

***POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of meeting of Pokeno Community Committee held at 7.30 pm at Pokeno Hall on Monday 23 March 2026

Present

Allen Grainger (Chair), Helen Clotworthy Prince Kaira (Deputy Chair), Ginny Bullock (Secretary), Jay Singh, Bronwyn Heath, Lynda Spicer (Treasurer), Sarah Baker, Haupai Montgomery, Rick Barber, Janet Baillie

CE: Craig Hobbs

Mayor: Aksel Bech

Councillors: Vern Reeve, Peter Thompson

Visitors: Will Gauntlett (WDC), Liz Saunders (WDC), various members of the public

Apologies

Fabio Rodrigues, Matthew Dean

Moved: Allen Grainger

Seconded: Janet Baillie

Allen Grainger advised that the meeting is being live streamed and can be seen on the council website.

Confirmation of Status of Agenda

Moved: Ginny Bullock

Seconded: Lynda Spicer

Confirmation of previous minutes 09 February 2026

Addendum to Page 3 of February 2026 minutes

Bronwyn Heath asked that it be added to the minutes that any abuse, threats or misinformation said online about the PCC or personal be addressed by council or councillors to rectify the misinformation

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

Joel McKinley, Project Manager for Tata Holdings gave a presentation about the Pokeno West development

New primary school with 3 storey buildings for between 1000 and 1200 pupils to be open by Term 1 2028

200 house lots for pre-sale, 40 minimum to start by June 2027. 320-600 sq m lots

No covenants but up to 2 storey houses on sloping lots

Small shopping centre with caveat for no liquor, vaping etc. Wanted to have another supermarket but WDC did not permit this

Storm water and wastewater underground works started

Walkways to Munro Park, roading, wetlands being built

New contractor TDM from Mercer

Regarding parks and reserves, 1st stage is walkways, wetlands and parks, 2nd stage will have "Kick a ball" space

Regarding Havelock, this is on hold at the moment as there is no provision for wastewater from WDC

CE Craig Hobbs advised wastewater infrastructure plan with Hamilton City Council is open for consultation.

Upgrade of oneway bridge on Pokeno Road and roundabout at Munro/Helenslee Roads in LTP for 2027

A member of the public advised that Hitchen Road wetland is covered in hazardous weeds because WDC is not doing maintenance. If the developer has handed the area over to WDC, then this is a council owned area otherwise the developer is responsible.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

REPORTS

Councillor Report

Cr Vern Reeve read out report from Cr Fabio Rodrigues as follows

Over the past month, we have been pushing for practical commonsense outcomes that put our community first. It has been a busy stretch since the last PCC meeting and here is a clear rundown of what your councillors have been fighting for

Wheelie bin consultation

Fabio Rodrigues and Vern Reeve put forward a straightforward fair proposal:

Include Pokeno in Tuakau's wheelie bin consultation

We pushed hard. We made the case. We argued that if Tuakau is making decisions that affect households, then Pokeno residents deserve a choice

The vote went down 8-5 but not for lack of effort. We fought right to the end

LGNZ membership

Council also debated whether to stay in Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)

Fabio Rodrigues voted to leave, arguing it was a time for a shakeup, time to stop paying for membership that doesn't deliver clear value to ratepayers

Vern Reeve voted to stay believing that membership still provides efficiencies, saves staff time, and ultimately protects ratepayer dollars

2 different approaches, one shared goal doing what is best for the district

Voted to remain, numbers not available from Mayor Aksel

IAWAI Transfer agreement

This is wrapped up and due to take effect on 01 July

This is a big one

Thanks to the hard work of our Mayor and staff, projections show that the water rate could be cut in half. That is real relief for householders at a time when every dollar counts

Youth Engagement

Fabio Rodrigues brought forward a proposal instructing the Chief Executive to investigate youth engagement options – including the costs and structures of a potential Youth Council

Vern Reeve seconded the proposal and council voted unanimously in favour
This is about giving young people a seat at the table, building civic engagement early and making sure the next generation has a voice in shaping the district they will inherit

Overall, it has been a productive month, full of debate, hard discussions and strong advocacy. Through every vote and every discussion, the focus has stayed the same

Restoring trust

Restoring accountability

Putting the people of the district back in the driver's seat

Thank you for your continued support. We are just getting started.

