



Council Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting held at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde on Thursday 5 March, 2015.

Councillors present:

The Mayor, Councillor Shewan

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Rogers

Councillor Amos

Councillor Anderson

Councillor E Anderton

Councillor M Anderton

Councillor Lady Atkins

Councillor Balmain

Councillor Bannister

Councillor Berry

Councillor B Birch MBE

Councillor C Birch

Councillor Bowen

Councillor Bridge

Councillor Catterall

Councillor Collinson

Councillor I Duffy

Councillor R Duffy

Councillor M Gandhi

Councillor R Gandhi

Councillor Gibson

Councillor Greenhough

Councillor Henderson

Councillor Hewitt

Councillor Hodgkinson

Councillor K Jones

Councillor Kay

Councillor Lawrenson

Councillor Lees

Councillor Martin

Councillor MacNaughton

Councillor McCann

Councillor Moon

Councillor Murphy

Councillor Ormrod

Councillor Robinson

Councillor B Stephenson

Councillor E Stephenson

Councillor Swift

Councillor T Taylor

Councillor V Taylor

Councillor Treece-Birch

Councillor Turner

Councillor A Vincent

Councillor M Vincent

Councillor Walmsley

Councillor Williams

Apologies: Councillors Beavers, Brooks, Hargreaves, McKay, Newsham, Pimbley, Smith and Wilson.

Officers present:

Garry Payne (Chief Executive)

Philippa Davies (Corporate Director, Resources)

Michael Ryan (Corporate Director, People and Places)

Nikki Wilcock (Communications Manager)

Roy Saunders (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager)

Howard Rawding (Head of Finance)

Clare James (Financial Services Manager)

Also present: 1 representative of the press and 4 members of the public.

COU. 85 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the second paragraph of minute 64(b) (Executive Report of the Resources Portfolio Holder) being amended (as proposed by Cllr E. Anderton) to make it clear that the building occupied by Fleetwood Sea Cadets was not a Council building and was, in fact, owned by the Sea Cadets with the Council owning the land on which it was built and, also to the reference to Cllr A. Vincent having met with representatives of the Sea Cadets being deleted.

COU. 86 **Declarations of Interest**

The Chief Executive reminded Members that on 6th September 2012 the Council had passed a resolution granting a dispensation under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 enabling all Councillors to speak and vote on issues relating to the setting of the Council Tax. Councillors did not therefore need to individually declare an interest in agenda item 11 just because they were Council Tax payers.

No interests were declared.

COU. 87 **Announcements**

The Mayor reminded members that the Mayor's Charity Golf day was to be held on Friday 24 April. He thanked Councillor Moon for organising the event and asked anyone interested in entering a team to contact Councillor Moon.

COU. 88 **Appointments to Committees**

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Gibson) and the Chief Executive submitted a report on a change to the political balance of the Council and the implications for membership of committees. Councillor Gibson thanked Councillor Williams for his support over the years.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the resignation of Cllr Williams from the Conservative Group with effect from 5 March 2015 be noted.
- (2) That Cllr Williams be removed from the Planning Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee but, that no replacement be appointed for the short period remaining in the 2014/15 council year.

COU. 89 **Presentation**

Mr Ian Porteous, the District Commissioner for Wyre Scouts and Nethaniel Hind, a former Scout and recently appointed Assistant Scout Leader, made a presentation to the Council on the scouting movement. They referred to the various activities undertaken, the positive benefits in the physical, intellectual,

social and spiritual development of young people and the contribution made by the scouts to the local community.

Cllr M Gandhi thanked Mr Porteous and Mr Hind on behalf of the Council for their interesting and informative presentation.

COU. Public Questions Statements or Petitions

90

Question from Mr R Fail Ocean Way Cleveleys: Maintenance of Cleveleys Promenade

“Costing in the region of £26 million it is generally recognised that Cleveleys now has a wonderful promenade. It is hopefully also recognised, that the promenade needs to be continually looked after in order that we keep it looking good, and also to keep maintenance costs to a minimum in the long term. To do otherwise would be false economy.

On a fairly close inspection, and in under an hour, over 50 separate instances of damage or faults on the Promenade area were identified on 26 February 2015, including on the main surface, gates, shelter surfaces, steps, and promenade furniture.

