

## POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting of Pokeno Community Committee held at 7.30 pm at Pokeno Hall on Monday 09 February 2026

### Present

Allen Grainger (Chair), Helen Clotworthy (out-going Treasurer) Prince Kaira (Deputy Chair), Ginny Bullock (Secretary), Jay Singh, Bronwyn Heath, Lynda Spicer (incoming Treasurer), Sarah Baker, Haupai Montgomery, Rick Barber  
Mayor: Aksel Bech

Councillors: Vern Reeve, Fabio Rodrigues, Peter Thompson

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

### Apologies

Janet Baillie

Moved: Bronwyn Heath

Seconded: Ginny Bullock

Allen Grainger welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then asked for one minute's silence to remember those who have died in the last year. He then read out his report which is attached.



Pökeno CC Chair  
2026.docx

He added the following:

Our Commitment to Working Together

Our Commitment to Working Together

- Treat each other with respect.
- Make sure everyone gets a chance to have their say.
- Argue the point, not the person.
- Listen actively.
- Not pre-empt or prejudge others.
- Deliver on the workgroup we are part of — and speak up early if something isn't for us.
- Be accountable to our workgroup and the PCC as one team.
- Speak up if we're not happy — either in the moment or directly with the person.
- Deal in evidence-based opinions and communications.
- Avoid carpark talk — be open and honest with each other.
- Follow meeting etiquette.
- Be calm and considered in what we say.
- Work as one cohesive team.
- Not talk over each other.

Moved Allen Grainger  
Seconded Ginny Bullock

### **Confirmation of Status of Agenda**

Moved Allen Grainger  
Seconded Ginny Bullock

### **Confirmation of previous minutes 26 November 2025**

Moved Allen Grainger  
Seconded Ginny Bullock

### **Confirmation of previous minutes 02 December 2025**

Moved Allen Grainger  
Seconded Bronwyn Heath

### **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**

A resident of Regina Street raised the question of speeding and burnouts on the road outside her home. She wants speed limits reduced. She also complained about the volume of traffic. The road is not designed for large trucks.

Complaints of similar behaviour on Avon Road/Fraser Road corner by cemetery, Hitchen Road, McIntosh Drive

Rick Barber advised that WDC is responsible for setting speed limits in conjunction with Waka Kotahi

Allen Grainger advised that since Community Constable Lorraine moved on, Pokeno has not had the level of police support which is required

Munro Road upgrade supposed to be completed 2024/25 has been put on hold for the time being due to budget constraints

New road markings to be done as soon as possible and Will Gauntlett agrees with public comments and will refer this to relevant department at Council for a speedy update

Bronwyn Heath asked that it be minuted that any abuse or misinformation said online about the PCC or personal unfair jabs be addressed by council or councillors to rectify the misinformation online and publically. Especially because the councillor knows who the aliases are and who the people who have put up the false information are and has knowledge of the misrepresentation. This makes the public distrust the PCC for the lies and misinformation that have been spread, Council or councillors need to rectify the false information online with the correct information or correct media releases so it can be attached to those pages making the false accusations

### **Gardens on Great South Road**

A comment was made that these are extremely scruffy and no maintenance has been done in months. Allen Grainger advised that the larchwood trees had been removed as they were being damaged by traffic density, lack of soil depth and that carbon monoxide from trucks was killing them. A comment was made about the waste of ratepayers' money

A discussion was had about moving the trucks from the main street to use an alternative route via McDonald Road, Gateway Park Drive and Hitchen Road from/to SH1 which would reduce the trucks through the main street and remove the carbon monoxide issue. The roundabouts at Pokeno Road and at Gateway Park Drive/Hitchen Road are not really large enough for large and double trucks to negotiate safely. Truck stop operators are not in favour of this route change

Allen Grainger advised that he and a couple of people have cut back the overgrowth at the roundabout on the southbound exit of SH1 but more needs to be done and hopefully this will happen over the weekend. A question was raised by a member of the public regarding safety of these volunteers in traffic. Waka Kotahi only looks after land from the bridge and WDC and Auckland Council do not seem interested in taking responsibility. Lynda advised that Menzshed are removing many bags of rubbish from the area at their own expense when this should be a council responsibility

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

## **Community Patrol**

Less Patrols than normal are taking place, owing to fact it is difficult to recruit volunteers.

The Paperwork required to become part of Patrol is quite large for people to complete.

The original Controller has moved out of Pokeno, and a replacement is being sourced.

More volunteers are required asap

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

## **REPORTS**

### **COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

#### **Cr Fabio Rodrigues**

Thank you for the opportunity to report back at our first committee meeting of the term. As a new Council, we are genuinely grateful for the trust our communities have placed in us. That trust comes with a clear expectation: put people first, spend wisely, and be transparent about how every dollar of rates is used. Across the district, we've heard consistently that affordability matters and that residents want a stronger voice in the decisions that affect them. Over the past few months, we've begun reshaping how Council works so that our structures, processes, and culture reflect those priorities.

We have already made several changes to strengthen governance and improve transparency. Council's committee structure has been reshaped to streamline decision-making, and a new Community Voice and Choice Committee has been established to strengthen how Council listens, partners, and responds to communities.

