

Pohangina Valley Community Committee Meeting

Minutes from Wednesday 10th June 2026 7.00pm at County Fayre

Present for PVCC Meeting: Liz Besley, Yvonne Forlong, Simon Francis, Julie Ann Bolton, Julian Gorman, Amie Melody, Sam Hill, Wayne Cavannagh, Annette Lane, Stephanie Madgwick, Kate Carter, Murray Blackley, Cr. Bridget Bell.

Welcome to Nick Galpin, Hannah Tokona from the MDC EM Team and Nicky from Neighbourhood Support. Thank you for accepting the invitation via Councillor Bridget Bell to support the PVCC and guide its newly formed Emergency Response Subcommittee. Exited meeting at 7.50pm.

1		Procedural Matters	Action
1.	Apologies	No apologies	Carried LB/YF
1.2	Corresponde nce	14 May MDC Adie Johansen- re Vested Assets Policy & guidance when planning projects. 18 May MDC Helen King- re Community Funding. Smarty Grant application by 30 June 28/29 May MDC comms team/ Lindsey Robinson re local govt reforms- meeting on 4 June 6.30pm Pohangina Hall. Jack Zwart advised Liz that PNCC is asking for expressions of interest in the Old Jockey Changing Rooms in the Ashhurst. It was discussed and decided that we really have no purpose for it.	Carried SF/LB
1.3	Confirmation Previous Minutes	Minutes confirmed as a true and correct record.	Carried AM/YF
1.4	Matters Arising	Carol has decided she will not need reimbursement as she will possibly not be needing the process she was going to use under the new subcommittee. Yvonne contacted Matt Carroll re the costs of the East/ West Cricket Game. He said as long as the MRCC still contribute \$1000 that they are okay for funding.	
2		Items for Approval/Information	

2.1	Finances	<u>Community Committee Project Fund</u> Opening Balance \$3,705.68 Domain M Forlong's work completed, to be paid Closing Balance \$3,705.68 <u>Community Planning Budget (Domain)</u> Opening Balance \$3,798.33 Domain M Forlong's work completed, to be paid Closing Balance \$3,798.33 <u>PVC Trust a/c</u> Opening Balance 5,166.69 Sponsored Trees Blackley's + 202.80 Leafland replacement trees 463.68 Closing Balance \$4,905.81 PVCC Funding- 2026-27: Confirm allocation breakdown for \$3000 of CC Funding and Yvonne to send the application to Helen King by 30 June. Refer to minutes for suggestions made at the April meeting. Consider Toilet and Rest Area signage at Domain: Mary Nettle proposed that MDC should have Rest Area signage on approaches from both sides of the Domain. Summary of Joint Community/MDC Domain Works- the Domain work has been completed by M Forlong, and invoices received, but yet to be paid. Parks & Reserves Funds of \$2,413.26 has been committed but does not feature in the above report. Total remaining for Domain works is \$8,920. A further \$2,500 committed by P&R to enable completion.	Carried
2.2	Emergency Management	Julian gave us an update re the progress of the newly formed EM subcommittee. Nicky has introduced Julian to a database system to have a better record of residents and their requirements in the event of a CDE. Currently only 90 names are on the database that Nicky has access to. Vetting is required for anyone who has access to this database. The database is owned and managed by Neighbourhood Support and is kept at the Police Station. The committee would need to nominate 3 or 4 members to be approved for access to our valley database. Nicky suggested there needs to be an East and West system as the valley is often split in a weather event. Julian has suggested the subcommittee meets and plans who will be rostered on to receive training and be the liaison person. It was suggested there be two from either side of the valley be approved. Joe is leaving the valley so will not be available for the subcommittee. Carol Luttrell is keen to be involved. A Starlink antenna will be installed at County Fayre. This will be controlled by Council, for comms during a SOE or serious weather event, not the PVCC. Our radios are being reprogrammed as MDC EM frequency is the same as Kapiti Coasts. Nick asked for feedback during the recent February event. It was felt that warnings	

