

## **POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of meeting of Pokeno Community Committee held at 7.00 pm at Pokeno Hall on Tuesday 28 January 2025

### **Present**

Allen Grainger (Chair), Helen Clotworthy (Deputy Chair), Ginny Bullock (Secretary), Bronwyn Heath

Mayor Jacqui Church

Councillors: Vern Reeve, Kandi Ngataki

Visitors: Will Gauntlett (WDC), Tami Theys (WDC), John Cunningham (Chair of Te Kauwhata committee), members of the public

### **Apologies**

Janet Baillie, Mike Holroyd,. Joel McKinlay (Tata Holdings)

Moved Ginny Bullock

Seconded Bronwyn Heath

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

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Ginny Bullock

### **Confirmation of previous minutes 16 December 2024**

Moved Bronwyn Heath

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

## **Queens Redoubt**

A presentation was made from Matthew Dean and members of the board. The museum is one of only 2 in the country showing history of NZ in a similar way. They are looking at building another facility for a heritage/education centre as the current building has a maximum capacity of 30 which means that a bus load of children only half can see the exhibition at one time. Funding is an issue as the schools do not cover costs Board is looking at getting younger members to take over A thank you for their work was made by Mayor Jacqui

## **OPEN FORUM**

Chairman Allen Grainger opened the meeting reading his report for his thoughts on 2024. Report attached



Pōkeno CC Chair  
reprt 2025.docx

A question was raised regarding the proposed marae from a member of the public

A question was raised regarding roading improvements from a member of the public

Both questions were answered by Mayor Jacqui

## **O'Leary Road update**

Jan Sedgewick advised the committee that NZTA has organised a meeting with local residents regarding changing the layout of the intersection with SH2 Allen advised that he had seen a car parked on the road with a family having a picnic inside the barrier – so dangerous

## **MENZSHED**

Situated at 1 Market Street.

There is a working bee on Saturday 01 February. Everyone welcome  
Council is aware of the heavy pipes on the site as the site is currently being used as a storage facility for the WDC Roding Team.

A lease has been signed with WDC so that some part of the site will continue to be used for Council storage. However in February 2025, WDC will commence construction of a gravel road allowing Menzshed to access the property from the local paper road. Once completed the current access will be closed off and a fence will be erected between the properties for safety. There are 2 large sheds on the property

There will be a community garden, youth centre etc. They are clearing the Pokeno part of the Te Araroa Trail of weeds and debris

Opening Day in March. Date to be confirmed

Allen Grainger noted that there are a few wooden seats stored there and these could be moved by the council to the park outside the toilets and also to the park behind the cenotaph so provide more public seating for the township

## **LTP**

This is under discussion currently. Usually for 10 years, it will be for 9 years as there was an LTP for one year in 2024.

Council is looking at how to cut costs as central government has removed funding for all councils and there is the additional cost of Three Waters which now needs to be fully funded by local councils. Mayor Jacqui advised that to complete all current projects will mean a rate increase of 25% across the district which is not acceptable so WDC has to prioritise projects.

Allen Grainger advised that the Huntly Waste Water station needs to be upgraded at a cost of \$8 million which is not budgeted for so that the Sleepyhead facility can go ahead

## **Communication**

There was a vigorous discussion regarding communication (or lack of) with a lot of negative comments on social media regarding the performance of the community committee and WDC. A comment was made by a member of the public that the community is very divided. This was disputed as it seems that only a few members of the public are negative posting on social media and there are a large number of posts supporting the committee

A member of the public asked why the meeting was not on the blackboards in Pokeno

Allen Grainger advised that ITM are in the process of replacing the signs for us and they requested that we not use the current boards meantime

Mayor Jacqui advised there is a new WDC strategy of communications and engagement which will expedite the dispersal of information.

Once again, the meeting was advised to look at the WDC website to see what is happening in the district and to use it to communicate with the council. All questions are responded to quickly. Alternatively people can log in to the Antenno app for council updates

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Out: Nil

## **REPORTS**

### **Councillor's report from Kandi Ngataki**

To be advised

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

A Project Manager has been appointed for the new Hub/library building on Market Street. Funding is already in place for this

## **Treasurer's report**



\_ PCC Financial  
Report 16 Decembe

## **Communications**

See above.

## **Community Plan**

No further reports for the plan

## **Events**

No events on the calendar at present

## **Facilities**

### **Sports Park**

March/April topsoil to be laid and regrassed

Consultants have been chosen to draw up a preliminary Sports Park plan which will be presented to group March 2025.

## **NEIGHBOURING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **KEY WORKS PROGRAMMES**

### **Security Cameras**

No further information on cameras. As per last meeting, keep using the "squeaky door" to keep reminding council regarding the cameras

### **Roading**

Will Gauntlett advised that Great South Road upgrade between the township and SH1 southern onramp is now with the Forward Works programme. The road will be re-sealed, not rebuilt and potholes will be filled. Start date is 2025 between August and should be completed by April next year

### **Bridge on Pokeno Road**

A letter has been sent to Cr Vern Reeve to be distributed to local residents regarding the safety of the road over the bridge. It appears there is no funding available for the bridge to be rebuilt.

### **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

### **Graffiti**

Mayor Jacqui said that there is a budget for cleaning up graffiti across the whole district on council-owned property but once this is used up, there is no further money available. Graffiti cleaning on private properties is the responsibility of the property owners

### **Pedestrian light in town centre**

Ginny Bullock raised the point of near-misses on the pedestrian crossing in the town centre as the public are just treating it as an ordinary pedestrian crossing and not pressing the button to stop traffic. She asked that the “no walk” light be on at all times during the day.

The comment was made that most similar crossings are not programmed in this way.

Meeting closed at 9.22 pm

### **MEETING DATES 2025**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday 22 April

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Possible date for AGM and Election