Financial report

Lynda Spicer advised that there has been no change to accounts from last month apart from an interest payment of \$1.84

A question was raised about the \$1000 grant from WDC which was not received in 2025 and should be followed up for the 2026 grant as well

Will Gauntlett will follow up on this

Moved Lynda Spicer

Seconded Bronwyn Heath

Communications

Helen Clotworthy advised that Facebook page has 2 surveys, one for the skatepark and one for the destination playground. Approximately 50 responses

Tourism

Bronwyn Heath said that there are interesting places to visit in Pokeno which should be highlighted.

Redoubt, waterfall, dog park

Also talked about Kereru Corner which is engaged in rescuing wild birds, including parrots. Well worth a visit

Cultural

Jay Singh mentioned Chinese New Year last month which was a great success and that they have asked to do the celebration again next year

NEIGHBOURING COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

Upcoming events

29 March Car Boot sale at the Hall 8-12 \$25 per vehicle. Food to be provided in the supper room

27 April Pokeno Fun Run. Further details to come

End of May. Housie at the hall

Sports Park

Park is now levelled and seeded. Seed mat put down so we are hoping for rain to get the grass to start to growing.

WDC has tenders out for toilets but these may need to be septic due to wastewater not being able to be connected to mains in Pokeno

PCC has received a request for freedom camping in the carpark at the park. A representative will come and give a presentation at the next PCC meeting

KEY WORKS PROGRAMMES - Will Gauntlett

Policing

Meeting with local police tomorrow for an update on how local policing will work as many of the original police members have moved on to other stations

Community Patrol

Some people have volunteered but the paperwork including police vetting is arduous

2 shifts, day and evening

More volunteers are always welcome

Safety cameras

These are installed but not yet operational. Just waiting for connection to the headquarters. Ginny Bullock advised sites of grid platform cameras and that they will be ANPR

Will advised that the map of roads in Pokeno showing where repairs are required (ie Helenslee Road, Munro Road, etc) is attached to this month's agenda

Pokeno Road Bridge

Still no funding from NZTA. Cr Vern Reeve said he is going to give high viz jackets to the children as it is so dangerous. Rick Barber said the council should take reference from other local councils, such as weight restrictions/ speed restrictions etc.

Rubbish

Helen advised that a letter she wrote to WDC still has not had a response. A big discussion took place regarding rubbish and flytipping in the Pokeno area. This is getting worse. Hitchen Road., Market Street and William McRobbie Road are particularly bad.

Rubbish in the town centre is really bad with bins overflowing and it was determined that Higgins should look at installing more larger bins, perhaps solar, and that council should be emptying them daily (or more)

Helen Clotworthy advised that no rubbish collections in the town centre over holidays which are the busiest time, resulting in waste everywhere

A question was raised about whether PCC could fund some small cameras at problem areas to monitor fly tippers and get registrations plates of vehicles. Will advised to contact Rhys from WDC

Will emphasised that Antenno app use is encouraged for council business including complaints, etc.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Allen advised that Haupai Montgomery has resigned from PCC. However he will sit alongside PCC for any issues which might arise regarding mana whenua

Allen advised that a new retail shop is being built next door to the hall. Not sure what they will be selling but keep an eye out as we don't want any more liquor or vape shops in the town

Greenfield at Hampton Downs has been fast tracked which will mean more homes and jobs

Yashili to double in size under new owners. New carpark is being constructed

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

MEETING DATES 2026

Monday 04 May 2026

Monday 15 June 2026

Monday 03 August 2026

Monday 14 September 2026

Monday 26 October 2026

Monday 07 December 2026