

POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting of Pokeno Community Committee held at 7.00 pm at Pokeno Hall on Monday 10 March 2025

Present

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

Councillors: Vern Reeve

Visitors: Will Gauntlett (WDC), Tammy Theys (WDC), Joel McKinlay (Tata Holdings), members of the public

Apologies

Janet Baillie, Mayor Jacqui Church, Craig Hobbs (CEO WDC), Councillor Kandi Ngataki

Moved Ginny Bullock

Seconded Mike Holroyd

Confirmation of Status of Agenda

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Ginny Bullock

Confirmation of previous minutes 28 January 2025

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Ginny Bullock

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

Tata Holdings development of Pokeno West

A presentation was given by Joel McKinlay regarding the new development to the west off Helenslee Road

Joel and his colleagues showed the committee a plan of the development, including 1500 houses, a primary school to intermediate level, walking tracks and wetlands. The same contractor is being used as for the Sports Park. Sections will be between 350 and 600 sqm. Roads will be wider with no double parking

Water is an issue. However the plan was approved before the new water rules came into force and drainage will be directed to the existing stream under Munro Road

An area has been designated for small shops. The committee did ask Joel to ensure that no vape shops or liquor stores will be permitted

Regarding the timeline:

Contractors to return in October 2025 to finish Stage 1 (subject to weather)

School site to be confirmed in mid-June 2025

Drainage pipes in place by end 2025

Roading going in 2026

Earthworks have commenced

Tata Holdings Telegraph Hill (Havelock) development

Plan will be 5+ years. Plantings to commence soon. Building sites in the hollows of the hills which will not be visible from the township.

There will be greenspace and walkways for public use and a large water retention area

Contact joel@tatavalley.com for any queries

CORRESPONDENCE

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

Out: Nil

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cr Vern Reeve advised that Kandi is on leave at the moment
There is no funding for widening the bridge on Pokeno Road near the school and ultimately it is the parents' responsibility to get their children to school safely. Below is the letter he sent to residents living in Lakeside



Lakeside Pookeno
residents letter DRA

Traffic calming signs/ warnings regarding children near the bridge discussed at the meeting but there is no funding

There is a strong community at Lakeside and they are looking at perhaps creating a gravel path for the undeveloped 50 metres between the end of the concrete pathway and the bridge.

Speed limit is contentious in view of central government increasing speed limits.

Vern confirmed he was continuing to work on this situation and will report back on progress at the next meeting

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Strategy and Growth / Pokeno Realm

No further information on the new Hub/library building on Market Street.
Funding is already in place for this

Treasurer's report



PCC Financial
Report 29 January 2

Helen advised that there is no council funding for traffic management from WDC for the Santa Parade. Cost is \$4000-\$5000 so fundraising will need to be done to cover this cost.

Moved Helen Clotworthy

Seconded Ginny Bullock

Facilities

Work should be completed for the Sports Park by end of 2025. Topsoil to put down and then grassed in March/April weather permitting

Still waiting for report on skate park design

No funding for improvement to Munro Road and bridge

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

Events

“Coffee with a Cop” was held on Wednesday organised by Bronwyn Heath with Sergeant Noel Foster and 3 colleagues. Constable Sid introduced as new community constable as Constable Lorraine has moved to Waiuku.

Sgt Noel said that the police depend on cameras for catching offenders and Ginny Bullock said that these are in the pipeline but no updates are available He gave ideas for keeping people and property safe. A steering wheel lock is an excellent idea to prevent car theft.

Communications

Work is being done on the website to connect to minutes and to Vision Statement. 1200 visitors from all over the world. Looking at different language sections. Also looking at automated Hall bookings
Waikato District Council website should have a link to Pokeno website

NEIGHBOURING COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OPEN FORUM

O'Leary Road update

Janet McRobbie advised the Committee that the meeting proposed for a couple of weeks ago had to be postponed due to another couple of submissions being received.

MENZ Shed

Details will be announced at next PCC meeting

Allen Grainger mentioned that the timber from the felled macrocarpa tree at the Dogpark is being systematically stolen and being sold for firewood even though the people doing the theft have been advised on a number of occasions that the wood is not for free. Suggestion that it be moved to the spare space at the Menzshed space where it will be secure behind locked gates. A discussion took place as to how the timber can be moved safely as some of the pieces are over a tonne in weight.

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 full resurfacing of Great South Road south to motorway onramp will take place in 25/26 year and is now in the Forward works programme. Start date to be confirmed.

Bridge on Pokeno Road

A letter has been sent by 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 (see above). The bridge will be looked at 2029/2030 after new Munro Road Bridge construction.

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 bridge.

Pedestrian light in town centre

Will advised that lights cannot be changed as it is a standard design on controlled signal crossings.

Rates collection

At the last meeting a question was raised about how much of the rates paid in Pokeno are being used in Pokeno

Will advised that the rates enabling everyone in the district to get either the same supply of services or if council have services that are different depending on property – ie wastewater, water, solid waste etc. Budgets are then drawn up, not by area, but by the plan overall for the district

Residents across the district benefit from cash spend in areas other than where they live, ie roading

In terms of capital projects, while rates may fund apportion, subsidy is also received from NZTA grants and developer contributions.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

MEETING DATES 2025

Tuesday 22 April

Tuesday 3rd June

Monday 14th July

Monday 25th August

Monday 6th October. Possible date for AGM and Election