Given the volume of issues, and that many of these issues appear to have been there for some considerable time, can the portfolio holder responsible for promenade maintenance please confirm what provision, if any, is in place for the monitoring and repair of damage or faults on Cleveleys’ promenade?

And specifically (assuming a maintenance provision is in place):-

- a) Who is responsible for the monitoring of damage or faults?*
- b) What is the monitoring frequency of damage or faults (eg are there monthly checks?)*
- c) Who is responsible for repairing damage or faults*
- d) What are the expected timescales for repairing damage or faults, and in particular what are the timescales for resolution of the current issues?*
- e) Who will foot the bill for the repairs (given some of the issues appear to be related to design, manufacture, or construction, not just weathering)?”*

The Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder (Cllr Berry) said in response that the Cleveleys Sea Defence and Promenade scheme had won over 30 national and local awards, including construction project of the year. It had been held up as best practice both nationally and internationally. The promenade and sea defences had recently been tested by severe weather conditions and had stood up very well. The promenade and sea defences provided not only protection to over 5,000 properties but also encouraged visitors to the area and acted as a safe, well-loved open space for residents.

The promenade had been damaged during the severe winter storms of 2013/14

(the event on the 5th December 2013 being estimated as a 1 in 100 to 150 year event) and had had ongoing repairs to it since that date. All emergency repairs had been completed within days of the event, followed by a schedule of repairs to be carried out to the promenade and defences based on risk to the integrity of the promenade and public safety. There were still some outstanding repairs to the aesthetic elements of the promenade still to be undertaken, including the blue resin infills under the shelters and between level changes on the promenade. These were programmed to be completed prior to the summer season.

Cllr Berry said that all the coastal defences were monitored on a monthly basis for health and safety issues and for condition on a six monthly basis. In addition, a full inspection of the defences was made immediately prior to and after storms. These were used to inform and prepare a programme of works for the 8.2km of the Fylde coast sea defences, of which the Cleveleys scheme was approximately 1km. All works identified were input to the Council's asset maintenance database and given a priority for completion. Health and safety and structural faults were given the highest priority.

The inspection and maintenance of the hard areas fell to the Engineering team. The programme of works undertaken at Cleveleys in the last 12 months included:

- Replacement of hand railing.
- Replacement of lighting.
- Installation of wind turbines.
- Nourishment of the beach by moving 10,000m³ of beach material from Fleetwood (this certainly protected the defences and properties during the storms this winter.)
- Repairs to groyne structures.
- Replacement of bollards.
- Cleaning of algae from access steps.

The following works were planned prior to the season:

- Grit blasting and repainting of storm gates.
- Replacement of the blue resin infills and shelter bases with a more hardwearing surface material.
- Replacement of the shelter seat units.

The Council therefore anticipated that the majority of defects would be completed prior to the summer season.

With regards to compensation for defects, if defects could be attributed to manufacturing faults or installation issues, the Council would pursue the manufacturer or installer and seek replacement of the defective item. For example, this had been done with the hand railing.

Councillor Berry said that he and the Head of Engineering would be happy to meet up with Mr Fail to discuss the defects he had raised.

Mr Fail thanked Councillor Berry for his very full answer and asked, as a supplementary question, “whether the failures of the blue resin reinforcement which varied in different locations and appeared to be a result of a design or manufacturing fault, would be pursued with the contractors”.

Councillor Berry said that all the maintenance issues would be inspected and if particular design or manufacturing issues were identified they would be taken up with the contractors, if appropriate.

COU.
91 **Questions “On Notice” from Councillors**

Question from Councillor Beavers: Concessionary Fares on Trams

“Can the Leader please explain why he refuses to discuss the proposal to share joint funding of concessionary fares for Wyre residents on trams between Fleetwood, Cleveleys and Blackpool with the Leadership of Lancashire County Council?”

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) said that as Councillor Beavers was not present he would send her a written reply, as well as providing a verbal response at this meeting.

