

## **POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Pokeno Community Committee held in the Pookeno Hall, cnr Market St & Great South Rd on **Monday, 15 June 2026** at **7.30pm**.

### **Present**

#### *Committee:*

Allen Grainger (Chair), Prince Kaira (Deputy Chair), Helen Clotworthy, Jay Singh, Lynda Spicer (Treasurer), Sarah Baker, Bronwyn Heath, Janet Baillie, Dhanak Humayun, Fabio Rodrigues, Vern Reeve.

#### *Mayor:*

Aksel Bech

#### *Visitors:*

Cr Peter Thompson, Will Gauntlett (WDC), Liz Saunders (WDC), Jenni Wilde (Waka Kotahi), Helen Jansen (WDC), various members of the public

### **Apologies**

Cr Endine Dixon-Harris  
Ginny Bullock  
Rick Barber

**Moved:** Janet Baillie **Seconded:** Bronwyn Heath

### **CARRIED - PCC266/1**

#### **Welcome:**

Chair Allen Grainger welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that as per last meeting, it will be live streamed and can be watched online.  
(Apology from Chair for Heaters not working to warm up Hall)

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

**Moved:** Allen Grainger **Seconded:** Janet Baillie

### **CARRIED - PCC266/2**

### **Confirmation of previous minutes 04 May 2026**

**Moved:** Jay Singh **Seconded:** Bronwyn Heath

### **CARRIED - PCC266/3**

## **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**

### Jenni Wilde – NZTA:

- i. Jenni Wilde from Waka Kotahi, presented a detailed report on the developments and progress of the on-going upgrade of SH1 at Papakura to Drury.
- ii. As was pointed out when driving this corridor, you can see the height of the New sections being established to future proof the Climate Change possibilities of a rise in water tables.
- iii. The extra height of the new bridge over Rail lines is to allow for the clearance needed for Electric trains in an allowable Health and Safety function.

### Head Start Pathway:

- i. Mayor Aksel Bech gave a comprehensive presentation on the future of Waikato District Council, Head Start Pathway.
- ii. Amalgamation of Councils around New Zealand is a directive from the Government in trying to lower costs and have less bureaucracy.
- iii. Basically Councils were given a three month time frame to come up with solutions or accept the Governments outcome.
- iv. Council submissions must be made to Parliament by August 9<sup>th</sup> 2026.
- v. Four Suggested options have been identified by WDC:
  1. Waikato Region which would basically cover the existing Waikato Regional Council area
  2. Hamilton Metro and Waikato Towns and Rural (existing WDC
  3. Hamilton-Waikato and Waipa
  4. Do nothing. Council would not put forward a proposal, but take the direction Government chooses for them.
- vi. In question time from the floor, it was asked had it been considered that the North Waikato area be returned to the old Franklin catchment, and therefore become part of the Auckland Super City Council.
- vii. Many ideas for and against, and whilst not on the table currently, would need some ground swell from this area to even approach Auckland and discuss.

viii. To that end two local meetings arranged by WDC will be held to allow residents and ratepayers to put their views forward.

**1. Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 7.00pm**

**2. Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 10.00am**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### ***In:***

- i. Various emails from WDC forwarded by Ginny Bullock to all committee members.
- ii. Correspondence was received from Mr Rob Chester, which had prior to the meeting been circulated to all Committee Members and WDC Mayor, CE and Senior Business Manager. This correspondence has therefore been received and noted.
- iii. The matters raised are already the subject of existing Pokeno Community Committee requests to Council.
- iv. As there is no new action required from the PCC at this stage it is proposed that the correspondence is recorded in summary form in the Minutes rather than reproduced in full.

**Moved:** Allen Grainger **Seconded:** Jay Singh

**CARRIED – PCC266/4**

## **REPORTS**

### **Adoption of Standing Orders**

- i. The Standing Orders (Terms of Reference) Document was presented back to the PCC following discussion from the 4<sup>th</sup> May meeting, by Elizabeth Saunders (WDC) for confirmation.
- ii. The meeting agreed that the Chair should have a casting vote, as per the document.
- iii. An amendment was requested in the Membership section, that Haupai Montgomery be deleted and replaced with Amanda Rutherford
- iv. The document was then tabled and approved.

