

## **.POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of meeting of Pokeno Community Committee held at 7.00 pm at Pokeno Hall on Tuesday 03 June 2025

### **Present**

Allen Grainger (Chair), Helen Clotworthy (Deputy Chair), Ginny Bullock (Secretary), Janet Baillie, Jay Singh, Dhanak Humayun  
Mayor Jacqui Church

Councillors: Vern Reeve, Kandi Ngataki

Visitors: Craig Hobbs (CEO WDC), Will Gauntlett (WDC), various members of the public

### **Apologies**

None

Allen Grainger welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting will be conducted according to the Agenda

### **Confirmation of Status of Agenda**

Moved Allen Grainger  
Seconded Janet Baillie

### **Confirmation of previous minutes 10th March 2025**

Moved Ginny Bullock  
Seconded Kandi Ngataki

### **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**

### **NZ Police**

Sgt Noel Foster introduced the new Community Constable for Pokeno Richard (Sid) Kennedy.

Office hours are 8-4 Monday to Friday with late shifts on Friday and Saturday. Noel spoke briefly regarding crime in Pokeno and surrounding areas.

**Shoplifting** is still happening at the supermarket mainly with repeat offenders and they are looking at installing face recognition cameras in store. Gas stations are now on prepay which prevents fuel theft.

**Car thefts** are happening regularly as Pokeno is easy to access between Hamilton and Auckland. Most popular cars are Astra, Tiida and Demio. He emphasised use of steering locks and alarms.

**Organised crime** is now happening in Pokeno with houses rented by ethnic groups and used to grow cannabis and distribute other drugs and often with neighbours having no idea this is happening.

**Cameras** are strongly recommended, particularly if they are connected to phones so incidents can be reported immediately they happen.

He reminded the meeting to use 105 for non-urgent calls and 111 if the situation is urgent

### **Marae fundraising**

Haupai Montgomery spoke about fundraising for the marae and advised that the PCC and Marae Trust Fundraising Committee have combined to jointly raise funds for Pokeno Projects and the Marae with any funds raised divided equally between both committees

Marae will cater for up to 500 people at a time with a conference centre and dining hall, subject to council approval and to sufficient funds being raised. No council funding will be given to the marae.

He hopes that within 12 months the marae committee will know how it will go. A question was raised from a member of the public regarding Avon Road and that this could not cater for that volume of traffic, it barely caters for current levels.

Also 3 Waters and infrastructure, sewage, etc will have to be catered for. A freeze on new development has been passed under the Long Term Plan by Council

## **Menzshed**

In Ray Knight's absence, Tricia Burns and Carl Ebbers gave a handout regarding the Menzshed (now known as The Storehouse) to the Committee

Preview day 20 June at 6.00 pm

Located at 1 Market Street on land donated by WDC.

This will now have a She Shed and a public community garden. Crop swap modelled on a garden in Mount Roskill

They are looking to engage with the wider community on projects including youth, food pantry, pathways to employment, Te Araroa Trail restoration, counselling, art and crafts, family oriented activities etc

There will be an official Open day scheduled for July

"With the Community, for the Community"

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

## **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

### **Kandi Ngataki**

Kandi advised that she is on the Museum committee which also includes such sites at the Pokeno Queen's Redoubt

She attended a Citizenship Ceremony at WDC offices to welcome more

Waikato residents as NZ citizens

LTP meeting today and also next week before being finalised at the end of the month

She also advised that the Community Garden at The Storehouse is a great idea and looks forward to seeing its growth.

### **Vern Reeve**

Vern advised that sadly the option of having a Bailey Bridge on Pokeno Road for safety is not going to happen. He is going ahead with the flashing lights and warning signs option and will report further with more news

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Strategy and Growth / Pokeno Realm**

We are waiting for the final design for the Pokeno Hub on Market Street.

Work should commence early 2026.

