

## **POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes** of the meeting of Pokeno Community Committee held on Monday 24 February 7.00 pm at Pokeno Hall.

### **Present:**

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

Councillor: Kandi Ngataki

Visitors: Will Gauntlett (WDC),

Various members of the public

### **Apologies:**

Councillor Vern Reeve, Constable Borrell, Mayor Jacqui Church

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Janet Baillie

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

Moved Ginny Bullock

Seconded Cecilia Heta

### **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

### **Confirmation of previous minutes 04 December**

Moved Bronwyn Heath

Seconded Kandi Ngataki

### **Confirmation of minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 13 February**

Changes to spelling of Jasbir Kaur (Mr J Kaur) to Mrs J Kaur and incorrect spelling of Mike Holroyd's surname

Moved Kandi Ngataki

Seconded Janet Baillie

A brief introduction from each of the Committee members took place.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

A member of the public asked if there has been any advice from WDC regarding the spelling of Pokeno (Pookeno/Pokeno)

No advice has been received from WDC. It was mentioned that Haupai Montgomery from the local iwi had advised that the current spelling was preferred

Perhaps putting a macron over the “o” would be acceptable to everyone

Ian Leader advised there will be a meeting on 27 April at 10.00 am at the hall regarding plans for a marae in the dog park on Avon Road. Cecilia Heta advised that interested people should contact Haupai Montgomery. She said that Pokeno wants their own marae with be for the use of all residents. Any use of the Pokeno Reserve in Avon Road must to be notified to residents by law.

A comment was made that the Community Facebook page needs to be updated. Helen Clotworthy advised that she has been on holiday for all of January and is now working to update the page

A question was raised regarding the cancellation of school buses between Pokeno and Tuakau. There has been no change in the decision. Mike Holroyd advised that another public meeting will be happening shortly. However Pokeno is not the only rural area where school buses are being withdrawn. Suggested that children could walk the 10k to Tuakau subject to traffic speeds or just not send the children to school. Car sharing as an alternative was also suggested.

Children are not allowed to stand up in buses and so using current public buses will not be sufficient spaces for the children

Mike is going to advise email addresses of Minister of Education, Andrew Bayly, MP and Waikato Regional Council so that the public can bombard them with emails – perhaps they might change their mind!!

A member of the public asked why there are no advance notices of the road works in the main street on the north side of Pokeno but there is a large sign on the southern entrance to Pokeno. Cost was a factor but Allen Grainger is going to speak to the manager of the works to see if a sign can be erected on the northern side

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Out: Nil

## **REPORTS**

### **Councillor Kandi Ngataki's report**



Councillor Report  
PCC Feb 2024.docx

## **LONG TERM PLAN UPDATE**

Email from Tony Whitaker (COO of WDC)

I wanted to give you with an update on our proposed plans for the upcoming 2024/25 financial year.

### **Background**

As you may be aware, Waikato District Council, like many other council across the country, are currently facing significant financial challenges in preparing it's 10 year budget for the Long Term Plan 2024-2034. This is result of a number of issues including inflationary pressures and also significant changes driven by the central government, particularly in the areas of water reform and infrastructure funding through the Water Service Act Repeal Bill. The central government passed the Water Service Act Repeal Bill on 16 February 2024, which repeals the previous government's water services legislation. Subsequent legislation, implementing Local Water Done Well, will progress in a two-stage approach. The first bill, establishing the framework and transitional arrangements, is scheduled to pass by mid-2024. A second bill, providing for the long-term replacement regime, will be introduced by December 2024 and enacted by mid-2025.

### **Proposal to Council**

After careful consideration, Council will consider a proposal at a Council meeting on Wednesday, to prepare an enhanced Annual Plan being for one year only (i.e. for the 2024/25 financial year). This proposal delays the Long Term Plan (LTP) by one year, effectively making it a nine year plan (i.e. 2025-2034 LTP). This is an option recently provided by the Government to support those needing time to reintroduce Waters back into their LTPs.

Our proposal is influenced by various reasons, including the need to leverage confirmed QV rating revaluations, secure subsidies from Waka Kotahi for the district's roading programme, and gain a better understanding of water infrastructure requirements, central government policy, and affordability implications.

