

MINUTES of a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held at the Meremere Community Centre, 21 Heather Green Avenue, Meremere on **THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2026** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Mr H Solomon (Chairperson)
Mr B Brown (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms T Hall
Mrs C Macgregor
Mr J Macgregor
Ms O Rogers
Cr M Raumati

Attending:

His Worship the Mayor, Mr A Bech
Ms M May (General Manager, Assets & Infrastructure)
Mrs K Wellington (Manager, EPMO)
Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)

Public Attending:

Seven (7) members of the Public

The Meeting opened with a karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies for this meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

Resolved: (Mr Brown/Mr Macgregor)

THAT the agenda for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 2 April 2026 be confirmed:

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

CARRIED

MMCC264/1

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

Ms Rogers noted the acknowledgement of recently retired long time Community Committee members Mr Jim Katu, Ms Lauren Wismans and Ms Cecilia Heta and noted the requirement of the Committee to have a discussion in regards to purchasing gifts for these members.

ACTION: Committee to have an off-line discussion in relation to gifts & acknowledgement of previous Committee members.

Resolved: (Mr Brown/Ms Hall)

THAT the minutes for a meeting of the Meremere Community Committee held on Thursday, 19 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

MMCC264/2

PUBLIC FORUM

The following issues were raised in Public Forum:

(Te Kauwhata Fire Brigade)

- Ben introduced himself to the committee and confirmed attendance tonight was to touch base and check in with the community.

- A brief discussion ensued around smoke alarms and who the correct organisation was to test alarms.

(Meremere Puutaiao Society - Powerpoint Presentation)

- Mr C Tasker addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the Meremere Puutaiao Society.
- There is a focus on education at a rangatahi (youth) level, as well as community gardens and the Whangamarino Wetlands.
- The work being undertaken comes under four (4) categories: Meremere Reserve Restoration, Te Araroa Walkway Integration, Community Gardens and Education.
- The Society are seeking the support of the Meremere Community Committee with the work they are undertaking.
- It was noted that Storyboards have been created for Meremere but not yet ready to erect. Once the pou are ready the Committee will be advised by kaumatua (community elders) and a full presentation will be provided.
- Further information in regards to this initiative and society can be found at www.meremerepuutaiao.org.nz and although the content is light there is more information being loaded onto the website.
- The Committee will have further discussions over the next six (6) weeks to give members a chance to look over the full presentation.

REPORTS

6.1 66 Te Puea Avenue (Verbal)

The General Manager, Assets & Infrastructure addressed the Committee with a verbal discussion on 66 Te Puea Avenue with the following points noted:

- It was noted that community engagement and consultation had been undertaken previously.
- The Council Playground Strategy was outlined for the Committee and further information provided.
- Council are aware of the concern in the community if the property was to be sold and what would happen with the playground and noted that a further conversation needs to be had with the community to get feedback on the best way forward.
- If Council proceeds with the sale of 66 Te Puea Ave, all monies from the land sold goes back into the district wide pool which would be reliant on a Council resolution.
- Conversations have been had with the Church that is using the building and they are aware that Council are looking at selling the land.

- It was noted that the community Pastor of the church was not aware of Councils intentions to potentially sell the land until a recent Facebook post on the community pages.
- The building has been used by many members of the community over the years for events and the Committee noted that assurance from Council is required that the Pastor will be engaged with and further discussions will be had.

ACTION: Council to engage with the Church Pastor and provide current information for discussions to be had.

- It was confirmed that there is no right of first refusal for this piece of land.
- A brief discussion was held in relation to the ongoing costs to Meremere Ratepayers if this piece of land is not sold. be if the land is kept?
- It was noted that significant maintenance is required for the piece of land and it was further noted it would be great if the potential purchaser of the land had an ongoing investment in the community.
- It was confirmed that the playground equipment will be going to the whaanau who the playground was dedicated to which is located at 65 Te Puea Avenue.
- A discussion ensued with the Committee with members giving their point of view and the general consensus is that any sale of community assets is not the best outcome as once it is gone it is gone forever.
- It was confirmed there is no rush on the timeline for a decision to be made by the community as the piece of land is a long way off from going on the market.
- It was confirmed that Council will obtain further information in regards to both the frequency of use of the Bus stop and the Pataka Kai cupboard which are both located at 66 Te Puea Avenue and what alternative locations these can be relocated to.

ACTION: General Manager Assets & Infrastructure to frame up questions for the Community Committee to present at the next meeting.

6.2 Discretionary Fund Report to 28 February 2026

The report was received (*MMCC264/1 refers*) and the following discussion was held:

- The Senior Democracy Advisor advised the commitment the previous Committee made to pay \$500 a year (up to a maximum amount of \$1,500) to the Community Response Group and noted that 2x \$500 payments have been made to date a third and final payment pending for this year.

6.3 Adoption of Standing Orders

The report was received (*MMCC264/1 refers*) and the following discussion was held:

- The options around the Chairperson's casting vote was explained by the Senior Democracy Advisor and examples were provided.
- His Worship the Mayor advised what Council has voted for in regards to the casting vote options for the Chairperson and outlined both the pros and cons.
- The Committee discussed the options and chose to adopt Option 1 (default standing orders) for the 2025-28 triennium.

