1. **Apologies and Leave of Absence**

Chair Person Jim Katu Apologies received.

*Moved Cr. Marlene Raumati*

*Seconded Ben Peters*

1. **Confirmation of the status of the agenda**

*Moved Marlene*

*Seconded Cece*

1. **Public Forum**

Hayden has come to visit the group from Sport Waikato. He discussed funding that is available for the local sports grounds to assist with the operation of specific activities, He clarified the funding was not available for Capital Investment or 1 off events so much, But that sport Waikato look to support activities with things such as nets, equipment, coaching, transport, holiday programs support, All with a focus on children and young people.

1. **Disclosures of interest**

No new disclosures

*Moved Ben*

*Seconded Cece*

1. **Confirmation of the minutes**

Correction:Correction of the spelling of the Mayors name to JACQUI CHURCH

*Moved Lauren Wismans  
Seconded Ben Peters*

1. **Board Reports**
   1. **Meremere Community Committee Plan**

5.1 Taiao

Jacob Calvert Presented that with the support of Dominique Thurlow he was making connections with Predator Free Pokeno, To look at how Meremere could expand tour neighbours anti pest program in to our own community. Jacob spoke of the importance of promoting an anti predator program in Meremere with our geographical location being so close to the river and being surrounded by the Wetlands and patches of native bush, these places which are home to a spectacular array of birdlife but also harbour unwanted pests. Jacob Suggested that an annual investment from the group of $500 to reduce pest numbers would be of significant benefit to the community, And that he would be making a submission to this regard once all the information had been received and finalized.

Jacob Calvert also spoke about the Whangamarino Wetland group and that he would look to increase the connection and support between both groups.

5.2 Kotahitanga

Jacob Calvert recognized Haydn Solomon for his involvement with the meetings and for his support with the committees commitment to foster stronger partnerships with Ngati Naho for the benefit of our people.

Jacob Calvert spoke about the upcoming 10th Anniversary for the Community Centre. Jacob had spoken with the Hall committee who are hosting a community event to celebrate this momentous occasion. Jacob provided the group with an update as to the Hall Groups Progress, And proposed this committee offer additional support and guidance to the Hall Group. Jacob also proposed funding support be made available for the event if the Hall Committee made a submission, Jacob called for support for this incitive which was well received, on that basis he proposed additional Meremere Committee meetings to Discuss funding for the event and potentially receive a submission from the Hall Committees in time for the upcoming event. The group agreed to get together Monday 4th August 2025 to gather the necessary information, Then later meet in a formal setting under the pretense of a “Special meeting” to be held Friday 8th August 6pm.

In the mean time Jacob would meet again with the Hall committee and support their activities to ensure the deadline.

5.3 Engagement

Ben Peters reflected that the aim is to increase community involvement. Notably additional public are present tonight. A post was made on the Meremere Grapevine Facebook page for feedback about the Skatepark, Tennis pavilions and the Sports Field. We received a fantastic response with the community stepping up and sharing their thoughts. Submissions have now been launched for upgrades to these facilities based on the feedback. Submission for Sports field Improve access, Add Seating, Shade, Toilets, Lighting , Bins, Open the space to flexible activity use, Prevent Livestock Damage, maintain the area. A representative from *Waikato* sport spoke to the importance of a plan to use the facilities and spoke to the resources they can provide to assist in the use as defined in Public Forum. Funding for coaching could be made available to assist people to coach and organize and run the events.

Ben Peters shared that Submissions were now made regarding the Skate park, Shading, Seating, Toilets, Water Fountains, Improvement to the Bike track, More Accessible playground equipment for smaller children, Improved lighting, Bins, Signage, Maintain overgrown areas, Additional Planting, Educational Plaques. All locals want the area to feel safer and more inviting,

Ben Peters gave an update on the Tennis Court and Pavilion. It Has been a hub for youth, families and informal sports. A re-seal is planned at District Council Level, We received a great deal of feedback questioning this, Nets, More lighting, At BBQ Picnic Area, Support the return of community events, Explore future user of the tennis pavilion to enquire whether it can be made safe. With the nets done, And a re-seal on the cards, This is an excellent time to prepare the courts for regular use. The group is reminded that some of these areas may be subject to ongoing settlement negotiations.

Ben Peters and Chair Person Jim Katu are working on putting posters up around Meremere promoting these events etc.