		were prompt and timely. Julie Ann suggested that CC contacts could be advised so CC's can put information on committees' individual FB pages. Nick advised the MDC radio is not monitored 24/7, however in a declared emergency it is monitored 24/7. Our first phone call in the event of an emergency in the valley should be to 06 3230000 which is answered 24/7. Wayne explained that NZPost advised their contractors that there was a SOE but not for the valley. A Horizons Regional Council SOE declaration supersedes a MDC SOE Declaration. Liz thanked the team for coming out. Subcommittee to confirm meeting time. Julian to contact Nick and confirm meeting attendance. Carol doesn't need reimbursement for paper for her work so far.	
2.3	PVCC Protocol	The PVCC Action Plan is up for review and Annette Lane, Yvonne Forlong, Julie Ann Bolton and Liz Besley will do so and come back with recommendations to the CC. At the time of this meeting this had yet to be completed. The Terms of Reference have been updated tonight by Liz and Yvonne prior to the meeting.	
2.31	PVCC Community Funding	Discussion over the use of funding. Julie Ann advised that 360 copies would be \$472 for an 8-page copy, \$670 for a 12-page hard copy. Julie Ann advised a contribution towards the new cupboards for the hall kitchen would be greatly appreciated. The shower at the pool was discussed and lead into discussion around potable water for the Old School and the freedom camping area. A donation was discussed for the Ashhurst RSA for the Sound Guy for the ANZAC Service. A generator was discussed but MDC has bank of generators which can be distributed in an SOE. We could pursue additional funding for a generator. Allocation as follows \$800 newsletter \$1200 Pohangina Hall cupboards \$850 Country Fayre \$150 RSA for Anzac Service	
2.4	River Access	No report	
2.5	Raumai Reserve	No report	

2.6	Pohangina Recreation Reserve (Domain)	1. Onsite meeting regarding the storywalk was highly successful with a cross section of community: Kate Carter, Amie Melody, Liz Grant, Julie Ann Bolton, Sam Etheridge, Liz Besley and MDC's Marie Willis and James Adamson, and Horizon's Zoe Stone, attending. Marie showed the group a colour printed copy of the Pekapeka story (of a short-tailed bat), demonstrating how there are 19 pages which will equate to 19 boards. A 20th board will be included with some of Zoe's general and monitoring information collected in the valley demonstrating presence of the Long-tailed bat. The boards will be spaced at approximately equal distances around the walk-way. Once the text has been confirmed and boards created James will peg out potential sites and leave for a couple of weeks for community group feedback as to suitability. A highlight was witnessing and holding Liz's bronze short tailed bat sculpture- absolutely exquisite in both the visual and tactile senses. It was awesome that Kate's daughter, Ava, attended and, as an Awahou student it part of this exciting development. The next step is for the group to receive Zoe's contribution, give any feedback on it and any thoughts on extra information that might be relevant. 2. Anthony Meads, MDC GIS Officer, has been updating the Domain storymap with new sponsor stories and developing links to the MDC website as well as a short link to go in the newsletter for readers to use as a quick access: The Story Map is now accessible on the MDC on the Parks and Public Spaces page (link below) Parks & Public Spaces Manawatū District Council The link below will take to the correct Story Map. Pohangina Recreation Reserve 3. Michael Forlong has completed (May 29) the Domain works using the funds available from PVCC funding and Parks and Reserves funding: \$8,920. (James Adamson committed an extra \$2,500 over and above what was al-ready committed from Parks & Reserves Funds) Invoices have not yet been received. 4. Two more trees sponsored with stories. 5. Liz met up with James Adamson and Green by Nature team on site and finalized a plan for mowing and weed spraying. The blackberry will be targeted after fruiting. A further discussion and update of the plan will need to occur once the 20 storywalk signs are erected. 6. Marie Williams has offered to update all the plant labels with laser printed labels which will mean they are permanently etched. 7. LTP includes a toilet (like Sanson Domain), estimated cost \$140,000 in Year 4. Liz has said that there is already grass and weeds appearing through the lime paths and we will need to address some R and M. Several locals have offered to weed spray so we may need to take up those offers. It was suggested that weed matting under the lime may help with controlling the weeds and grass.	
2.7	Pohangina Wetlands Project	No report	
2.8	Pohangina Valley Community Trust	Liz has completed the annual return but yet to coordinate with Phil to organise an overdue AGM.	
2.9	ANZAC DAY	Thanks to Peter Knight for fronting the Anzac Service on short notice and to everyone who helped out organising various aspects of the Anzac Service and especially Councillor Bridget Bell for her part in the ceremony.	
2.10	PVCC Newsletter	Julie Ann is keen for any articles or photos for the June newsletter which will be a hard copy version. What a beauty the April edition was. Congratulations and thanks Julie Ann! County Fayre has confirmed they will pay for this month's hardcopy.	

