



Council Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting held at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde on Thursday 3 March, 2016.

Councillors present:

The Mayor, Councillor Balmain

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Greenhough

Councillor I Amos

Councillor R Amos

Councillor E Anderton

Councillor M Anderton

Councillor Lady Atkins

Councillor Ballard

Councillor Barrowclough

Councillor Berry

Councillor B Birch MBE

Councillor C Birch

Councillor Bowen

Councillor Bridge

Councillor Catterall

Councillor Collinson

Councillor I Duffy

Councillor R Duffy

Councillor Fail

Councillor Gibson

Councillor Henderson

Councillor Hodgkinson

Councillor Ibison

Councillor Ingham

Councillor Kay

Councillor Lees

Councillor Moon

Councillor Murphy

Councillor Orme

Councillor Ormrod

Councillor Pimbley

Councillor Reeves

Councillor Robinson

Councillor Shewan

Councillor Smith

Councillor B Stephenson

Councillor E Stephenson

Councillor T Taylor

Councillor V Taylor

Councillor A Turner

Councillor S Turner

Councillor A Vincent

Councillor Matthew Vincent

Councillor Michael Vincent

Councillor Walmsley

Apologies: Councillors Beavers, Holden, Jones, McKay and Wilson

Officers present:

Garry Payne (Chief Executive)

Philippa Davies (Corporate Director, Resources)

Michael Ryan (Corporate Director, People and Places)

Roy Saunders (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager)

Howard Rawding (Head of Finance)

Clare James (Financial Services Manager)

Paul Harrison (Financial Services Manager)

Stephanie Collinson (Senior Communications Officer)

Also present: Aldermen Bannister and McCann, 1 member of the public and Will Burrell (Youth Mayor).

COU. 99 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 January 2016 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the insertion of the word “Labour” before the word “members” in the last line of paragraph (h) of Minute 90 (Executive Reports) on page 9.

COU. 100 **Declarations of Interest**

- (1) The Chief Executive reminded Members that on 6 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 (unless any Member was disqualified from voting under the provisions of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 because a Council Tax payment had become payable and had remained unpaid for at least two months). Councillors did not therefore need to individually declare an interest in agenda item 9 just because they were Council Tax payers.
- (2) The Corporate Director of People and Places declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 (Revised Senior Management Structure and Scheme of Delegation) because recommendation 3.2 related directly to his position. He said he would leave the meeting prior to the consideration of that item.

COU. 101 **Announcements**

The Mayor reminded members about the Spring Dinner at the Garstang Country Hotel and Golf Centre, planned for Friday 29 April 2016 and the Mayor’s Charity Golf Day at Knott End Golf Club planned for Friday 8 April 2016.

The Mayor also thanked Councillor Lees for organising a concert held on 22 January 2016 which had raised £510 for the Mayor’s Charities.

COU. 102 **Public Questions Statements or Petitions**

None.

COU. 103 **Questions “On Notice” from Councillors**

None.

COU. 104. **Pay Policy Statement 2016/17**

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 2016/17 financial year.

Councillor Reeves referred to paragraph 9.2 of the report which reflected the current minimum wage (at spinal column point 6) stating that this was due to increase with effect from 1 April 2016. It was stated, in response that

preparations were in hand, to deal with the new legislation, recognising that there was a strong likelihood that there would not be a finalised pay agreement in place for Council's to be legally compliant with the National Living Wage to increase the pay rates for spinal column points 6, 7 and 8 to £7.20 per hour with effect from 1 April 2016.

RESOLVED

That the Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17, attached as Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

COU. 105 **Business Plan 2015-2019 (2016 update)**

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson and the Chief Executive submitted a report on a refreshed Business Plan for 2015-2019 (2016 update), which had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee previously.

RESOLVED that the Business Plan for 2015-2019 (2016 update), as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

COU. 106 **Council Tax 2016/17**

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) submitted a report on the setting of Council Tax for 2016/17. 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 17 February 2016. The full minute of that Cabinet meeting was included as an Appendix to his report.

The Mayor said that, in accordance with the usual convention, Procedure Rule 16.4 would 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 Mayor also proposed that Procedure Rule 16.6(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 of the Council (Councillor Gibson) referred to the Budget proposals approved by the Cabinet on 17 February 2016 and formally proposed the recommendations on the budget and the setting of the Council Tax for 2016/17, as set out in his report (on pages 28 and 29 of the agenda).

Councillor Gibson, when making his speech on the budget proposals thanked Philippa Davies (Corporate Director of Resources) and Howard Rawding (Head of Finance) for their excellent work on the preparation of the budget. He said that for both of them this would be their last budget before leaving the Council. He praised them for their dedication, professionalism and expertise. His complimentary comments about Ms Davies and Mr Rawding were endorsed by the Resources Portfolio Holder (Councillor A. Vincent) and the Leader of the

Opposition (Councillor R. Duffy).

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

The Leader of the Opposition (Councillor R Duffy) commented on the budget proposed by Councillor Gibson. She said that the Labour Group would not be proposing any specific amendments.

Following a debate, a vote was taken on the Cabinet's recommendations on the budget for 2016/17 and on the level of the Council Tax for 2016/17, as set out in paragraphs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 of the Leader's report.

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 I Amos, R Amos, Lady Atkins, Ballard, Balmain, Berry, B Birch, C Birch, Bowen, Bridge, Catterall, Collinson, Gibson, Greenhough, Henderson, Hodgkinson, Ibison, Ingham, Kay, Moon, Murphy, Orme, Ormrod, Pimbley, Robinson, V Taylor, A Turner, S Turner, A Vincent, Matthew Vincent, Michael Vincent, Walmsley.

