



POKENO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the monthly Pokeno Community Committee meeting held in the Pokeno Hall, Pokeno, on 9th October 2018

Committee Members Present: Ric Odom, Doug Rowe, Kris Hines, Janet McRobbie, Lance Straker

WDC Staff in Attendance: Kevin Stokes

Councillors in Attendance: Cr J Church, Cr S. Henderson

Sport Waikato: Jason Marconi

Community Members: Community members attended

Kris Hines chaired the meeting and opened with a welcome at 7.00pm

1. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Wayne Rodgers, Helen Clotworthy and Todd Miller

Moved that apologies be accepted: Kris Hines

Seconded: Lance Straker

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE STATUS OF THE AGENDA

Jason Marconi to present after item 5.3

Moved: Kris Hines

Seconded: Doug Rowe

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There was no disclosure of interest

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 11 September 2018 were confirmed subject to one correction. Doug indicated that Item 5.9 of the minutes should have stated that the meeting is held every second Thursday with the next meeting on 18 October.

Moved: Kris Hines

Seconded: Ric Odom

5. REPORTS

5.1. **Works and Issues.** Kevin spoke to this. Regarding the parking of real estate cars, it was found that where they park is designated a road reserve so the agents are entitled to park there.

The only way this could change is if the area is designated as a stop road and changing the status is a lengthy process. It is thought that this is the agents only access to the rear of the building. Kris suggested that monitoring should also include ensuring the trees are not adversely affected. Cr Church indicated that as this is close to the Memorial and therefore of public interest, it is up to the Committee to ask Council to consider changing its status - not just as a road reserve but perhaps it be designated as a reserve. It should be a part of the village plan.

Cr Church raised the issue of the Whangarata cemetery and felt that as this is a public space close to Pokeno, the Committee and community has an interest in this and requests that information be provided and the Committee is consulted.

Actions:

- Council staff to consider re-designating the space both to protect the trees and to fit within the Pokeno plan and meanwhile to monitor the parking.
- Council consult with the Committee and provide information relating to the Whangarata Cemetery.

Counties Power. Kevin asked the Committee to consider the Counties Power plan to install additional lines which will be placed underground from Helenslee to McDonald Roads and on to the industrial area so there is the opportunity for Council to remove up to 11 of the current power lines from Helenslee Road to Market Street and put the lines underground. This would ensure that only light poles remain. It was noted that this work would need to be done anyway when the road work around the Hitchens Bridge area is undertaken. The request was for the Committee to consider diverting some funds from the proposed future development to pay for this. Kris felt this ought to be responsibility of the Council and/or developer and that the community would not react favourably to losing funds designated for the Market Square development. Doug pointed out that if the poles are to be replaced, consideration should be given to installing sturdier light poles that will support banners being installed.

The Committee agreed that it makes sense to have the work done now which may come from the existing Blueprint budget allocated for this year as it would cost significantly more to do the work later. However, while the Committee supports in principle that the lines be placed underground while Counties Power is undertaking planned work, it is on the proviso that funds already designated for future development of Market Square should not be reduced. If this work is done, the new light poles being installed should be sturdy enough to support hanging banners.

While this is an additional cost for the current years budget, it would be more economical to do the work now rather than later so Council is requested to review the current budget and if necessary, increase it to allow this work to be done now. It was again noted that Pokeno residents have waited for a significant period to have the Village upgraded. One suggestion was to lay the power lines when the trenches for the wastewater development is undertaken to further reduce costs.

The Committee also understands that Council is unable make future budget commitments. However, the Committee would like to receive from Council confirmation of the intent that the Blueprint budget and planned work will not be adversely affected in future as it is expected that over a short period of time, there will be considerable cost savings. This does not preclude Council seeking alternative funding for this from other sources - such as development contributions from local industrial development and businesses.

Action:

- Council consider taking the opportunity to underground existing power lines between Helenslee Road and Market Street if this is likely to result in medium term cost savings.
- When the light poles are installed to replace existing power lines, these poles be sturdy enough and configured to support banners.

- Council confirms to the Committee Councils intent that while there may be timing issues associated with re-allocating elements of the Market Square budget in order to fund the cost of moving power lines underground (as a result of the work being done earlier than planned), this will not ultimately affect the Market Square budget.

Toilet upgrade. The toilet block will be painted in colours that meet the design guide. From the discussion that followed, it was suggested Council consider re-locating the toilet block, to include bus and car parking as the current location will not fit well with the intentions of the Blueprint plans. For example, Council could purchase the land in Market Street upon which the burnt out building opposite the Pokeno Hall sits. This would be a suitable location for new toilet block and would allow entry and exit from both Market Street and Marlborough Street and incorporate parking for cars and buses. Taking a more encompassing view, this would fit with the longer term plans for a transport hub/metro loop and possible rail station at the end of Market Street. Consideration should also be given to constructing a multi-level car park at this hub as it is felt that as transport services increase, Pokeno grows and infrastructure develops further, the Pokeno transport hub is likely to be an attractive option for commuters.

It was suggested Council apply to Tourism NZ for funding to upgrade and increase the size of the toilet block given that these are used by a large number of visitors to Pokeno.