Councillor Gibson said that the information in the question was wrong. He said that at the time the Labour controlled Blackpool Council had announced that N.O.W. cards could not be used on trams, he had asked for a meeting with representatives of both Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council. The Leader of the County Council had chosen not to attend but had sent her deputy. He asked why a small district council such as Wyre should take on funding for concessionary travel when it was the responsibility of the larger Unitary and County Councils who were the highways authorities responsible for that function and it was those authorities which were provided with significant amounts of government funding for that purpose. He pointed out that Lancashire County Council had recently received a £52m windfall and had increased its balances to £280m. He suggested that £180,000 should be allocated to fund concessionary fares on trams for Wyre residents. He said that local residents would consider this a better use of council finances than, for example, the recent 2.2% increase in member’s allowances for County Councillors, which the Labour group had voted for and the Conservative group had voted against. He said that the County Council’s refusal to fund concessionary fares for Wyre residents was a further indication of its intention to direct funds to the east of Lancashire.

COU.
92 **Pay Policy Statement 2015/16**

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report on the Council’s Pay Policy Statement for the 2015/16 financial year.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16, attached as Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

- (2) That the seven Heads of Service who, whilst within the scope of the NJC (Green Book) conditions were paid higher than spinal column point 49, be awarded the lump sum non-consolidated payments as part of the Local Government Pay Agreement 2014-16, referred to in paragraph 5.4 of the report.

COU. **Business Plan 2015/16**
93

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson and the Chief Executive submitted a report on a refreshed Business Plan for 2015-2019.

RESOLVED that the Business Plan for 2015-2019, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be, approved.

COU. **Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2015/16**
94

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) submitted a report on the setting of Council Tax for 2015/16. His report included reference to the report of the Corporate Director of Resources (S. 151 Officer) on the Revenue Budget, Council Tax and Capital Programme which had been considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 18 February 2015. The full minute of the Cabinet was included as an Appendix to his report.

The Mayor proposed, in accordance with the usual convention that Procedure Rule 17.4 be suspended so that the Leader when proposing the Budget and the Leader of the Opposition when proposing any amendments to it, would not be time limited. However, all other speakers in the debate would, as usual, be limited to a maximum of five minutes each. The Council indicated its consent.

The Mayor proposed that Procedure Rule 17.6(b) be suspended to allow a single debate to be held on any amendments proposed, the budget as a whole and the setting of the Council Tax. The Council indicated its consent.

The Leader (Councillor Gibson) referred to the Budget proposals approved by the Cabinet on 18 February 2015 and formally proposed the recommendations on the budget and the setting of the Council Tax for 2015/16, as set out in his report (on pages 39 and 40 of the agenda).

The Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor A. Vincent) formally seconded the recommendations.

The Leader of the Opposition (Councillor Martin) proposed an amendment to the budget proposed by Councillor Gibson, as follows:

Labour Group Alternative Budget Proposals 2015/16

Proposal	Revenue Income	Revenue Expenditure
1. Extend solar power scheme to Marine Hall, Civic Centre and Fleetwood Market	£45,000	
2. Lease of space - Jubilee Gardens car park	£15,000	
3. Advertising in car parks	£15,000	
4. Consultation through Third sector	£1,000	
5. Investigate further concessions	£12,000	
6. Reductions in Mayoral Budget	£2,000	
7. Wyre contribution to reinstate concessionary tram funding		£90,000
TOTAL	£90,000	£90,000

The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Treece-Birch.

The amendment and the substantive proposal were then debated.

Following the debate, the amendment proposed by Councillor Martin was put to the vote, but was not carried, 12 Members voting in favour and 35 against.

A vote was then taken on the Cabinet's recommendations on the budget for 2015/16 and on the level of the Council Tax for 2015/16, as set out in paragraphs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 of the Leader's report, which formed the substantive motion proposed by Councillor Gibson.

The Mayor reminded Members that the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 required that a recorded vote be taken on the decision to approve the Council's budget and to set the level of the Council Tax.

The following Members voted in support of the proposals:

Councillors Amos, Anderson, E Anderton, M Anderton, Lady Atkins, Balmain, Bannister, Berry, B Birch, C. Birch, Bowen, Bridge, Catterall, Collinson, I Duffy, R Duffy, M Gandhi, R Gandhi, Gibson, Greenhough, Henderson, Hewitt, Hodgkinson, Jones, Kay, Lawrenson, Lees, MacNaughton, Martin, McCann, Moon, Murphy, Ormrod, Robinson, Rogers, B Stephenson, E Stephenson, Swift, T Taylor, V Taylor, Treece-Birch, Turner, A Vincent, M Vincent, Walmsley and Williams.

Councillor Shewan abstained from voting.

