

POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of Pokeno Community Committee held on Monday 4 December 7.00 pm at Pokeno Hall.

Present:

Allen Grainger (Chair), Helen Clotworthy (Deputy Chair), Ginny Bullock (Secretary), Barry Birchall, Bronwyn Heath, Ric Odom, Cecilia Heta
Mayor Jacqui Church

Councillors: Vern Reeve, Kandi Ngataki, Marlene Raumati (Te Kauwhata)

Visitors: Will Gauntlett (WDC), William Durning (WDC)

Approximately 45-50 members of the public

Apologies

Janet Baillie, Tricia Burns, Andrew Bayly, Casey Costello

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Ginny Bullock

Confirmation of Status of Agenda

Moved Ginny Bullock

Seconded Barry Birchall

Confirmation of previous minutes 24 October 2023

Moved Cecilia Heta

Seconded Bronwyn Heath

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

Allen Grainger suggested that the public discussion regarding the renaming (spelling) of Pokeno take place at the beginning of the meeting out of the order of the agenda

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Ginny Bullock

A large number of the public attending the meeting voiced their concerns that Pokeno has been renamed Pookeno by WDC without any consultation with the residents of "Our Town". It appears that WDC has arbitrarily changed the name without local advice in their publications and on their website.

A lively discussion took place with the majority of attendees against any change to the name spelling. A lot of discussion took place regarding the fact that local Maori were displaced during the 1850's wars and lost their lands as a result. It was recommended that the public should visit the Queen's Redoubt for full information on this subject

Worldwide there are many dialects which pronounce place names slightly differently but this does not necessitate a name change.

Education in pronunciation is important and if Pokeno is pronounced correctly a name change might not be necessary ie Pookeno, Pookino, Pawkeno, or Pokeno with a macron over the "o", etc.

Hauptai Montgomery of Ngatai Tamaoho stated that they are happy with Pokeno spelling not being changed and it was agreed that they should have a say in the spelling.

Cr Raumati spoke on both sides of the conversation and agreed that mana whenua should be the decision makers in consultation with the wider community.

Mayor Jacqui responded that the change was made in consultation with Waikato Tainui and the decision was based on discussions back in 2014

Name changes are gazetted by the Geographic Board and this has not happened

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

WDC to come back in the new year with some answers to the public’s concerns

OTHER BUSINESS

Helen Clotworthy reminded the public that the AGM and election of new officers will be taking place on Monday 13 February and asked that people think about joining the committee

Brenda Roberts mentioned that the markets are closing after 22 years at the end of December and asked whether it will be possible to use the Hall and car parks. She was advised that the hall is almost fully booked now. However it was suggested that the WDC-owned land in Market Street could be a venue in the short term

CORRESPONDENCE

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

Out: Nil

LONG TERM PLAN UPDATE

Allen Grainger suggested that this be returned to the Community Committee for further discussion next year

Moved Allen Grainger

Seconded Ginny Bullock

Mayor Jacqui advised that there should be less jargon in the reports and she mentioned rates will have to increase in the next fiscal year. She said Hamilton City Council will need a 25% increase to keep up with costs of supplying services to the community.

REPORTS

Councillor’s reports

Cr Ngataki summarised the meeting so far. She also mentioned the following meetings

5 December CBD 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm

12 December at Pokeno Hall at 6.00 pm regarding school bus routes. Ministry of Education, Tuakau College, Waikato Regional Council will be in attendance.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports were tabled due to the lateness of the meeting

Treasurer's report

As the meeting ran out of time, Helen's report could not be tabled. However she advised that balances are

PCC Account \$2617.85

Savings Plus Account \$20910.12

Website funds balance \$2617.85

Events

Allen summarised:

Santa Parade 08 December

Great South Road upgrade starting mid-January

Toilets will probably be installed around the same time. It was suggested that these should be installed before Christmas to prevent clashing with Great South Road upgrade. Check with Patrick whether this is possible

Pokeno Sports Park – carpark is pegged out but due to continuing bad weather the project is behind and it is hoped to be completed by 31 March 2024 to ensure new consents do not have to be applied for.

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.

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

MEETING DATES 2024

Monday 13 February 2024 AGM and election of new officers

Further dates parked for discussion next year with the new committee as to whether the meetings should take place on Monday or Tuesday evenings

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm