

POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of Pokeno Community Committee held on Monday 8 April 2024 7.00 pm at Pokeno Hall.

Present:

Allen Grainger (Chair), Helen Clotworthy (Deputy Chair), Ginny Bullock (Secretary), Bronwyn Heath, Cecilia Heta, Janet Baillie, Mike Holroyd, Ian Leader

Councillors: Vern Reeve, Kandi Ngataki

Visitors: Will Gauntlett (WDC), Garrett Huelson (WDC), Tamlyn Theys (WDC) (WDC), Jenni Wild (NZTA/Waka Kotahi)

Approximately 45-50 members of the public

Apologies

Nil

Confirmation of Status of Agenda

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Mike Holroyd

Confirmation of previous minutes 13 February 2024

Moved Cecilia Heta

Seconded Kandi Ngataki

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

Waka Kotahi

Jenni Wild gave a presentation on the progress of SH1 between Papakura and Drury including walking/cycling pathways

\$655M budget will probably be exceeded due to Covid, extra cost of materials and extra consents

Papakura southbound onramp from Beach Road should be completed shortly

Papakura northbound offramp changes completed in 3 weeks, not 4 as allowed, due to increased night work

6 new bridges need to be built including 2 at Drury interchange to allow for electrification of rail lines

New Chorus depot built at Drury interchange

Waikato pipeline will have to be replaced and moved

Project will take years to be completed

Next stage is up for consent, delayed due to areas of cultural significance on both sides of the motorway

There will be a hearing for the public with meetings planned later 2024. Next meeting in Drury Hall on 18 May 10 am – 1 pm

A discussion took place regarding speed limits. She advised that although central government wants them to be increased, in fact this is up to local councils to determine by by-law

Speed camera on Mill Road Bombay was discussed. Access to Orion Road almost impossible due to culvert and barrier around the camera installation

Lights at Bombay interchange to be installed mid-2024. Tenders close this week. Will take about 4 months subject to weather conditions and disruptions will happen

She is taking back to Waka Kotahi the following:

Question was raised regarding Pokeno southbound off ramp

Vegetation was planted 30 years ago and has not been maintained.

Community Patrol went and cut back huge flax bushes but these have regrown and vegetation is not fit for purpose, blocking visibility and endangering traffic on the roundabout

Lines need to be repainted

Why has Pokeno offramp not received a NZTA number as other off ramps on state highways

Bridges at Pokeno south on/off ramps are not maintained and are very overgrown

Thanks from Allen Grainger

Haupai Montgomery

Haupai answered questions and spoke about whanau, hapu, iwi building a marae on Avon Road on the site of the dog park and the paddock next door. This will create better understanding. Also discussion regarding services to Maori. There will not be a convention centre attached to the marae as this will be sited either at Pokeno Sports Park or at the new Community Hub

WDC considering concept plan. No dog park as this culturally offensive to maori near a marae. Dog park to be moved to other side of Tennis Club on Reserve. WDC to decide if no marae or if so, public consideration. Public will get chance to speak on this when submissions when open/close. Outcome August-October 2025

Question regarding suitability of Avon Road. It is narrow and not suitable to extra traffic. Who will pay for road widening and improvements?

Question why another marae is needed for the district as both Tuakau and Mangatawhiri are within 10kms of Pokeno

Question re ownership of land as it appears that it was donated to the People of Pokeno many years ago for use including a school which was later moved to its present site

They are hoping to get 99-year lease on the land. He advised that the marae will not be funded by ratepayers since they will fund themselves and hope to get a result by November / December 2024

There will be a meeting on Saturday 04 May at 10.00 am at Pokeno Hall with local dignitaries, historians etc to explain the concept

Reminded meeting that Matariki is Friday 28 June this year

Thanks from Allan Grainger

CORRESPONDENCE

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

Out: Nil

REPORTS

Councillor's report



Councillor Report
PCC April 2024.docx

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Strategy and Growth / Pokeno Realm

