
MINUTES of a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held at Meremere Library, 17 Heather Green Avenue, Meremere on **THURSDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2025** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Present:

His Worship the Mayor, Mr Aksel Bech
Cr Marlene Raumati

Staff attending:

Mr C Hobbs (Chief Executive)
Mrs D Thurlow (Community Led Development Advisor)
Ms S Flay (Strategic Advisor – Communications)
Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)
Mr M Henare (Customer Services)
Mr P Crabb (Watercare)

Public attending:

Mr Hayden Solomon
Ms Cecilia Heta
Ms Okeroa Rogers
Mr Jamie Macgregor
Mrs Chayse Macgreor
Ms Tash Hall
Mr Ben Brown
Mr Benjamin Peters
Ms Lauren Wismans
Mr Henare Rogers
Ms Sonia Graham

Seven (7) Members of the Public

The meeting opened with a karakia.

1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Cr Raumati/Ms Rogers)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee accepts the apologies from Cr Endine Dixon-Harris for non-attendance.

CARRIED

MMCC2512/1

TERMS OF REFERENCE & EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS

- His Worship addressed the Committee and outlined his vision for the next three (3) years of the 2025-2028 triennium.
- The Chief Executive outlined the Terms of Reference and expectations to the members of the public present.
- An outline of the governance support for the Committee was provided and the requirement for pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests to be declared.

Resolved: (Mr Solomon/Mr Peters)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee notes the expectations and requirements of Community Committees and their members for the 2025-2028 term.

CARRIED

MMCC2512/2

3. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Nominations:

Name: Benjamin Peters

Nominated by: Ben Brown

Seconded by: Sonia Graham

Name: Jamie McGregor

Nominated by: Jamie Macgregor

Seconded by: Chayse Macgregor

Name: Cecilia Heta
Nominated by: Cecilia Heta
Seconded by: Sonia Graham

Name: Okeroa Rogers
Nominated by: Henare Rogers
Seconded by: Sonia Graham

Name: Hayden Solomon
Nominated by: Cecilia Heta
Seconded by: Okeroa Rogers

Name: Ben Brown
Nominated by: Cecilia Heta
Seconded by: Hayden Solomon

Name: Tarsh Hall
Nominated by: Ben Peters
Seconded by: Cecilia Heta

Name: Chayse Macgregor
Nominated by: Okeroa Rogers
Seconded by: Cecilia Heta

- As less than 12 members were nominated for the Committee all nominated candidates were elected duly to the Meremere Community Committee.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Resolved: (Ms Rogers/Mr Brown)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee resolves to use system b for the election of chairperson and deputy chairperson as detailed in Clause 25, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

CARRIED

MMCC2512/3

Name: Hayden Solomon
Nominated By: Cecelia Heta
Seconded By: Okeroa Rogers

Name: Ben Peters
Nominated by: Ben Brown
Seconded by: Cecelia Heta

- It was clarified that the Councillor was able to vote in the election of officers.
- Mr Peters queried whether both candidates for Chairperson could take a moment to address the Committee and give some background which was granted.
- Mr Solomon acknowledged the previous Chairperson Mr Jim Katu who is standing down this triennium after many years of service.
- Both candidates addressed the Committee and provided an overview of their commitment to both the Committee and the community of Meremere.
- A vote was undertaken by the Committee by a show of hands with Mr Solomon receiving 6 votes and Mr Peters receiving 2 votes.
- Mr Hayden Solomon was declared the Chairperson of the Meremere Community Committee.

Resolved: (Ms Heta/Ms Rogers)

THAT Mr Hayden Solomon is appointed Chairperson of the Te Kauwhata Community Committee for the 2025-2028 triennium.

CARRIED

MMCC2512/4

The Chief Executive then vacated the Chair and Mr Grainger assumed the Chairperson role for the remainder of the meeting.

- Mr Solomon nominated Mr Ben Brown for Deputy Chairperson which was seconded by Ms Heta.
- There were no further nominations for Deputy Chairperson received therefore Mr Ben Brown was elected with full support from the Committee.

Resolved: (Mr Solomon/Ms Heta)

THAT Ben Brown is appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Meremere Community Committee.

CARRIED

MMCC2512/5

- Ms Heta nominated Mr Ben Peters for Committee Secretary which was seconded by Ms Hall.
- With no further nominations and the full support of the Committee Mr Peters was appointed as the Committee Secretary.

Resolved: (Ms Heta/Tarsh)

THAT Ben Peters is appointed Secretary of the Meremere Community Committee.

