
MINUTES for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held at the Meremere Community Centre, 21 Heather Green Avenue, Meremere on **THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2026** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Mr H Solomon (Chairperson)
Mr B Brown (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms T Hall
Mr J Macgregor
Ms O Rogers

Attending:

Ms M May (General Manager, Assets & Infrastructure)
Mrs K Wellington (Manager, EPMO)
Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)

Public Attending:

Four (4) members of the Public

The meeting opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Agenda Item 1

Resolved: (Mr Solomon/Ms Hall)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee accepts the apologies of Cr M Raumati and Mrs C Macgregor for non-attendance.

CARRIED

MMCC265/1

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 2

Resolved: (Mr Brown/Mr Macgregor)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 14 May 2026 be confirmed:

- a. with all items therein being considered in open meeting; and**
- b. all reports be received.**

CARRIED

MMCC265/2

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 3

There were no disclosures of interest.

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Agenda Item 4

Resolved: (Ms Rogers/Mr Brown)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 2 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

MMCC265/3

PUBLIC FORUM

The following issues were raised in Public Forum:

Mrs L Tupuhi – Waikare-Whangamarino Action Plan:

- i. Mrs Tupuhi addressed the Committee and provided an update on the Waikare-Whangamarino Action Plan.

- ii. A brief history of the project was provided, and it was noted that the overall purpose of the Action Plan was to identify actions that would drive significant environmental improvements in Whangamarino and Waikare. As such, the Plan responded to heightened community concerns about the continuing degradation of these highly valued waterbodies.
- iii. The Committee noted that the catchment holds cultural, historical, and ecological significance for Waikato Tainui and the need for co-governance and co-management under Te Ture Whaimana was recognised.
- iv. It was noted that an open information evening at the Te Kauwhata Rugby Club (Mahi Rd) would be held on Monday, 25 May from 7:00pm. The Committee was invited to attend.

National Green Steel Mill Ltd:

- i. Mr V Garg and Mr C Shearer addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the Green Steel Mill project undertaken at Hampton Downs.
- ii. It was noted that the business operated a steel shredding plant in Wiri, Auckland, and intended to establish a steel processing facility at the new site, creating approximately 200 employment opportunities in the area.
- iii. An overview of daily operations of the Steel Mill was provided, and it was noted that this new project would enable the steel to be recycled rather than being sent to a landfill.
- iv. It was noted that the site covered 20 hectares of land which would require earthworks to build the plant. It was noted that a resource consent was issued with a stringent list of consent conditions that needed be adhered to.
- v. It was advised that extensive planting was required at the site as per the consent conditions. Mr Garg and Mr Shearer highlighted a keen interest in working alongside the Committee and wider community on this project.
- vi. The Committee queried why this area was chosen for the project. It was noted that a large site between Hamilton and Auckland was required, making this one ideal.
- vii. An overview of the water services and consent conditions for drawing water from the Waikato River was provided.
- viii. A query was raised regarding the timeline of the plants construction period. It was advised that an estimated timeframe of five (5) years was forecasted considering factors including earthworks, construction, and planting.
- ix. The Chairperson spoke about the project in their capacity as Chair of Ngaa Muka, providing an overview of the process mana whenua undertook to assess the project and its potential impacts on the community, employment, and related matters. The Chairperson also acknowledged the engagement that Green Mill Steel Ltd had undertaken with mana whenua.

REPORTS

Sale of 66 Te Puea Avenue, Meremere – Options

Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received (*MMCC265/2 refers*), and the following discussion was held:

- i. The General Manager Assets & Infrastructure addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the report.
- ii. It was acknowledged that engagement with the local Church Pastor was undertaken since the last meeting and staff thanked the Committee for facilitating that connection.
- iii. The next steps for the Committee to consider included engagement with local community members, which would be supported by the Council Communications team if required.
- iv. It was noted that whilst initial engagement can be undertaken through social media, there were many members of the community who do not use social media so other avenues would need to be explored further.
- v. It was noted that Council had undertaken consultation through the Long-Term Plan (LTP) process. The Committee supported Council leading future engagement to ensure transparency and accountability, while the Committee would communicate the next steps to the wider community.
- vi. The Committee expressed support in working alongside Council to maintain communication processed and create collateral.

ACTION: Committee members to work alongside Council to begin the communications process and develop supporting collateral to keep the Committee informed of developments.

Discretionary Fund Report to 23 April 2026

Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received (*MMCC265/2 refers*), taken as read and no further discussion was held.

Meremere Works & Issues Report – May 2026

Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received (*MMCC265/2 refers*), and the following discussion was held:

- i. A discussion was held regarding a third CCTV camera. It was noted that the estimated cost was approximately \$49,000, as supporting infrastructure would need to be constructed prior to installation.

Off-line Committee Discussion – Gifts for previous members:

- ii. Discussion still to be had.

ACTION: Item to remain on the Works & Issues report.

Te Puea Avenue – Church Pastor Engagement:

- iii. Engagement completed. Item to be removed.

ACTION: Item to be removed from the Works & Issues report.

66 Te Puea Avenue – Community Engagement:

- iv. A discussion was held relating to this under agenda item 6.1 and the Committee noted plans to work with the Communications Team in creating collateral for next steps regarding this.

ACTION: Senior Democracy Advisor to provide Mr Solomon and Ms Hall the contact details of the Council Communications team.

Discussions with Waikato Tainui – Chairperson:

- v. Discussions still ongoing.

ACTION: Item to remain on the Works & Issues report.

Projects Update:

- vi. No further discussion was held.

ACTION: Item to remain on the W&I report.

Chairpersons Report (Written Report – Tabled)

Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received (*MMCC265/2 refers*), and the following discussion was held:

- i. The Chairperson advised it would be beneficial to have a representative from Waikato-Tainui and Ward Construction Ltd attend the next meeting.
- ii. It was noted that engagement with Meremere Puutaiao Trust is still ongoing. The Committee expressed desire to have further discussions before providing support to the trust.
- iii. Ms Rogers provided the Committee with further information on the Meremere Puutaiao Trust, the work that had been undertaken to date, and the emphasis on building relationships with Rangatahi.

Resolved: (Mr Solomon/Ms Rogers)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee provide their initial support in principle to the Meremere Puutaiao Trust.

CARRIED

MMCC265/4

Councillors Report

Agenda Item 6.5

The report was received (*MMCC265/2 refers*), and whilst Councillor Raumati was an apology the following discussion was held:

- iv. The Committee acknowledged the high calibre of Council meetings attended by the Ward Councillor and noted the upcoming meetings that were scheduled.

- v. The Committee requested further information to better understand the factors contributing to the increase in inflation rates.
- vi. It was noted that IAWAI Flowing Waters (IAWAI) comes into effect on 1 July 2026 and the Committee discussed extending an invitation to the Chief Executive, Mr Peter Winders, to attend a Committee meeting to discuss this further.

ACTION: Senior Democracy Advisor to extend an invitation to Mr Peter Winders (IAWAI Chief Executive) to attend an upcoming MMCC meeting.

Committee Members Update (Verbal)

Agenda Item 6.6

The following issues were raised by Committee members:

- i. It was noted that funding had been received for the 'Welcome to Meremere' mural.
- ii. The Committee advised that 50 air mattresses were gifted by the Community Response group for use at the Meremere Hall in case of a civil defence emergency.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed with a karakia.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.56pm.

Minutes confirmed and approved on day of 2026.

Mr Haydn Solomon
CHAIRPERSON