

POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of Pokeno Community Committee held on Tuesday 24 October 7.00 pm at Pokeno Hall.

Present:

Allen Grainger (Chair), Helen Clotworthy (Deputy Chair), Ginny Bullock (Secretary), Barry Birchall, Bronwyn Heath, Tricia Burns, Ric Odom, Janet Baillie, Cecilia Heta

Mayor Jacqui Church

Councillors: Vern Reeve, Kandi Ngataki, Peter Thompson

Visitors: Will Gauntlett (WDC), Constable Lorraine Borrell

Guests: Jenni Wild (Waka Kotahi/NZTA), Patrick Edwards (WDC)

Approximately 22 members of the public

Apologies

Doug Rowe, Ian Leader

Moved Janet Baillie

Seconded Barry Birchall

Confirmation of Status of Agenda

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Ginny Bullock

Confirmation of previous minutes 11 September 2023

Moved Ric Odom

Seconded Ginny Bullock

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

Allen Grainger suggested that Jenni Wild and Patrick Edwards give their presentations at the beginning of the meeting out of order of the agenda

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Ginny Bullock

SH1 upgrade

Jenni Wild gave an update of the improvements to SH1 between Papakura and Drury. She discussed the new bridges over the railway line at Drury and also the split lanes northbound between Drury and Papakura. She also spoke about new onramps at Papakura. She mentioned that it will be at least another 18 months-2 years before the road alignment will be completed.

New motorway speed limit will be 100kmh as this section of the motorway is designated urban.

She also advised that traffic lights will be installed shortly (end January 2024) at Bombay interchange to alleviate traffic problems

Main Street presentation

Patrick Edwards (WDC) updated the meeting on the Main Street improvements and the new roundabout at Pokeno Road. He showed on the plan where the works would take place. He said that discussions have taken place with NZ Fire Service regarding accessibility. He also advised that speed limit will be 30kmh in the town centre

He will look at extra lights at Wellington Street intersection (particularly the exit from Countdown) to improve traffic flow

Mayor Jacqui asked about rain garden in the middle of the road and is concerned about maintenance. She also advised that the public can look at the WDC website to see what upcoming capital works are in the pipeline for Pokeno.

Helen Clotworthy expressed concern regarding the amount of road cones / stop-go signs while construction is taking place and she asked that cell phones be banned for road workers to increase safety

Ginny Bullock asked that an "alternative truck route" sign could be put at the roundabout for trucks to go via Hitchen Road and Yashili Drive

It was suggested that the commencement date should be moved to February 2024 instead of November 2023 but it was thought this would then push works into winter with the ensuing weather disruptions. Consensus is that November is better as works will be closed down for 3 weeks over Christmas/New Year and will allow tourists access the businesses.

There were a number of comments from the public regarding the disruptions to local businesses and how this could be alleviated. Quite a bit of discussion regarding whether car parks should be diagonal or parallel and Patrick said that he would look into this and report back to PCC

Allen Grainger expressed his thanks to Patrick for his presentation

PUBLIC FORUM

No items for discussion under public forum

CORRESPONDENCE

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

Out: Nil

REPORTS

Councillor's reports

Cr Reeve has been out and about meeting constituents and speaking to councillors re Pokeno project upgrades

Cr Ngataki thanked Allen Grainger for attending the WDC wrap-up of LTP findings and review. The following subjects were discussed at this meeting

- (1) Indicative Rates 2024 to 2027 increase 11 – 15%
- (2) WDC wanted 15% but realise Residents/Ratepayers could not afford
- (3) Will try and keep below double digit of 10%, but going to be difficult
- (4) Other Councils looking at 14% and I see Christchurch City looking at 18%
- (5) These rates are required really to keep Councils going at current standard of service
- (6) Top three priorities will be Water/Roading/Rates
- (7) Economic/Community Funding, no additional and review all current contracts/projects
- (8) Re-Cycling Station that was to be built in Bollard Road, Tuakau on hold with full review
- (9) Open Spaces. All Sports parks and Walkways reduce funding and delay further developments, though am told funding allocated in first instance to Pokeno Sports park will stay as is
- (10) Future funding for further stages might be tightened
- (11) Community raised funding could though cover on-going development
- (12) Pokeno Sports park was first muted in 2013
- (13) Property and Community requests to be reduced
- (14) Where can WDC divest of property they have so funds can be diverted to other items
- (15) CCTV Cameras not supported by majority of Councillors
- (16) Where they have been installed, cost is 100s of 1000s and on going maintenance costs to Communities is to much of a burden
- (17) Unknown changes that will come into play from new government, creating holding pattern with unstable current Economic climate

(18 What will happen to Three Waters?