Public forums are now held ahead of major meetings, giving residents a clearer pathway to raise issues directly, and an online Community Voice Panel is being launched to make participation easier for those who cannot attend in person.

We also established a roading subcommittee to focus on the district's ongoing roading challenges, and more decisions are being delegated to community boards and ward committees, including road naming, leases, and non-rates-funded discretionary spending for small local projects.

Alongside these early changes, we are exploring further ways to involve communities earlier and more meaningfully in Council's work. This includes earlier engagement

before decisions are made, with tools such as citizen assemblies being considered for complex or high-impact issues.

We are also looking at holding Council meetings across the district, not just in Ngāruawāhia, where this can be done at no extra cost and with the right technical capability. Work is underway to determine how ward committees, community groups, marae, hall committees, and community boards could deliver minor capital projects that are already budgeted for. Initially, projects up to \$50,000 are being considered, ensuring the right projects are delivered at the right price, using local contractors and volunteers where appropriate, and reflecting community priorities more directly.

We have also begun early preparation for the next Long-Term Plan 2027–2037. Workshops this month will focus on reviewing our top-level community outcomes, which will guide the direction of the LTP. Following that, we will review our financial strategy, infrastructure strategy, levels of service, asset management, and work programmes. There will be opportunities for informal community involvement before the draft LTP is prepared for formal consultation early next year. In parallel, Council is reviewing the 2026–27 Annual Plan to ensure spending remains disciplined and aligned with community expectations.

Overall, the work to date reflects a clear shift toward a Council that is more transparent, more efficient, and more responsive to the communities it serves. The foundations are now in place for a more community-centred approach to decision-making and delivery, and we look forward to continuing this work with you over the coming months.

Thank you,

### **Cr Vern Reeve**

Vern read out a statement from WDC CEO Craig Hobbs

### **Mayor Aksel**

Reported that a video is being prepared about “The First 100 Days’ and this should available soon on the WDC website

## Financial report

Helen Clotworthy presented the financial report.



\_PCC Financial  
Report 26 August 20

She advised that the Traffic Management company donated their services to PCC or we would not have been able to run the Santa Parade. A letter of appreciation has been sent to the company to thank them for their generous donation of over \$3000

Moved Helen Clotworthy  
Seconded Ginny Bullock

## Pokeno Community Emergency Response report

Received from Janet Baillie



Pookeno CRP Draft  
1.docx



Community  
Response Group Frz



Community Led  
Centre.pdf

The group have received a donation of 6 radios for use during an emergency which has saved quite a lot of money meaning that the \$3000 donation from WDC is still intact. This is in a separate account under PCC name because at the moment Emergency Response does not have its own bank account.

A FB page to be created with links to WDC and PCC

Lynda said it is important to remind the meeting that in the event of an emergency, WDC (Scott Bault) is responsible for all action with local assistance provided by ER Group based at Pokeno Hall, Pokeno Sports Hub and new Market Street Hub when built.

The Mayor can declare a local emergency and all WDC staff are seconded to help handle emergencies

Moved Lynda Spicer  
Seconded Bronwyn Heath

## **Communications**

Helen advised that there have been many “hits” (21000) on the website with majority of 39% coming from the Auckland area, followed by Pokeno (26%) and then other districts.

Vern Reeve advised that councillors are there to assist the community and we should not hesitate to contact them on any subject  
Remember that Munro Road upgrade, Pokeno Road Bridge and Sports Park are all separate council issues

Allen said it is essential that WDC takes responsibility for correct information being advised to the community and to prevent personal comments being made about and to PCC members. WDC to take the lead in countering this.

## **Pokeno Community Committee Plan**

Allen read out report from Dominique Thurlow regarding the Plan which has been under discussion for some time. She has since advised that engagement training scheduled for 18 and 24 February has been postponed.

## **NEIGHBOURING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **Upcoming events**

Chinese New Year 21 February. Free event. Register on line  
Hynds Family Day 28 February

## **KEY WORKS PROGRAMMES - Will Gauntlett**

### **Capital Works Programme**

Details can be found on the WDC website including LTP consultations

Will Gauntlett advised that map of roads in Pokeno showing where repairs are required (ie Helenslee Road, Munro Road, etc) was supposed to have been sent to PCC at the end of last year, but for one reason and another this has not been done. He is now looking into when this will be available

Antenno app use is encouraged for council business

## **Roading**

Quite a few roading projects have been postponed due to lack of funding including Dean Road/Fraser Road roundabout, Helenslee Road urban upgrade, Pokeno Road urban upgrade and bridge replacement, Munro Road upgrade, bridge replacement and culverts

## **Security Cameras**

Installation is underway. 3 cameras. Ginny Bullock asked that one of the cameras be installed on the south side of Great South Road to cover McDonald Road/Wellington Street and truck stop intersections as these are very dangerous. Will to advise PCC on this.

## **Skate Park**

Date in agenda is 30 January for draft concept plan and as this has already passed, Will to follow up with new date. Seems that this happens often.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

## **MEETING DATES 2026**

Monday 23 March 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