No Members voted against the proposal, which was therefore carried by 46 votes to 0 with 1 abstention and it was

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the formal Council Tax resolution as agreed by Cabinet 18 February 2015 and, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report of the Leader of the

Council to this meeting, be approved, as follows:

PLEASE NOTE – the paragraph numbers, format and wording below directly reflect the original Cabinet report.

3.1 That the following be approved:-

- a.** The Revised Revenue Budget for the year 2014/15 and the Revenue Budget for 2015/16, reaffirming the decision not to pass any grant to the parish and town councils in relation to Localised Council Tax Support.
- b.** For the purpose of proposing an indicative Council Tax for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19, taking into account the Medium Term Financial Plan at Appendix 2, that the increase in council tax whilst no more than 2% each year, will remain within the principles determined by the Government as part of the legislation relating to Local Referendums allowing the veto of excessive Council Tax increases.
- c.** Members continuing commitment to the approach being taken regarding the efficiency savings, detailed within the Council's 'Annual Efficiency Statement' at Appendix 1.
- d.** Any increases in the base level of expenditure and further additional expenditure arising during 2015/16 should be financed from existing budgets or specified compensatory savings, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules.
- e.** The use of all other Reserves and Balances as indicated in Appendices 4 and 5.
- f.** The manpower estimates for 2015/16.
- g.** In accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance, those indicators included at Appendix 7.
- h.** The Revised Capital Budget for 2014/15 and the Capital Programme for 2015/16 onwards.

3.2 That it be noted that, in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, as agreed by Council at their meeting of 24th February 2005:

- a.** The amount of 34,588.90 has been calculated as the 2015/16 Council Tax Base for the whole area [(Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act"))]; and

- b. A Council Tax Base, for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates, has been calculated as indicated below.

Barnacre-with-Bonds	861.26
Bleasdale	60.84
Cabus	577.50
Catterall	787.24
Cloughton-on-Brock	262.21
Fleetwood	6,133.68
Forton	482.40
Garstang	1,658.03
Great Eccleston	532.53
Hambleton	966.62
Inskip-with-Sowerby	309.62
Kirkland	132.69
Myerscough and Bilsborrow	397.16
Nateby	222.73
Nether Wyresdale	305.60
Out Rawcliffe	257.45
Pilling	769.41
Preesall	1,843.54
Stalmine-with-Staynall	533.17
Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre	270.55
Winmarleigh	126.19

3.3 The Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/16 (excluding Parish precepts) is £6,231,536.

3.4 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|
| a. | £88,899,726 | Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils. |
| b. | £82,179,997 | Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act. |
| c. | £6,719,729 | Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3.4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3.4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, |

		as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
d.	£ 194.27	Being the amount at 3.4(c) above (Item R) all divided by Item T (3.2(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
e.	£488,193	Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act and as detailed in Appendix 6.
f.	£180.16	Being the amount at 3.4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3.4(e) above by Item T (3.2(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

3.5 That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2015/16 is not considered excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(2) That this Council's Band D equivalent Council Tax for the 2015/16 financial year of £180.16 together with parish precepts, as submitted in the report on the Budget, be approved for each of the valuation bands as follows:

Valuation Bands

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barnacre-with-Bonds	122.74	143.19	163.65	184.11	225.03	265.94	306.85	368.22
Bleasdale	134.33	156.71	179.10	201.49	246.27	291.04	335.82	402.98
Cabus	127.04	148.20	169.38	190.55	232.90	275.24	317.59	381.10
Catterall	165.84	193.47	221.11	248.75	304.03	359.30	414.59	497.50
Cloughton-on-Brock	156.94	183.08	209.24	235.40	287.72	340.02	392.34	470.80
Fleetwood	132.06	154.07	176.08	198.09	242.11	286.13	330.15	396.18
Forton	137.38	160.27	183.17	206.07	251.87	297.66	343.45	412.14
Garstang	146.50	170.91	195.33	219.75	268.59	317.42	366.25	439.50
Great Eccleston	137.64	160.57	183.51	206.45	252.33	298.20	344.09	412.90
Hambleton	137.35	160.23	183.13	206.02	251.81	297.58	343.37	412.04
Inskip-with-Sowerby	139.12	162.30	185.49	208.68	255.06	301.43	347.80	417.36
Kirkland	170.35	198.73	227.13	255.52	312.31	369.08	425.87	511.04
Myerscough and Bilsborrow	140.25	163.62	186.99	210.37	257.12	303.87	350.62	420.74
Nateby	124.59	145.35	166.11	186.88	228.41	269.94	311.47	373.76
Nether Wyresdale	147.60	172.19	196.79	221.39	270.59	319.78	368.99	442.78
Out Rawcliffe	131.12	152.96	174.82	196.67	240.38	284.08	327.79	393.34
Pilling	161.70	188.65	215.60	242.55	296.45	350.35	404.25	485.10
Preesall	141.30	164.85	188.40	211.95	259.05	306.15	353.25	423.90
Stalmine-with-Staynall	143.26	167.12	191.00	214.88	262.64	310.38	358.14	429.76
Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre	132.43	154.49	176.57	198.64	242.79	286.92	331.07	397.28
Winmarleigh	133.78	156.06	178.36	200.66	245.26	289.84	334.44	401.32
All other areas of the Borough	120.11	140.12	160.14	180.16	220.20	260.23	300.27	360.32