Tiny library is in the process of being finished and moved to the front of the toilets and should be in place soon

### **Treasurer's report**

\$3000 received from council for Civil Defence

Balances

Admin account \$13064.74

Saving account \$21682.27

### **Facilities**

Helen Clotworthy advised that a new path has been created at the hall between Great South Road and the carpark using sand donated by McRobbies with pavers left over from the upgrade of the footpath outside Pink Sands Café which have been stored in the lobby at the hall.

Ray Knight lent his small digger and all work was donated.

We now just need some concrete to create the lip at the carpark end of the path to make a ramp for safety. Helen asked if anyone could donate this to the community

## **Sports Park**

Further preparation work should be completed for the Sports Park by end of 2025. Allen advised that the sports park has been in the pipeline since the last long term plan and previous councils. Delays are not down to the current council.

There has been a delay because council is having difficulties obtaining weed-free topsoil to put down so this has delayed the grassing. Even if this is obtained now it will not be able to be laid and grassed until at least November 2025.

Cost is increasing.

It is hoped to have a useable “kick around” surface by mid-2026

It was suggested to move the water bore closer to the carpark and use it as a source for sprinklers for the sports fields

Still waiting for report on Destination Playground, skate park and lighting design which is due in the next couple of weeks. It is 92% completed.

No funding for improvement to Munro Road and bridge but this must be completed before park can become fully functional.

Allen has contacted Joel from Tata Holdings regarding access through Helenslee Road to the sports park to enable access safely for children from the school. He has not heard back

This will likely be a 10 year plan.

Phase1: preparation

Phase 2: Complete Masterplan for different areas for different activities

Phase 3: Final installation.

Meanwhile fundraising should be in place from now on.

Once completed, it will be a council asset and maintenance will be done by council

## **Communications**

No updates at the moment. Approximately 12000 “hits” on the website monthly

## **Events**

Only one in the diary is the Christmas Parade which will be held on Friday 05 December

WDC has refused funding for the parades across the District so we have to fundraise the \$5000 required for traffic control to run this event

## **NEIGHBOURING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **OPEN FORUM**

## **KEY WORKS PROGRAMMES**

### **Will Gauntlett**

#### **Capital Works Programme**

Details can be found on the WDC website including LTP consultations

#### **Security Cameras**

Detailed design is now complete and council is now prioritising sites and procuring suppliers to undertake installation. The second tender process is underway for cameras

#### **Munro Road upgrade**

In relation to the delay in the development of Munro Road, the Pokeno Committee asks for a further discussion owing to the fact that Munro Road is vital to the development of the new Sports Park. No date set for reconstruction of the road and bridge due to lack of funding

Will strongly recommended getting the Antenno app to keep up to date with council business. Council can also be contacted by phone (0800 492 452) or email. Number is on the board in the town centre

## **Open Forum**

A question was raised from the floor regarding new members of the Committee, Jay and Dhanak. Allen advised that they have been co-opted onto the committee and have been approved and seconded.

Allen read out the resignation letter received from Mike Holroyd and then Bronwyn Heath gave her reasons for resigning.

A comment was made about the state of the roundabout at the end of the southbound off ramp of SH1. Ginny Bullock advised the meeting that this is the responsibility of Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and complaints should be directed to them.

Allen replied to a question relating to the fact that the Pokeno Community Committee does not appear to recognise the Avon Road Tennis and Recreation Hub.

He responded that it is a stand-alone Sports Club with its own Committee and Constitution.

All funding spent at Avon Road was by way of funding from Waikato District Council and had no connection with Pokeno Community Committee.

He also added that the value the complex has to Pokeno is immense.

A rigorous discussion then took place regarding rates with many questions raised by various members of the public which were answered by CEO Craig Hobbs and Mayor Jacqui Church. Craig explained that rates are overseen by finance department of WDC and that every effort has been made to keep costs down. Rob Chester from WATCH (Waikato Accountability for Transparency Council and Honesty) read out a statement.

The general feeling in the room is that rates are too high in Waikato with very little return. Rubbish collection costs are increasing by 50%

Meeting closed at 10.15 pm

## **MEETING DATES 2025**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October