	and Website	https://pohanginavalley.nz/	
2.11	Community Action Plan	No report	
2.13	Signage Project	Completed	
2.14	Annual 10 yr plan	No report	
2.15	Valley Road Lookout	No report	
2.16	Pohangina Hall Committee	Recent Events The hall's recent Arts on Tour performance featuring Sean Kelly was a great success. Feedback from Arts on Tour has been very positive, with artists consistently commenting on how much they enjoy performing at the hall and the unique "Pohangina Experience." Upcoming Event Our next Arts on Tour show is Carnivorous Plant Society, scheduled for 2nd July 2026. Preparations are underway to ensure another memorable evening for the community. Future Planning The committee is currently planning for the annual quiz night and considering potential Art on Tour acts for next year's programme. Projects and Funding Several improvement projects are planned for the hall, including: 1. Installation of new kitchen cupboards. 2. Creation of a mural. 3. Purchase of additional staging units. Assistance from the PVCC funding allocation toward any of these projects would be greatly appreciated. Additional funding from external grant providers will also be required to complete this work. Hall Maintenance The hall continues to experience ongoing problems with the septic system. Council working on it. Storage Proposal The hall committee has submitted a proposal to Council regarding the use of Ian's house for storage purposes. This would provide much-needed additional storage capacity for hall operations and equipment. Bridget advised that she has found a way to fund the storage shed but the house will be demolished as MDC does not have the budget to maintain the property to a standard that makes it a viable rental. Julie Ann was floated the idea of the saving of the house as a Wildbore Museum. Bridget said that we would need to present a sound proposal for the council to consider the reversal of the demolition of the house. Bridget suggested the storage shed could also encompass space for the generator secure storage. Management Plan James has circulated the draft Hall Management Plan for review. Feedback has been provided. Registered Charity Application	

		Work is continuing on the hall's application for registered charity status. This will help strengthen future funding opportunities and support the hall's long-term sustainability. Council Engagement A recent MDC meeting was well run and had the feel of a town hall meeting, encouraging open discussion. However, attendance was lower than expected, likely due to insufficient advertising and the style of advertising. Bookings and Community Use The hall is receiving bookings for meetings and presentations, with the data projector and screen proving to be valuable assets for users. This equipment is helping to expand the range of activities that can be hosted at the hall. Election Use The Pohangina Hall will once again serve as a voting station for this year's election, continuing its role as an important community facility.	
2.17	Pohangina School and Pool and School Reserve	Simon reported meeting held 18th May. Nina is taking school bookings. Two new people will replace Joe as pool custodians. Alicia reported Old School finances in good heart. Basketball area to get a facelift and are considering a tank for rain water collection. The Anne Groenendijk seat has been installed by Nancy and Kim. Mary updated them on the TA rider season and fundraising she has completed.	
2.18	County Fayre	Report forwarded from Jo Morris-Kynoch The review and agreement of the County Fayre constitution for reregistration as an incorporated society has been completed and we are progressing the reregistration as an Incorporated Society. The last of the Louvre windows (kitchen and women's toilet) have now been replaced thanks to MDC, and find that the kitchen is much lighter. Preparations are underway for our annual fundraising event, the Pohangina Downhill Walk, taking place on Saturday, 8 November 2025, which will start from the Branch Road Walkway. We will be looking for help with the maintenance of the track.	
2.19	Library	A meeting was held with James and Robyn from Feilding Library to discuss the proposed open-access model for the Pohangina Library. At present, there appears to be limited benefit for the library unless a self-check system for issuing and returning books is also introduced. Council is continuing to develop its plans in this area. The library has been rearranged which has improved access. The next book exchange will be held on Friday 12 June. This continues to be a popular opportunity for readers to refresh their reading material and connect with other library users. Library usage continues to increase, with encouraging growth in both general borrowing and children's use of the library. Following the success of previous programmes, a holiday programme is being planned for the July school holidays. Further details will be available closer to the time on Fb and newsletter.	
3	Other business	Julie Ann wanted to discuss paper roads – this has been scheduled for the next meeting.	
3.1	MDC report	Bridget reported that she agreed that communication re the recent council meetings regarding amalgamated councils. Regional council will end in 2028. Timeframe for official HeadStart proposal is due in August. Constituent Feedback during 3 waters was to keep it 'inhouse' which is what	

		happened. For council amalgamation a proposal is for a shared service agreement with other councils rather than an amalgamation. CEDA is also a joint effort with PNCC. You cannot declare your council as an independent - this is not a HeadStart option. Bridget explained the process in further detail. Bridget showed us a map of the proposed repairs for the road near Fern Walk. Re the Antenno app if the council wishes to propose a new field for better user experience, then apparently all the councils using the Antenno app need to approve the field changes as well. We can express our opinion via the QR code. Bridget has put an article about the new kitchen at County Fayre in the Feilding First publication. Suze Redmayne has still been unable to schedule attendance to our meeting. She may be available for the Zoom meeting in August.	
0.3	Branch Road Walkway	No report	
0.4	Village Signs	No update	
3.5	Konewa Shared Pathway	No update	
3.6	Totara Reserve Advisory Group	No report	
3.7	Village road marking	No report	
3.8	Police Report	No report	
	Meeting Closed Next Meeting	Meeting closed at 10.12pm 12th August via Zoom 7.00pm	