Resolved: (Mr Brown/Ms Hall)

THAT the Meremere Community Committee adopts the Waikato District Council 2025 Standing Orders, with the following amendments:

- a. Incorporate SO 13.7 "Right to attend by audio or audio-visual link" into the Waikato District Council Standing Orders; and**
- b. adopts Option 1 in regard to the Chairperson having a casting vote (Option 1); and**
- c. chooses Option C as the default option for speaking and moving motions, for all Waikato District Council and Committee meetings.**

CARRIED

MMCC264/3

6.4 Meremere Works & Issues Report – April 2026

The report was received (*MMCC264/1 refers*) and the following discussion was held:

CCTV Update:

- The update as stated in the report was provided with priority locations outlined for the committee.
- Whilst it was acknowledged that this was not the full solution as originally desired this is a good solution and good progress has been made and the committee were pleased to see type of cameras noted in the report.
- The direction from the committee at the last meeting was to get answers in relation to the original fund for CCTV (for Te Kauwhata & Meremere) and what happened to that funding.
- Cr Raumati had a discussion with the CCTV Project Lead and provided the history and context of this project which has been ongoing. The Business Owner has been asked to undertake a review of this project which will be completed and outcomes shared with the Committee once completed.

- In terms of a camera at the Southern end of the village this discussion is still ongoing and there is no funding for this option from Council at this time.
- The community & committee would prefer to have a camera located on the Springhill Rd/Te Puea Ave intersection as this is the main entry and exit out of the village.
- It was confirmed that the next step is to wait for the project review to come back to the Committee before further discussions take place.
- It was queried whether the Committee would consider putting some equity into the project and look at the potential of providing some funds to assist Council and work collaboratively moving forward. A further discussion will be held with different funding options considered.
- With all the issues and damages made to properties it could also be worth getting a report from NZ Police on the total number of incidents reported as this will show the need for the CCTV camera and could support further funding.
- Is a collaborative approach something that can be discussed with the Council Project Owner? It was confirmed that the Committee will wait for the review to be completed, put the proposal on the table and discuss further with the General Manager Assets & Infrastructure.

6.5 Councillors Report

The report was received (*MMCC264/1 refers*), taken as read and it was noted that all Committee members are welcome to attend all open meetings in the Council Chambers and the Senior Democracy Advisor confirmed calendar appointments had been sent to the Committee Chairperson.

6.6 Chairpersons Report

A brief written report from the Chairperson was tabled at the meeting (attached to the meeting minutes) and the following issues were raised:

- Mr Ben Peters resigned from the Committee yesterday (Wednesday, 1st April) via email effective immediately and the resignation of Ms C Heta at the last Committee meeting was also formally acknowledged.
- As a newly elected Committee there are a number of requirements we need to address regarding our Terms of Reference, namely our conduct, membership and roles.

- Our current membership number as a committee stands at 6. The committee can operate with a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 12 members. The committee can either co-opt community members or continue to operate with 6 members.
- In accordance with our Terms of Reference the Committee need to appoint a Secretary and a Funding Representative. The Senior Democracy Advisor confirmed she will continue to collate the agenda and meeting minutes until a secretary stepped forward.
- The Senior Democracy Advisor also outlined the role of the funding representative and what the role entails. The Senior Democracy Advisor is happy to conduct any training with members who wish to take on these roles.
- With the adoption of the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct the Chairperson noted the need to also be mindful of the following points:
 - i. The Meremere Community Committee (the Community Committee) is set up by the Waikato District Council (Council) to deal with local issues on behalf of Council in the township and surrounds of Meremere; and
 - ii. The treatment of Council officials, staff and representatives with the utmost respect and courtesy at all times.
- The Chairperson has invited the following organisations to be present at the next meeting to speak to their various projects that have a direct impact on our community:
 - iii. Te Araroa Trail Trust
 - iv. Ward Construction Ltd
 - v. National Green Steel Mill Ltd
 - vi. Waikato Tainui re: Power Station
 - vii. Waikato Regional Council re: Whangamarino Wetland.

6.7 Board Members Update (Verbal)

The following issues were raised by the Committee members for discussion:

- On behalf of the Committee and the Community it was queried whether the Chairperson would initiate discussions with Waikato Tainui regarding the state of their property located on Springhill Rd where berms are overgrown and general state is untidy.

ACTION: Chairperson to initiate discussions with Waikato Tainui in relation the state of their property on Springhill Road.

- The Committee could look at using some Discretionary Funding to facilitate working bees in the Community for the purpose of 'beautification work'. Funding could cover sausage sizzle and cleaning products and the committee could really encourage the community to put some elbow grease back into the village.
- The property on Springhill Rd as you are coming into the Village on the left hand side is unkempt and overgrown and needs to be maintained and does not set a good view for visitors coming into the village.
- It was confirmed that Meremere Reserve is a Council Reserve and the neighbouring property is owned by Waikato Tainui. It was noted that the planting undertaken looks great but waste was dumped on the neighbouring property once planting was completed.
- The Committee could potentially look at assisting Council by having discussions with those members of the community that are causing damage or dumping rubbish however it was noted that the members of the committee are not Police and cannot enforce any action.
- Mr Brown noted an application for funding of murals for Meremere had been lodged with the Creative Community Scheme committee and the meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15th April.
- It was further noted by Mr Brown that he has been successful in obtaining \$5,000 of funding for pest control in Meremere and it was noted that the committee want to stretch that money as far as they can to assist the village.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed with a karakia.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.07pm.

Minutes confirmed and approved on day of 2026.

Mr Haydn Solomon

CHAIRPERSON