Mr Katu suggested reaching out to the community about what activities are of interest to the community and who would like to lead these sports and activities. Ben Peters to action a pole on what activities people would like to get involved with.

Cr. Marlene Raumati suggested connecting with WRC for native plantings at the skatepark. Te Kauwhata Community Committee paid for the Shade cloth their, this funding did not come from the discretionary, But the Development committee may be able to assist in moving that forward. Marlene reminds the committee that the pavilion is subject to a Treaty Claim.

5.4 Successful and Thriving

Bethany Sheppard from the Economic Development team at Waikato District council has is visiting the committee to provide a brief around Takitini and Open Waikato. Open Waikato brand was launched in the last year and is gaining excellent traction. Takitini is designed to improve economic and business development in the area and better promote the Waikato region. A refreshed website has been launched to support the program. The website provides information on the advantages of and promotes doing business in the Waikato region, it has sections showing the districts heritage and culture, there are sections to support local talent, and it also helps businesses to navigate council services.

The 4 pillars of the Waikato District Council Economic Development Team are 1. Investment 2. Business Sustainability and growth 3. Workforce development

4. Support Youth Transition to Work

Cr. Marlene Raumati is actively promoting and advocating for local employment opportunities.

Haydn Solomon shared that an announcement is planned in 2 months regarding a plan for the use of the Meremere Power Station

5.5 Inclusive

Cecilia Heta spoke to the awesome work that her, Dominique Thurlow and Ben Peters have been achieving. On the 18th June they visited the Te kauwhata Community House to see what Te Kauwhata offers to their community. They shared pamphlet which shows what services are on offer through Te Kauwhata. The main purpose of the visit was to information gather and to see how we can meet and support the needs of our community within this Pillar. Angela the Chair person, Lauren the General Manager, Cr. Marlene Raumati, Cecilia Heta, Dominique Thurlow and Ben Peters then caught up to go over the details of the visit, and further discuss how to meet community needs with a particular interest in social services. Cecilia asked how we can take action, in response Ben Peters put together a pamphlet, which was read to the group (Submitted with the minutes). With regards to the Community Garden, Cecilia put together some notes with an update (Submitted with the minutes). Ceciclia encouraged a working Bee for the Gardens. – Action Cecilia to promote a “Call to Action” on Facebook to see who would be interested in helping with the Garden.

Cecilia Heta confirmed that a “Welcome Pack” has been designed and is on the way, To be delivered moving forwards to incumbent members of the community.

Cr. Marlene Raumati Championed the community’s Mana and spoke to a need for businesses who engage with this community, To do more to give back for this community. Haydn Solomon ‘looked to echo’ Cr. Marlene’s comments and the points she had made around what has been happening to Meremere.

*Moved Marlene*

*Seconder Lauren*

1. **Reports**
   1. **Discretionary Fund Report**

All Correct. Strong Position.

Cr. Marlene Raumati raised that the maximum commitment for the TK community response group is $1500. The chairperson called for a Voted which passed unanimously.

*Moved Cr. Marlene Raumati*

*Seconded Cecilia Heta*

* 1. **Meremere Works and Issues Report**

**Update on the CCTV work. They are working thro9ught the installation of the cameras tender at the moment. And working with the utilities company for the enabling works.**

* 1. **Councilors Report**

*Submitted as read*

1. **General Business**

Cr. Marlene Raumati raised that the Waikato District Council had put out a call for minutes which were not presently held on file. The Secretary Jacob Calvert clarified that he had been absent from the meetings in question so another person would have taken the minutes in his absence, for transparency Jacob Calvert shared the proof of texts of his apologies given for these meetings.

A Community member raised that at present people in Pokeno travel to Cox’s Bay Auckland to play touch rugby and that this could be an opportunity for the community sports fields.

Cr. Marlene Raumati suggested that we provide written reports on the Community Committee Plans and updates in place of verbal reports. This was well received by the group and Chairperson Mr Katu made this part of standing orders.

Ben Peters – Email from Sherryl Regarding Rubbish. Not heaps missed in Meremere, Most people are following the new System. Committee agreed Ben to Correspond with Sherryl regarding community success with this campaign and further matter that arise.

‘Casual’ non-public meeting to be held August 4th 7pm to discuss funding and pathway for Hall 10th Anniversary. More detail in Kotahitanga.

Special Meeting of the Meremere Community Committee to be held Friday August 8th 6pm 2025 to support Hall Anniversary Celebrations. More details in Kotahitanga.