### **What this means**

Moving to an enhanced annual plan will give us more time to address immediate changes and challenges around water infrastructure, await official confirmation on funding from Waka Kotahi in September 2024. It also will provide us with more time to engage with our

communities regarding services, activities, projects, and associated costs at a time that we're experiencing escalating costs and community affordability challenges.

### **Process to date**

We understand you might be wondering about the significant investment already in the LTP process. We can reassure you that the hard work to date won't go to waste as it will be needed for both the enhanced Annual Plan 2024/25 and subsequent LTP.

We're simply proposing to switch our process as we await further clarity on the government's plans and other outlined issues. If supported by our Mayor and Councillors, we will spend the next financial year engaging with central government to explore alternative solutions to help ease the financial burden on ratepayers.

### **Next Steps**

We acknowledge that the financial challenges facing the Council will continue in the short to long term. We consider proposing an enhanced Annual Plan process ensures the best outcomes for our communities. We acknowledge and appreciate your support of the process to date.

Attached is a media release issued today for your reference. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

We're currently work on updating a communication toolkit to support you to answer any questions you may get from your communities before our consultation period. There will also be another media release issued following the Council meeting this week.

We'll keep you updated on next steps.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Meeting to be convened to discuss this with WDC on 25 March at 6.00 pm

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Treasurer's report**

 [PCC Financial Report 5 December 2023 - 26 February 2024](#)

### **Events**

Round the Pokeno Fun Run 17 March starting at Totara Park

### **Facilities**

Quotes have been requested for the skatepark at the Pokeno Sports Ground. WDC has \$480K to contribute towards this and so it will be necessary for additional funds will have to be applied for through the Lotteries Commission and similar organisations.

## **Communications**

Website is being upgraded and up to date information is currently being added

## **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.

He said it is useful that the Key Works has reduced in number in the agenda and was advised that as these are completed/actioned new items will be added

### **Pokeno Sports Park**

Topsoil to be laid and sowed on both fields. Carpark is well under construction and should be completed by deadline of 31 March

### **Munro Road**

First part of the project is widening of the shoulder, footpaths to improve safety. Second project will be widening of Munro Road Bridge, pedestrian bridge and remaining part of the roading in 2024/2025 subject to design considerations

### **Roundabout at Pokeno and Great South Roads**

This has been put on hold due to budgetary constraints prompting a review of its design. Report to WDC is underway and outcome will be advised in due course

### **Market Street Hub**

New properties in Market Street and Regina Street have been purchased by WDC and a meeting was held recently to get ideas of what Pokeno would like to see, including railway station/bus terminal. Outcome will be advised in due course

### **Toilet block**

These are built and just waiting on consent for installation

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Questions have been asked again regarding Ford Street and having “Residents only” signs. WDC advise that it is a public road and therefore cannot have residents only signage. This was disputed and Will Gauntlett agreed to take it back to council as it is only used by residents and their visitors. However quite a few “boy racers” have started to speed up to the turnaround at the top of the road, do wheelies and then speed back down the road. Residents are very concerned.

Cecilia Heta also raised the issue regarding the layby on Pokeno Road which is badly lit. WDC are considering changing use of red paint/markings at the vehicle crossing. Apparently drivers are using the layby to speed through the intersection when the lights are red. Danger to local children is high. Will to report back to PCC at the next meeting

Chairman is to send letter of thanks to Ric Odom, Tricia Burns, Barry Birchall for their contributions to the last PCC committee.

A question was raised about the logs from the felled macrocarpa tree at the Avon Road Dog Park. Requests have been made to the chairman for permission to cut them up for firewood. This has been denied and it is suggested that the logs are sent to a sawmill and special signs created for areas around Pokeno (parks, etc). In the meantime a request was made to move the logs to a secure place (Market Street) to prevent theft.

### **Tennis Club**

Bronwyn Heath advised that lights have been delivered and will be installed this week so the courts can be used year round.

Club rooms are very heavily booked by local groups for all sorts of activities including a church group on Sundays

**MEETING DATES 2024. 7.00 pm at Pokeno Hall**

Monday 08 April

Monday 20 May

Monday 01 July

Monday 12 August

Monday 23 September

Monday 04 November

Monday 16 December

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Ian Leader

Meeting closed at 8.05 pm