A meeting is planned in 2 weeks regarding community hub
Committee is working on behalf of all of Pokeno even though this does not seem to be the case at times. An Open Day in October was well advertised and very few residents attended
WDC website has full information on what is happening in Pokeno
Question was raised about Ratepayers group. This is now defunct as it has morphed into elected Community Committee

Treasurer's report

 [PCC Financial Report 27 February 2024 - 8 April 2024](#)

Events

Pokeno Sports Park
Carpark is complete with lighting
Blessing at 5.00 am on 2 May

Anzac Day 25 April
March to Cenotaph at 9.00 am will have a different route this year due to road works
Traffic Management to be contacted to stop all traffic movements during service as last year Envirowaste truck drove through which was very disruptive and disrespectful.

Communications

Website is being updated

NEIGHBOURING COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

KEY WORKS PROGRAMMES

Will Gauntlett (WDC) advised that we should go to WDC website to see all planned Works and Issues and Capital Projects in the Pokeno area on the Home Page.

Vic from Market Place raised a question regarding the road cones on Great South Road/ He has discussed this with Brian Cathro from WDA (managing the works and wants to see gaps where traffic from Pokeno Road can turn right into Great South Road without having to travel up to the roundabout at the Pokeno North off ramp. He wants a stop/go system but this will not work after 5.00 pm

Traffic lights phasing on corner of Hitchen Road and Pokeno Road needs to be changed while works are happening. Traffic delays are extremely long, particularly at school opening/closing times. Instances of impatient, dangerous driving, trucks blocking Pokeno Road/Helenslee intersection

Layby on Pokeno Road

Road Marking scheduled shortly when current water main works are completed

Munro Road

Road will be closed shortly for up to 4 months for widening and for flood protection to enable access to Sports Park

One way/no exit Ford Street

Will discussed this with Brenda Roberts after the meeting

Main Street redevelopment

Asbestos was found at roundabout site which stopped work. This has now been removed and works should restart shortly

Helen Clotworthy raised the subject of the paving and how access to shops was severely impaired with no access for wheelchairs. Dust and grit are a hazard and are filling guttering on Wellington Street carparks
She also raised the fact that rubbish has not been collected and the solar bins are not impacting rubbish and it looks like a third world country. She is not sure whether this is the contractor's fault but needs to be addressed urgently. No collection over Easter. Her staff have filled enormous bags with rubbish but still is a problem

Toilet block

This has been delayed while decisions are made regarding Community Hub

GENERAL BUSINESS

Pokeno/Tuakau school bus

A letter from Will Gauntlett to Allen Grainger was read out.

Waikato Regional Council, Franklin Transport Network Group and principal of Tuakau College are in discussions regarding how a school bus would work from beginning of Term 2.

Ministry of Education website states \$1000 per family for buses

Tuakau College is exploring the viability of allowed students to finish early in order to catch 3.19 pm and 3.48 pm services from Tuakau to Pokeno

Question from member of the public regarding a protest walk but Mike Holroyd advised this is not a good idea as it really won't work. Pokeno is not the only place affected, the buses are being withdrawn countrywide

New annual plan 2024/2025 document

This was handed out at a meeting prior to Committee meeting (copies ran out).

It should be on council website for all to read

Contains details of projected rate increase of 13.75%

Brief discussion regarding abolition of 3 Waters and that Watercare is pulling out of agreement for Tuakau/Pokeno effective 2026. Costs of updating existing water infrastructure is in the millions

Sunday Market

A question was asked about the land where the market was held. It is privately owned.

Medical Centre

Sign on site of medical centre has been removed. It is not known whether this means that it not going to be built or not

A question was raised about an ambulance service in Pokeno. It was suggested that fundraising can be done to support this

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

MEETING DATES 2024

Monday 20 May

Monday 01 July

Monday 12 August

Monday 23 September

Monday 04 November

Monday 16 December