

Pokeno Community Committee

MINUTES of the monthly Pokeno Community Committee meeting held in the Pokeno Hall, Pokeno on 11th September 2018, commencing at 7.10pm.

Committee Members Present: Helen Clotworthy, Ric Odom, Todd Miller, Kris Hines, Charles Hackett, Doug Rowe, Janet McRobbie

WDC Staff In Attendance: Tony Whittaker, Ian Cathcart

Councillors in Attendance: Mayor Alan Sanson, Cr Stephanie Henderson

Community Members: Community members attended

1. **APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Cr J Church, Wayne Rogers, Tricia Graham, Blair Johnson

Moved that apologies be accepted.

Moved: Helen Clotworthy

Seconded: Kris Hines

2. **CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA:**

Moved that the agenda be confirmed.

Moved: Helen Clotworthy

Seconded: Kris Hines

3. **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:** Todd Miller declared potential conflict as an employee of Fire & Emergency NZ in relation to Agenda Item 5.1 and Ric Odom declared a potential conflict as CEO of Franklin Hospice in relation to a matter to be raised in General Business.

4. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:**

Moved that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th August 2018 be accepted

Moved: Helen Clotworthy

Seconded: Janet McRobbie

5. **REPORTS:**

5.1. **Civil Defence Update.** Todd gave update on Civil Defence and Emergency. Discussions with St John resulted in them making their first response vehicle (normally based in Pukekohe) available in Pokeno. Initially, this would be staffed by willing off-duty St John staff with a view to engaging and training suitable local volunteers. There was a view expressed that St John are not particularly forthcoming in providing support for communities in the Waikato District. It was noted that while the vehicle is based in Pukekohe, it is used by and funded by the Tuakau community. St John indicated they would be open to opening a volunteer base in Pokeno but that volunteers would need to meet St John criteria.

Talking to the new fire station in Pokeno, Todd advised that Fire & Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) have indicated that planning for this will proceed. FENZ is going through a consultation process. It impacts on Pokeno in that there is discussion on moving current FENZ boundaries. Currently, the Mercer station is managed and supported by the Manukau area but under the new proposal, it is intended this will change to Hamilton which could lead to a degradation of service. The Mercer Chief Fire Officer is challenging this change and Todd requests that the Pokeno Community Committee supports the challenge. Mayor Sanson expressed a view that this area would be best supported from South Auckland. The Committee decided that it does support the Mercer Fire Chief's position and asked Todd to convey that support.

Moved that the report be accepted

Moved: Helen Clotworthy

Seconded: Doug Rowe

5.2 Works & Issues. Ian Cathcart talked to the update contained in the meeting papers. He advised that the cars owned by the real estate agents are entitled to park in the area adjacent to the War Memorial. Kris questioned the time line of the roading update as it seems to clash with the opening of the Hitchens Bridge. Ian advised that all attempts are being made to ensure the work is appropriately scheduled. While final designs have yet to be completed, they are trying to meet the stated deadlines.

No decision has yet been made on the location of the Pokeno Library and community consultation will occur on this in due course.

Helen asked if Council would take up issues with Counties Power on behalf of the community. Mayor Sanson advised that a council staff member has taken this up with Counties Power.

Doug mentioned that a walkway off Muirhill Crescent and Hillpark Drive seems incomplete as it goes nowhere. Ian will follow up.

5.3 Pokeno Committee Schedule. Helen indicated that the schedule should be updated and while we have had guests arranged by Council staff, it is now our responsibility. It was agreed to ask Colin Bottica to attend the October Meeting. For the November meeting, the Committee asked if there could be an update on the supermarket in November. Tony suggested that as Council is in regular contact with Progressive, a Council member ask them when a suitable time would be for an update and an indication could probably be made at the October meeting. The Committee did ask Tony to indicate to Progressive that it is keen to continue engagement.

Joel McKinlay is the developer of the proposed ecotourism venture under consideration in Tata Valley and was asked to present on this at the November meeting.

5.4 Market Square. Tony Whittaker spoke to this and reminded the committee about the discussion held at the last Committee meeting which Progressive representatives attended. Tony reminded the meeting that the aim was to have an appropriately sized supermarket in Pokeno. Progressive understood this and have adjusted their planning so a larger (Countdown) supermarket is built. This will require a different footprint but Council was adamant it needed to preserve land holdings and the challenge is how this might be achieved. The Progressive senior management is putting pressure on the local management to get a quick resolution so building can commence or the plan may be abandoned. With this in mind, an option is for Council to sell the land currently designated a paper road and invest the money raised from this to protect it for future use in Pokeno. The original concept of a land swap is unlikely to be resolved in time to meet Progressive's time constraints. As Progressive intends submitting a new resource consent application by Christmas, some early decisions need to be made. The resource consent will be a notified consent so that residents have an opportunity to comment. Progressive are keen to retain the southwest corner land area that had previously be considered as a site for the new library. In order to progress,

Progressive have undertaken to build a plaza/public space in this area at their cost. Tony tabled a map but wished to make it clear that this was only to show what a potential new Market Square might look like. This plan was therefore only to give an idea of context relating to a land swap and it should not be regarded as a final concept. Helen wanted to re-iterate her opposition to losing Market Square space to the service station and losing the southwest corner space which had been earmarked for some additional retail and community facilities. There was robust discussion and Ian provided a useful summary.

5.5 Update on Christmas Parade. No update.

5.6 Street Names. Helen advised that another list of approximately 20 names has been submitted but this will be an ongoing requirement.

5.7 Chairpersons Report. Helen spoke to this, covering issues that are not covered under other agenda items. The Committee requests that Council note these issues. Kris advised that a significant amount of wire has been removed from the tennis courts. This should be reported to Police.

5.8 Councillors Report. Cr Henderson indicated staff had covered most issued but reminded the meeting that there are drop-in sessions on the District Plan in various areas including in Pokeno on 20th September.

5.9 Committee Reports. Doug had no update from the Community Patrol but noted that Pokeno will soon lose its community constable. Doug reminded the meeting that there are Meet and Greet sessions every Thursday from 10.00-12.00 in the Pokeno Hall. A trivia quiz is held and morning tea is provided. All are welcome and there are regularly about 16 attendees.

5.10 Synlait. John Roberts provided an update. Three days of construction were lost as a result of the original contractor going into receivership but construction appears to now be back on track. In less than a year, Synlait will be processing milk. John is keen to get a canteen provider onsite from now for approximately 9 months servicing up to 250 workers so this is an opportunity for someone local. He is also keen to hold an open day possibly in October. This can't include a tour as it is a construction site but there will be static displays and staff available to answer questions.

Ric made a request to include a sign promoting the Garden Ramble attached to the Blackboard. This wasn't approved but a notice promoting the event could be written on the blackboard.

Doug raised an issue about the amount of dog excrement in the area. It was noted that the committee has previously raised a request for dog excrement bins and signs to be placed in several areas. But no action has been taken and requests that this be included in Works & Issues.

Doug also asked if the dog park could have separated areas for different sized dogs at the dog park. Todd advised that as trees had been planted to provide shelter, there are limitations as to use so there may be insufficient space to create separate areas.

Todd commented that he believes dog agility businesses are running their business at the dog park. Cr Henderson advised that businesses should not be conducting business on council land.

Janet advised that the Hall is being well utilised by various community groups.

CLOSURE: There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.05pm