**Moved** Allen Grainger **Seconded** Janet Baillie.

**THAT the Pōkeno 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. **resolves the casting vote provisions are left as they are in the default standing orders (Option 1 - Chairperson to have casting vote); and**
- c. **chooses Option C as the default option for speaking and moving motions, for all Waikato District Council and Committee meetings.**

**CARRIED - PCC266/5**

## **Councillor's Report**

### ***Cr Fabio Rodrigues***

Councillor's Report – Pōkeno–Tuakau Ward

- i. Council has been incredibly busy. The Government's local government reform work is underway, and a public survey is now open for feedback.
- ii. Mayor Aksel will be providing further information as this progresses.
- iii. Cr Vern Reeve and I are trialling a new approach to community engagement. We have begun meeting directly with local businesses and residents to hear concerns face-to-face. If you would like to discuss an issue or arrange a meeting, please reach out to us via our councillor email addresses — we are more than happy to connect.
- iv. Council has formally adopted the Annual Plan.
- v. Cr Reeve and I have requested an update on the timelines for footpath, drainage, and road upgrades on Regina Street and Market Street West, including whether these projects need to be incorporated into the upcoming Long-Term Plan (LTP).
- vi. As a council, we remain focused and committed to working on your behalf. Thank you to everyone who continues to stay engaged with your community and with us as elected representatives.

## **Financial Report**

- i. Lynda Spicer advised that there has been an additional thirteen cents added to the balances in way of interest since the last meeting.
- ii. Helen Clotworthy advised that the balances are \$8252.89 for the business account and \$3015.94 for the savings account.
- iii. PCC have also raised an Invoice to WDC for a payment of \$10000.00 as advised from Finance at WDC.

## **Communications**

- i. Helen advised that she has further discussed with the original Website designer Ferd, re the upgrade of this service. On-going discussion on how this will be activated, so as Website can be modernised.
- ii. Amanda also offered her assistance if required.

## **Pokeno Sports Park (Skate Park/Destination Playground)**

- i. WDC have entered this project for more Funding in 2027 LTP Budget.
- ii. On the Project grass has been laid on the area for fields that will be used for activities.
- iii. Fields will hopefully be available around October/November depending on weather and growing conditions.
- iv. An on-site meeting has been held with the new Pokeno Cricket Club under Kiran Kumar, to discuss a practise area setup in summer time.
- v. Designs for the Skate Park area have been received and costed, and as per previous minutes that more funding will be required in the next LTP along with DIA Funding.
- vi. Destination Playground equipment has been viewed by Council representatives and should be procured in time for summer installation.
- vii. Toilets are currently being sourced.
- viii. It is not known if Septic Tanks will be required as this is still in Munro upgrade plan, with sewage connection to the Park.

## **Community HUB Market Street.**

- i. The ground breaking and Blessing for this new facility will take place within the next two weeks. Date to be advised.
- ii. This will then allow Contractors to commence work on this much awaited Project.
- iii. The Community looks forward to a “new” piece of Pokeno.

## **Economic Wellbeing Tourism**

- i. Bronwyn Heath commented on discussions that have been held by this sub committee.
- ii. A request was made to give Sheep Valley, a new development, a presentation spot at next PCC meeting.

### **Sub Committee.**

- i. A new Sub Committee has been added to the PCC list under the heading of Transport and Roding.
- ii. Included in brief would be looking at suggestion to re-route traffic off Great South Road and up Hitchens into Gateway Park Drive and MacDonald Road.
- iii. And as per report further on in minutes would include Pokeno Road Great South Road Round-a-bout.
- iv. General Roding in Pokeno and surrounding areas.

### **NEIGHBOURING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

### **Upcoming events**

Matariki Day at Hall on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July

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

#### **Capital Works Programme**

- i. As per normal details can be found on the WDC website including LTP consultations.
- ii. Will advised that most of Capital Works had previously been discussed earlier.
- iii. Again asked that Residents use the Antenno app for council enquiries/complaints/or raising requests.
- iv. As per previous meeting minutes the PCC enquiry that at a future date the current Hall and Land may be sold to help create a New Community Centre at Sports Park, has been moved in the LTP process for consideration.
- v. Gazebo type construction suggested at Hitchens Road Park is progressing with a further meeting held with Council rep, PCC Chair and local residents to work out design and costings.
- vi. The Pokeno Road Great South Road Round-a-bout is being re-visited as it appears not to fit the requirements that are currently in place.

### **General Business.**

- i. From the floor question was again raised, why has no work been done on the On/Off Ramps leading to and from Pokeno.

- ii. We look like a “third world” at our entrance points.
- iii. No where else in the WDC does this appear to happen, so why is Pokeno not getting regular maintenance?
- iv. Awaiting from previous request the full Maintenance and Services programme for Pokeno, to try and overcome this problem.

Dhanak Humayun thanked people for their support in getting her to Cannes where she was able to show her Nine Stars of Matariki to a famed and world wide audience on the red carpet.

### **Remaining on Minute Items from previous meetings**

- i. Council advise that of the rates received from Pokeno area, how much is returned to the Community and in what capacity.
- ii. A review of the placement of rubbish bins within the Main Street of Pokeno.
- iii. Maintenance of roadsides within Pokeno.

*Meeting closed at 9.15 pm*

### **MEETING DATES 2026**

Monday 03 August 2026

Monday 14 September 2026

Tuesday 27 October 2026

Monday 07 December 2026