

Pohangina Valley Community Committee Meeting

Minutes from Wednesday 12 August 2026, 7.00pm via Microsoft Teams

Present for PVCC Meeting: Liz Besley (Chair), Murray Blackley, Annette Lane, Julian Gorman, Kate Carter, Cr Bridget Bell. **In attendance:** Stacey McLaughlin (MDC Community and Youth Coordinator), Jo Morris-Kynoch and Kim Archibald (Pohangina Resident).

Welcome: Stacey McLaughlin introduced herself as MDC's new Community and Youth Coordinator and outlined the Microsoft Teams recording/transcription trial being used to support preparation and review of the minutes.

Item		Discussion / Decision	Action
1		Procedural Matters	
1.1	Apologies	Apologies were received from Suze Redmayne, Simon Francis, Yvonne Forlong, Julie Ann Bolton and Stephanie Madgwick. Suze Redmayne remained interested in addressing the wider community regarding rural school bus issues.	Carried MB/JG
1.2	Correspondence	Correspondence listed in the agenda was received: 13 July from Adie Johansen regarding the new Community and Youth Coordinator, and 20 July from Rob Kay regarding the slip affecting the Branch Road walkway.	Received; seconder AL
1.3	Confirmation of 10 June Minutes	The corrected County Fayre report had been inserted into the 10 June minutes. The amended minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.	Carried LB/JG
1.4	Matters Arising	No additional matters arising were raised.	
2		Items for Approval/Information	
2.1	Finance	The August finance report was received. MDC confirmed the 2026/27 Community Committee Project Fund allocation as \$3,152 rather than \$3,000 (an additional \$152). The finance report will be adjusted accordingly for the October report.	LB moved acceptance; update finance report by \$152
2.2	Emergency Management	Julian reported on the 7 July Emergency Management Subcommittee meeting. Work is progressing to update Pohangina Valley contact information in the Infoodle database, including obtaining permission from residents. Julian, Amie, Annette and Kate have submitted police check authorisations so they can receive database training from Nicky Birch. A newsletter/mail-out will be used to help fill gaps in contact information. The subcommittee will also work towards a Central Energy Trust funding application for a generator and secure storage/shed.	PVEM Subcommittee to continue Infoodle permissions/training and investigate generator funding
2.3	PVCC and Election Protocol	The Terms of Reference have been updated. The Community Committee minutes email is being phased out; Stacey will be the MDC point of contact for minutes and committee administration. Review of the Community Action Plan remains outstanding. Liz has obtained an editable version of the plan so changes can be tracked when the review group meets.	Action Plan review group to meet and progress review
2.4	River Access - Culling Walkway	No new update.	
2.5	Raumai Reserve	No update.	
2.6	Pohangina Recreation Reserve / Domain	No substantive new Domain update. The online StoryMap/short-link had not worked reliably during a recent community visit. Liz has raised the issue with MDC GIS for investigation.	MDC GIS to investigate StoryMap link reliability
2.7	Pohangina Wetlands	No update.	
2.8	Pohangina Valley Community Trust	The annual return has been completed. The overdue AGM with incoming trustee Phil Marsh is still to be organised.	LB to organise Trust AGM
2.9	ANZAC 2026	No further discussion beyond the agenda/finance information.	
2.10	Newsletter, Facebook	Julie Ann's report was tabled. Articles and photos were	Members to send newsletter