Action:

- While painting the existing toilet block is a short-term solution, Council consider acquiring land in Market Street and build a new facility there which will incorporate off-street parking for cars and buses and that this appears on the Works & Issues agenda.
- Council consider:
 - Long term planning for the Market Street transport hub to include sufficient parking.
 - Applying to Tourism NZ for funding for a new toilet block facility.

New shops at 39 Great South Road. In answer to questions as to whether or not the design of the roof complies, according to the plans it does. Once the fire station is built, that will obscure much of the large blank concrete wall.

Footpath. This should have been completed by the developer and Council will follow up. There may be technical issues with concreting this section.

An invoice to Council for funds for Committee use has not yet been submitted.

Action: This should be added to Works & Issues and actioned as soon as the Committee bank account is opened.

5.2. Pokeno Community Committee Schedule. Helen to ask Colin Bottica to attend the November meeting to provide an update. Also that Joel McKinlay of their Tata Valley venture provide an update at the November meeting. Regarding the Archaeological Assessment of Pokeno's Wastewater Network, this is likely to be a Council only document and the Committee should have received a summary only. As this is part of the agenda and already published, Council should consider removing this.

Actions:

- For a meeting early in 2019, the Committee to schedule a workshop to provide more street names.
- Council is requested to provide an updated district dictionary of current street names (in alphabetical order).
- The Committee requests that Council provide a spreadsheet listing the infrastructure projects being undertaken in this northern area and the budget for each. This could be added to the bottom of the meeting agenda. The Committee will then ensure that Pokeno

projects (current and proposed) are on the list, are prioritised and are subject to updates from Council.

- The Committee needs to action opening a Committee bank account and until it is completed, it should be an item on future agendas.

Moved that the report from Kevin Stokes be accepted.

Moved: Doug Rowe

Second: Ric Odom

5.3. Update on Christmas Parade. Allen Grainger spoke to this with a meeting next week to consider putting in an application for road closure and to apply for funding. The cost of this is an issue. There will be something but currently unclear exactly what.

5.4. Update from Sport Waikato. Jason provided an update and advised that his employment hours have increased. Topics addressed were:

- Pokeno yoga will soon commence.
- Kiwisport funding will now be distributed by Sport Waikato. Up to \$5,000 can be applied for but capital funding cannot be provided.
- Had discussions with Megan May of Waikato District Council.
- Has been working with Mercer & Tuakau both of which have facilities and would welcome Pokeno residents using these and having more interaction. Mercer in particular is keen to discuss joint opportunities. Jason does advertise sports opportunities via the various community Facebook pages.
- Blair Johnson, Principal of Pokeno School, advised that the school does advise families of existing sports club and provided feedback that parents are usually wanting to enroll their children in existing clubs that are already in structured sports competition. There is little interest in starting a club at facilities outside of Pokeno. It is suggested that a community consultation meeting be held to determine the level of interest and options.
- There was again considerable discussion of the future of sport and recreation in Pokeno, also noting the likely future development west of Helenslee Road. The Committee was advised that a report on sport & recreation for northern Waikato is currently with Council and the Committee will receive a copy of this in due course.
- Considering the short term requirement, Blair will meet with Jason to discuss how the school might play a larger role in working with local sports clubs.
- Once the vision is finalised, local businesses could and should be approached to ascertain if they would support development of sport and recreation facilities.

Actions:

- Pokeno sports facilities should be placed on the Works and Issues agenda and the Committee should receive regular updates from Council on this. It is our understanding that Council has spoken to Dines about them undertaking some work to progress this.
- The Committee consider organizing a community meeting to consider and prioritise options for future sport and recreation needs.
- Council is requested to provide the Committee with a copy of the report on sport & recreation in northern Waikato once complete.
- Blair Johnson and Jason Marconi to meet to discuss the role Pokeno School may have in working with local sports clubs.

5.5 Councillors Report. Cr Church advised:

- That there will be a meeting on 17 October on inter and intra community connectivity including walkways, cycle ways etc. Helen will be attending on behalf of the Pokeno Community Committee.
- Some local paper roads have been stopped in order that other roads can be formed.
- Maintenance of Mercer and Tuakau boat ramps will be undertaken.
- Work on the Whangarata Road will be occurring this roading season.
- Individuals have until 12 October to make a submission on the change of Ward boundaries.
- That a speed bylaw review is being undertaken with public meetings being held.

5.6. **Committee Reports.**

Doug spoke to the Community Patrol and reminded that we now have no community constable. He also reminded us that Christmas season is looming and this is a time when thieves and burglars are active - and in some cases may be violent. The patrol is submitting reports to Pukekohe Police but receive no feedback and no indication that the reports are being read. It was requested that the Committee invite the local MP to a Community meeting.

Action: That the Committee consider inviting the local Member of Parliament to a future Committee meeting.

5.7. **Next Meetings Agenda Items.**

5.8. **General Business.** The Hall committee suggested there is a gathering at the hall on Armistice Day. This will happen at 10.45 followed by a cup of tea.

Remind Pokeno residents of the Pokeno website. One suggestion is that an information pamphlet is given to builders to leave in new homes and include on the FB page. It was also suggested that the web address be included in all future Pokeno signage.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Next meeting to be held on 13 November 2018 at the Pokeno Hall.