben Brown (Deputy Chair)*

*Seconded - Ben Peters*

1. **Confirmation of the Status of the Agenda**

*Moved - Ben Brown (Deputy Chair)*

*Seconded - Ben Peters*

1. **Disclosures of Interest**

No new disclosures raised.

*Moved - Ben Brown (Deputy Chair)*

*Seconded - Ben Peters*

1. **Reports**

7.1 Discretionary Fund Application

Deeza Climo Chairperson of the Meremere Hall Committee joined the meeting to submit a proposal that requests funding support for the upcoming 10th Anniversary of the Meremere Community Events Centre.

The celebration is to be a free community event, promoting community spirit and wellbeing, with an aim to highlight the positive work being done within Meremere by committees, groups and council.

The Hall Committee submission requested a total $1812 in support.

Ben Brown Deputy chair Raised a vote to support and approve this submission for funding from the Hall Committee in its entirety.

The vote passed unanimously.

The submission from hall committee is included with the minutes, As well as a funding Submission from the Meremere Community Committee to District Council to approve the use of the Meremere Community Committee’s Discretionary funds to support the community event.

*Moved - Ben Brown (Deputy Chair)*

*Seconded - Ben Peters*

**5.** **General Business**

* Ben Brown (Deputy Chairperson)- Raised the Issue of the Sale of the Meremere Playground and Church at 66 Te Puea Avenue, currently owned by District Council. Mr Brown included in this matter the removal of a second playground being the Karr Memorial Playground.

All committee members present agreed they are unanimously and without reservation opposed to the District Council sale of the property at 66 Te Puea and the removal of the Karr Playground. The committee members are opposed on the basis that we cannot see how selling the property and removing the playgrounds is in the best interest of the Meremere Community, Although it may be in the interest of the wider district.

Ben Brown felt that the communication from district council had been limited at best regarding the sale of 66, and the removal of Karr playground

Jacob Calvert - Agreed with Ben Brown. Jacob noted that district council through a representative had early in 2024 asked the committee for feedback regarding the Sale of 66, At that time all except 1 committee member declared their opposition to the sale. The committee discussed that when this feedback reached council, It must have been lost in translation. At the time the Meremere Community Committee understood further information was being sort and returned to the committee to discuss further, This did not transpire.
Jacob also noted the matter had gone to public submission in November 2024, Submissions were likely limited due to low public engagement, But that does not mean there is a mandate or a hunger to sell the property.

Ben Peters - Clarified that the matter had been raised by Distrrict Council as a point of discussion, but that they had not asked officially asked the committee for a directive or the communities position, Only brief general discussions had been had.

Cecilia Heta - Stated that both playgrounds are extensively used by local children. There is hardly a time that you drive past and don’t see children using the facilities. The church is also in regular use.

Jacob - Called for the committee to vote to take immediate action to prevent the Sale of the Church and Playground at 66 Te Puea, and prevent the removal of Karr Playground across the road.

Ben Brown - As Deputy Chairperson formally raised Mr Calverts Vote. The committee members then voted unanimously to take immediate action to prevent the Sale of the Church and Playground at 66 Te Puea, and prevent the removal of Karr Playground across the road.

Meeting Closed.

*Moved - Ben Brown (Deputy Chair)*

*Seconded - Ben Peters*