CARRIED

MMCC2512/6

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- The Senior Democracy Advisor noted the process for confirmation of previous minutes which was approved under delegated authority.
- Cr Raumati outlined two minor spelling errors in the minutes which the Senior Democracy Advisor will rectify and bring back to the next meeting for confirmation.

6. DISCRETIONARY FUND REPORT

- The report was received with no further discussion or questions from the Committee.

Resolved: (Mr Solomon/Mr Macgregor)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee receives the Discretionary Fund report to 17 November 2025.

CARRIED

MMCC2512/7

7. DISCRETIONARY FUND APPLICATION

- Cr Raumati declared her conflict of interest as a member of the Te Kauwhata Volunteer Fire Brigade.
- Mr Brown moved the motion to approve funding for the lolly run for the Meremere Community which was supported by the Committee.

Resolved: (Mr Brown/Mr Peters)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee approves an allocation of \$600.00 (plus GST if any) from their discretionary fund to:

- Te Kauwhata Volunteer Fire Brigade;**
- for the Christmas Lolly Run.**

CARRIED

MMCC2511/8

9. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS – 2026

- The report was received by the Committee and the Senior Democracy Advisor noted the schedule was based on the Committees current preference which they would like to keep in place.

Resolved: (Ms Heta/Mr Macgregor)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee approves the schedule of Committee meetings for 2026 as follows:

- **Thursday, 19 February 2026,**
- **Thursday, 2 April 2026,**
- **Thursday, 14 May 2026,**
- **Thursday, 25 June 2026,**
- **Thursday, 6 August 2026,**
- **Thursday, 17 September 2026,**
- **Thursday, 29 October 2026 and**
- **Thursday, 10 December 2026.**

noting that each meeting will be scheduled to commence at 7.00pm.

CARRIED

MMCC2511/9

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Mr P Crabb (Watercare) addressed the Committee and provided a presentation and a briefing on the Meremere Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- An overview of the presentation was provided along with updates what has been happening in the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- His Worship questioned the process around the Wetlands and the return of water which was addressed by Mr Crabb.
- Mr Brown queried arsenic levels and if there were any issues in this space and it was confirmed that there were no issues for Meremere.
- Mr Peters queried the Wastewater capacity issues in Pookeno & Tuakau and whether this effects Meremere? It was confirmed that Meremere has its own stand-alone plant so is not affected by the constraints in the North.
- The capacity issues at Pookeno & Tuakau were highlighted by Mr Crabb and a brief explanation was provided for the Committee.
- The Chairperson accepted the invitation from Watercare for the Committee to have a tour of the Treatment Plant in the new year.

Resolved: (Cr Raumati/Mr Brown)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee receives the Meremere Wastewater Treatment Plant briefing from Watercare.

CARRIED

MMCC2511/10

CCTV:

- Mr Brown highlighted for the committee the update that was received from Council via email last week (after the agenda was circulated) about the CCTV work that had been undertaken without input from the Committee.
- A one on one meeting with the project manager will be undertaken to go through the issues raised from the Committee which will be attended by the Deputy Chairperson.
- A breakdown in communication with Council and the Committee was acknowledged by Council after a in-person meeting with Cr Raumati on Wednesday, 26th November and it was confirmed that Council will meet with a small group of the Committee prior to Christmas to continue discussions and offer an apology for the breakdown of communication.

Acknowledgements:

- Cr Raumati addressed the Committee and acknowledged the previous Chairperson Mr Jim Katu who is standing down this triennium.
- Former Committee member Lauren Wismans was also acknowledged for the dedication and commitment shown to the Committee during her service.
- Cr Raumati further acknowledged the new Committee, the work that is ahead in this triennium and the commitment of the Committee to work collaboratively with Council to ensure good outcomes for the Community.

Board members updates:

- The Chairperson acknowledged the great turnout of members of the Community in attendance for the elections and the diversity of voices at the Committee table this triennium.
- The Committee further acknowledged the great service of Mr Jim Katu & Lauren Wismans as the Committee Chairperson and Committee member for a number of years as well as the great service to the Meremere community.
- The Committee discussed the possibility of presenting both Mr Katu and Ms Wismans with gifts to acknowledge their service and it was confirmed the discussion will continue offline.

ACTION: Committee to discuss purchasing gifts to acknowledge the service of Mr Katu & Ms Wismans further offline.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business for discussion the meeting was declared closed at 8.35pm.

The meeting finished with a karakia.

Minutes confirmed and approved on day of 2026.

Mr Hayden Solomon
CHAIRPERSON