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	Page and Website	requested for the August newsletter.	items to Julie Ann
2.11	Community Action Plan	Review remains outstanding; see item 2.3.	
2.12	Bus Shelter	No update.	
2.13	Signage Project	No update.	
2.14	Annual Plan / Long Term Plan	Discussed further under the MDC report.	
2.15	Valley Road Lookout	No update.	
2.16	Pohangina Hall Committee	Julie Ann's report was tabled. The quiz night is scheduled for 12 September. Bridget later advised that Council's position remains that the old house beside the hall will be demolished because of liability, risk and maintenance costs. If demolition costs are lower than budgeted, remaining funds may potentially be redirected to a garage/storage facility.	Cr Bell to speak directly with Julie Ann regarding the old house/storage update
2.17	Pohangina School and Pool	Simon's written report was tabled. We recently had another case of a person living in their car (for 7 nights) out the front of the Old School, right over the frosty cold snap. MDC were informed and an enforcement officer visited to make sure the person was okay. Rural Support also visited, and the person has now moved on. Further enhancements to the school grounds are being considered.	Report tabled
2.18	County Fayre / Branch Road Walkway	As reported by Jo Morris-Kynoch. The back garden is starting to look great where concrete slabs and 2 new BBQ tables have been installed, a new side fence and gate along with replacement of the garden edging with totora posts and battens, donated by a local residence. Recently a Coffee and Dessert evening was held at County Fayre, which was an enjoyable and fun evening. Our annual fundraiser, the Pohangina Downhill Walk, is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 14 November 2026, marking the 25th anniversary of this iconic community event. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and is essential to our ongoing success. As previously advised, there is a slip on the Branch Road Walkway, which has created a large hole, eroded the path and undercut a short wooden walkway (rendering it unsafe to use). We acknowledge that County Fayre makes use of the Branch Road Track, however this is just once a year. This walkway belongs to the Pohangina community, not County Fayre. It is used mostly by local residents and walkers from across the region. It is a valued community asset that attracts visitors to our region and therefore should not be left to go to ruin. Losing access to this track would be a significant loss for our community and could place the future of the Pohangina Downhill Walk in jeopardy. Rather than dealing with the issues as they arise, we would like to see the community be proactive and regularly maintain this track so it is protected and preserved for the future. We are seeking help and support from PVCC and the wider community to bring people together to help re-establish a volunteer maintenance group. We understand an agreement was made with the Parks and Recreational department who would supply materials required when needed.	
2.19	Library	Julie Ann's library report was tabled. No questions were raised.	Report tabled
2.20	New Resident Information Packs	No update.	
3		Other Business	
3.1	MDC Report - Cr Bridget Bell	Bridget acknowledged the progress of the Emergency Management Subcommittee. She advised that Council remains committed to demolishing the old house beside Pohangina Hall, with possible repurposing of residual funds toward storage. On local government reform/HeadStart, MDC has chosen the "backstop" option rather than committing to	Information received

Item		Discussion / Decision	Action
		amalgamation at this stage, while continuing collaborative discussions and modelling with other councils. The Long Term Plan process will continue. Bridget also noted strong Pohangina participation in the consultation. Water services planning remains on the in-house model.	
3.2	Suze Redmayne / Rural School Bus Meeting	The committee agreed that Suze Redmayne's visit should be an open community meeting rather than limited to the committee, so affected families can attend. It was also agreed that Apiti should be invited, given similar school bus concerns. Wednesday 9 September at 7.00pm at Pohangina Hall was identified as the preferred date/time, subject to confirmation with Suze.	Cr Bell to confirm 9 September, 7.00pm with Suze Redmayne and coordinate invitation to Apiti
3.3	Village Signs	No update.	
3.4	Totara Reserve Advisory Group	No update.	
3.5	Branch Road Walkway	Jo and Kim raised concern about the long-term maintenance of the Branch Road walkway. A recent slip/boardwalk issue has been repaired by local volunteers, but the former volunteer maintenance group has largely ceased operating. The walkway is used by the wider public and is not considered a County Fayre asset, although County Fayre uses it for the Downhill Walk. During discussion, attendees noted that the road had been closed by Council following a significant slip. The walkway was subsequently established by local residents and follows a route across both the closed legal road and adjoining private land. Attendees also recalled that Council had historically provided some materials for maintenance work, with local volunteers providing the labour. The committee supported seeking a new community volunteer maintenance group. Annette will coordinate a notice/contact list, including a newsletter request for volunteers. Bridget will seek clarification from Council regarding any legal or operational responsibility for the walkway. County Fayre advised that it does not wish to take ownership of the walkway or responsibility for its ongoing maintenance.	Cr Bell: confirm MDC responsibility/status. AL: coordinate volunteer call/contact list and newsletter notice.
4	Roading Issues	Bridget outlined temporary rock placement planned near the Pohangina River/Fern Walk area to reduce flood impacts on the road while a longer-term solution is considered through the Long Term Plan and with Horizons. A possible council-boundary issue identified during Emergency Management mapping (around Raumai/Our House South Road) requires clarification.	Cr Bell/Stacey to confirm the council boundary issue with Annette and relevant MDC staff
	Meeting Closed	No further business was raised.	
	Next Meeting	Wednesday 14 October 2026, 7.00pm via Microsoft Teams.	

Draft prepared from the 12 August 2026 meeting transcript and agenda, using the June 2026 PVCC minutes format.