

MINUTES for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held at the Meremere Community Centre, 21 Heather Green Avenue, Meremere on **THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2026** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Mr H Solomon (Chairperson)
Ms T Hall
Mr J Macgregor
Councillor M Raumati

Attending:

His Worship the Mayor, Mr A Bech
Mrs K Wellington (Manager, EPMO)
Ms H Jansen (Transformation Office)
Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)

Public Attending:

Five (5) members of the Public, including:
Ms C Heta
Mr R Chester
Mrs E Kinsey

The meeting opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Agenda Item 1

Resolved: (Mr Macgregor/Cr Raumati)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee accepts the apology of Mr Ben Brown for non-attendance.

CARRIED

MMCC266/1

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 2

Resolved: (Mr Solomon/Cr Raumati)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 25 June 2026 be confirmed:

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

CARRIED

MMCC266/2

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 3

There were no disclosures of interest.

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Agenda Item 4

Resolved: (Mr MacGregor/Ms Hall)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 14 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

MMCC266/3

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no issues raised in public forum.

REPORTS

Meremere Community Committee Discretionary Fund – 9 June 2026

Agenda Item 6.1

The report was received (*MMCC266/2 refers*), and no further discussion was held.

Meremere Works & Issues Report – June 2026

Agenda Item 6.2

The report was received (*MMCC266/2 refers*), taken as read and the following discussion was held.

CCTV Cameras:

- i. A question was raised regarding CCTV cameras and a privacy impact statement. It was noted that previous CCTV installations that were Council led that have generally been in public places, any footage recorded was not for the viewing of public or council staff and fed directly to the Police.
- ii. Members of the public noted that they had previously been given direction that Council hold footage of CCTV cameras and it was confirmed the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) representative will follow this up for the next meeting.
- iii. In closing the one-page brief attached to the report from the Facilities Manager was highlighted and it was noted that if further feedback is presented the Councillor will be happy to take this back to Council.

ACTION: SLT representative to follow up on Council responsibility re: footage and privacy of CCTV Cameras. Item to remain on the Works & Issues report.

Off-line Committee Discussion – Gifts for previous members:

- i. No further discussion was held.

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

66 Te Puea Avenue – Community Engagement:

- i. The Committee noted that it was very clear from the presentation provided by the General Manager, Assets & Infrastructure at the last Meremere meeting what was being reported on and the position of both the Committee and Council.

- ii. The Committee wanted it noted for the minutes that the position of the Committee remains unchanged and any correspondence from other members of the community is not shared by the Committee and they remain supportive of the approach from Council.

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

Discussions with Waikato Tainui – Chairperson:

- i. The Chairperson noted he had a discussion with Tainui Group Holdings and they will appear at the next meeting to address the Committee.
- ii. A property on Springhill Rd as you enter into the village was highlighted as being in need of attention and cleaning as it looks unkempt.

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

Projects Update:

- i. No further discussion held.

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

Chairperson's Report (Verbal)

Agenda Item 6.3

The report was received (*MMCC266/2 refers*), and the following discussion was held:

- i. Next Thursday 2 July there will be a soil turning ceremony at the site of Green Steel Ltd.
- ii. The hearing, for the extension of current limits for the rubbish dump at Hampton Downs, was being held next Thursday 2 July as well. The consent holder is looking at an extension of the current limits of landfill until 2050 which appears to have opposition in the community.
- iii. It was noted by the Committee that the opposition from the Community in regard to the extension of the rubbish could be related to the communications that were released. The Community thought that the hearing was for new limits of landfill rather than an extension of existing limits so the way this was communicated could be looked at and better work done moving forward.

Councillors Report

Agenda Item 6.4

The report was received (*MMCC266/2 refers*), taken as read and time was provided to His Worship the Mayor, Mr A Bech, to discuss the Head Start Pathway initiative:

- i. His Worship addressed the Committee and members of the public and gave an overview of the history of local government reform.
- ii. An overview of the options being considered was provided along with the ten (10) key criteria government are looking for with any proposals submitted from Councils.
- iii. His Worship noted that a high-level proposal would be submitted by 9 August and the government would come back by September 2026 with a decision on whether the proposal would proceed.
- iv. If the proposal is accepted Council have until March 2027 to provide the finer details and then public consultation will commence in May or June 2027.
- v. Four options are currently at the forefront: All of Waikato Region, Hamilton Metro and Waikato Towns; Hamilton-Waikato-Waipā and Do Nothing (let government decide for us).
- vi. An overview of the maps was outlined for the Committee with each map highlighted and what those options mean for the district.
- vii. Engagement forms were handed out to the Committee and members of the public for their consideration and the Senior Democracy Advisor confirmed that forms were also on the Council website and could be handed into the library.
- viii. The current debt levels of both Hamilton City (HCC) and Waikato District Council (WDC) have been discussed with WDC carrying a \$7,000 per ratepayer level of debt vs HCC that is carrying an \$18,000 per ratepayer level of debt.
- ix. It was noted that current unitary models like Auckland City are off the table for submissions or consideration however the Minister has advised if a very strong view existed from residents of Pokeno in the north to return to Auckland the conversations should be had.
- x. Mr R Chester noted that as of tonight (25 June), 92% of responses to a Facebook poll on the Pokeno Residents Facebook page was for a return to the Franklin Local Board area
- xi. It was confirmed that the Head Start Pathway consultation and submission forms were located on the front page of the Council website under "Have your Say".
- xii. Under s26 of the Local Government Act (LGA) Council have done everything possible to get out to communities within the district within the very limited timeframes given by Central Government.

- xiii. In closing His Worship noted the importance for everyone across the district to have their say and submit their thoughts on the options proposed or to even identify options that may not have been considered yet.
- xiv. Cr Raumati noted that Council were working with WEL Networks in regard to the lighting issue and hopefully it would be rectified by the end of July.

Committee Members Update (Verbal)

Agenda Item 6.5

The following issues were raised by Committee members:

- i. There will be a formal poowhiri at Turangawaewae on Wednesday, 1 July to commemorate the 'go live' of IAWAI – Flowing Waters.
- ii. Ms C Heta advised the Committee there will be a Matariki event held next Saturday, 4 July in the Meremere Community and all whaanau are welcome to attend the Community Hall.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed with a karakia.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.19pm.

Minutes confirmed and approved on day of 2026.

Mr Hayden Solomon

CHAIRPERSON