(19 National have stated way back pre election, what a waste of money Te Huia is, so maybe that will go, so no need for Stations at Tuakau or Pokeno

(20 New Local Government Reform act will have quite an effect on Local Communities along with defining what is the role of Council

Cr Ngataki advised that an app is now available for WDC called Antenno which can be accessed through cell phone play store to get updates on what is happening in Pokeno and to follow up on services/issues in Pokeno.

There is no Residents and Ratepayers association in Pokeno. There used to be, but it was disbanded and morphed into Pokeno Community group and this then became Pokeno Community Committee, which may in the future become Pokeno Community Board.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Strategy and Growth

Ric Odom advised that PCC has withdrawn without cost from the various appeals to the Waikato District Plan for Pokeno.

He briefly mentioned that funding for projects could be applied using the PCC Trust

Finance

Helen Clotworthy gave a resume of PCC accounts

General account balance \$2617.85

Savings Plus account balance \$20861.19

Moved Helen Clotworthy

Seconded Janet Baillie

After discussions regarding finances for PCC, the following resolution was tabled

RESOLUTION

To make application to WDC for funding for 2023/2024 financial year pf \$1000 for committee expenses and projects

Moved Ric Odom

Seconded Allen Grainger

Facilities

Nothing new this meeting. Pokeno Sport Park is delayed due to weather so hopefully earthworks will be completed by Christmas so car park can be built.

Speed Cameras

Constable Borrell advised that ANPR cameras are a huge success in apprehension and prevention of crime

WDC is not in favour of camera installation due to the ongoing very high cost of maintenance. There is no budget. Initial installation cost is very low.

However, a project manager has been appointed to look into this.

It is essential that both Waikato police and Counties Manukau are involved with any information regarding criminal activity in Pokeno

Originally funding was requested through a government initiative called "Better Off Funding" which is no longer available.

Communications

Helen Clotworthy reported Our PCC Open Day was advertised by posters, household flyer drop and an advertising campaign on our FB and other Pokeno FB sites.

Our website users has reached 6k viewers,

New viewers are from:

NZ 1.4

US 151

Indonesia 65

Australia 51

Ireland 37

China 14

Singapore 13.

The most viewed pages are our Home Page, Our People, Business, Notice Board, Pokeno Sports Park, Events and Facilities.

Progress is continuing to keep our website updated.

Events

Christmas Parade is scheduled for 08 December. It will be held on Yashili Drive and Hitchen Road due to scheduled major road works along Great South Road. Local businesses have been approached and are OK for it to be held here this year.

Whisky factory has offered their carpark for parking and also a discounted tour of their factory for adults during the parade if required.

An application for funding for Traffic Management will be applied for next week.

NEIGHBOURING COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

KEY WORKS PROGRAMMES

Works and Issues

Moved that these be taken as read

Moved Ric Odom

Seconded Allen Grainger

Will Gauntlett (WDC) advised that we should go to WDC website to see all planned Works and Issues in the Pokeno area

Local Government reform is to come with new national government. He is looking for community input and emphasised that WDC is very supportive of local communities.

Resource Management Act affects local government every day.

Pokeno Sports Park

Works continue subject to weather disruptions

New Toilet Block

WDC now has a contractor and works should be completed by 31 December 2023. There are 5 toilet blocks around the district which are to be upgraded

COMMUNITY PATROL

No report this meeting

OTHER BUSINESS

NZ Police

Bronwyn Heath thanked Constable Borrell for her input for a safer Pokeno and an increased police presence. Much appreciated.

Ginny Bullock said she dialled 111 last week due to antisocial behaviour behind the toilets on Market Road involving glass bottles being thrown into the derelict building. She was pleased that 3 police cars turned up and alcohol was removed from the area.

The following attachment shows the numbers of suggestions for Pokeno from the recent Open Day



POKENO CC
OCTOBER 1st RESPC

There was a spirited discussion regarding the spelling of Pokeno (Pookeno) and it was questioned why the “o” in Pokeno should not have a macron over it to emphasise the oo pronunciation.

Mayor Jacqui said that there will be an appointment of a Maori Strategy Advisor to the senior management team to ensure that Te Reo strategy will be respectful to hapu and iwi

The Committee was reminded that Cr Ngataki has a great deal of knowledge and business acumen

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Next Meeting

Monday, 4 December

Monday 13 February 2024 AGM and election of new officers