- (3) That it be noted that for the year 2015/16 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings in the Council's area as shown below:-

Valuation Bands

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lancashire County Council	753.19	878.72	1004.25	1129.78	1380.84	1631.90	1882.97	2259.56
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	106.04	123.71	141.39	159.06	194.41	229.75	265.10	318.12
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	43.24	50.45	57.65	64.86	79.27	93.69	108.10	129.72

- (4) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amount at (2) and (3) above, and in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local government Finance Act 1992, the following amounts are set as the Council Tax for the year 2015/16 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Valuation Bands

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barnacre with Bonds	1025.21	1196.07	1366.94	1537.81	1879.55	2221.28	2563.02	3075.62
Bleasdale	1036.80	1209.59	1382.39	1555.19	1900.79	2246.38	2591.99	3110.38
Cabus	1029.51	1201.08	1372.67	1544.25	1887.42	2230.58	2573.76	3088.50
Catterall	1068.31	1246.35	1424.40	1602.45	1958.55	2314.64	2670.76	3204.90
Cloughton-on-Brock	1059.41	1235.96	1412.53	1589.10	1942.24	2295.36	2648.51	3178.20
Fleetwood	1034.53	1206.95	1379.37	1551.79	1896.63	2241.47	2586.32	3103.58
Forton	1039.85	1213.15	1386.46	1559.77	1906.39	2253.00	2599.62	3119.54
Garstang	1048.97	1223.79	1398.62	1573.45	1923.11	2272.76	2622.42	3146.90
Great Eccleston	1040.11	1213.45	1386.80	1560.15	1906.85	2253.54	2600.26	3120.30
Hambleton	1039.82	1213.11	1386.42	1559.72	1906.33	2252.92	2599.54	3119.44
Inskip with Sowerby	1041.59	1215.18	1388.78	1562.38	1909.58	2256.77	2603.97	3124.76
Kirkland	1072.82	1251.61	1430.42	1609.22	1966.83	2324.42	2682.04	3218.44
Myerscough and Bilsborrow	1042.72	1216.50	1390.28	1564.07	1911.64	2259.21	2606.79	3128.14
Nateby	1027.06	1198.23	1369.40	1540.58	1882.93	2225.28	2567.64	3081.16
Nether Wyresdale	1050.07	1225.07	1400.08	1575.09	1925.11	2275.12	2625.16	3150.18
Out Rawcliffe	1033.59	1205.84	1378.11	1550.37	1894.90	2239.42	2583.96	3100.74
Pilling	1064.17	1241.53	1418.89	1596.25	1950.97	2305.69	2660.42	3192.50
Preesall	1043.77	1217.73	1391.69	1565.65	1913.57	2261.49	2609.42	3131.30
Stalmine with Staynall	1045.73	1220.00	1394.29	1568.58	1917.16	2265.72	2614.31	3137.16
Upper Rawcliffe with Tarnacre	1034.90	1207.37	1379.86	1552.34	1897.31	2242.26	2587.24	3104.68
Winmarleigh	1036.25	1208.94	1381.65	1554.36	1899.78	2245.18	2590.61	3108.72
All other areas of the Borough	1022.58	1193.00	1363.43	1533.86	1874.72	2215.57	2556.44	3067.72

The meeting started at 7.00pm, and finished at 8.47pm

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