The following Members voted against the proposals:

Councillors E Anderton, M Anderton, Barrowclough, I Duffy, R Duffy, Fail, Lees, Reeves, Shewan, Smith, B Stephenson, E Stephenson, T Taylor.

The proposals were therefore carried by 32 votes to 13 and it was

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the formal Council Tax resolution as agreed by Cabinet 17 February 2016 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 2015/16 and the Revenue Budget for 2016/17.
- b** For the purpose of proposing an indicative Council Tax for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20, taking into account the Medium Term Financial Plan at Appendix 2 which reflects an increase of 1.75% each year, any increase 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 2016/17 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 2016/17.
- 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 2015/16 and the Capital Programme for 2016/17 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 24 February 2005:

- a** The amount of 35,277.51 has been calculated as the 2016/17 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	934.73
Bleasdale	61.37
Cabus	593.49
Catterall	804.76
Cloughton-on-Brock	275.02
Fleetwood	6,325.30
Forton	497.35
Garstang	1,672.68
Great Eccleston	540.38
Hambleton	988.26
Inskip-with-Sowerby	316.64
Kirkland	135.11
Myerscough and Bilsborrow	404.07
Nateby	227.11
Nether Wyresdale	311.49
Out Rawcliffe	265.58
Pilling	776.58
Preesall	1,889.93
Stalmine-with-Staynall	538.01
Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre	279.74
Winmarleigh	133.63

3.3 The Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish precepts) is £6,466,720.

3.4 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------|---|
| a | £93,549,065 | 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 | £86,478,915 | Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act. |
| c | £7,070,150 | 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	£ 200.42	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	£603,430	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	£183.31	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 2016/17 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 2016/17 financial year of £183.31 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	126.13	147.14	168.17	189.19	231.24	273.27	315.32	378.38
Bleasdale	136.31	159.02	181.74	204.46	249.90	295.33	340.77	408.92
Cabus	130.07	151.74	173.42	195.10	238.46	281.81	325.17	390.20
Catterall	169.43	197.66	225.90	254.14	310.62	367.09	423.57	508.28
Claughton-on-Brock	157.98	184.30	210.63	236.96	289.62	342.27	394.94	473.92
Fleetwood	140.76	164.21	187.67	211.13	258.05	304.96	351.89	422.26
Forton	149.02	173.84	198.68	223.52	273.20	322.86	372.54	447.04
Garstang	150.11	175.12	200.14	225.16	275.20	325.23	375.27	450.32
Great Eccleston	140.72	164.16	187.62	211.07	257.98	304.88	351.79	422.14
Hambleton	140.42	163.82	187.22	210.63	257.44	304.24	351.05	421.26
Inskip-with-Sowerby	143.26	167.13	191.01	214.89	262.65	310.40	358.15	429.78
Kirkland	171.55	200.13	228.73	257.32	314.51	371.68	428.87	514.64
Myerscough and Bilsborrow	145.31	169.52	193.74	217.96	266.40	314.83	363.27	435.92
Nateby	126.89	148.03	169.18	190.33	232.63	274.92	317.22	380.66
Nether Wyresdale	151.32	176.53	201.75	226.97	277.41	327.84	378.29	453.94
Out Rawcliffe	133.50	155.75	178.00	200.25	244.75	289.25	333.75	400.50
Pilling	165.99	193.65	221.31	248.98	304.31	359.64	414.97	497.96
Preesall	148.81	173.60	198.41	223.21	272.82	322.41	372.02	446.42
Stalmine-with-Staynall	148.24	172.94	197.65	222.36	271.78	321.19	370.60	444.72
Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre	136.51	159.25	182.01	204.76	250.27	295.76	341.27	409.52
Winmarleigh	135.94	158.58	181.24	203.90	249.22	294.52	339.84	407.80
All other areas of the Borough	122.21	142.57	162.94	183.31	224.05	264.78	305.52	366.62

- (3) That it be noted that for the year 2016/17 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	783.24	913.78	1044.32	1174.86	1435.94	1697.02	1958.10	2349.72
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	108.15	126.17	144.20	162.22	198.27	234.32	270.37	324.44
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	43.67	50.94	58.22	65.50	80.06	94.61	109.17	131.00

- (4) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts 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 2016/17 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	1061.19	1238.03	1414.91	1591.77	1945.51	2299.22	2652.96	3183.54
Bleasdale	1071.37	1249.91	1428.48	1607.04	1964.17	2321.28	2678.41	3214.08
Cabus	1065.13	1242.63	1420.16	1597.68	1952.73	2307.76	2662.81	3195.36
Catterall	1104.49	1288.55	1472.64	1656.72	2024.89	2393.04	2761.21	3313.44
Claughton-on-Brock	1093.04	1275.19	1457.37	1639.54	2003.89	2368.22	2732.58	3279.08
Fleetwood	1075.82	1255.10	1434.41	1613.71	1972.32	2330.91	2689.53	3227.42
Forton	1084.08	1264.73	1445.42	1626.10	1987.47	2348.81	2710.18	3252.20
Garstang	1085.17	1266.01	1446.88	1627.74	1989.47	2351.18	2712.91	3255.48
Great Eccleston	1075.78	1255.05	1434.36	1613.65	1972.25	2330.83	2689.43	3227.30
Hambleton	1075.48	1254.71	1433.96	1613.21	1971.71	2330.19	2688.69	3226.42
Inskip with Sowerby	1078.32	1258.02	1437.75	1617.47	1976.92	2336.35	2695.79	3234.94
Kirkland	1106.61	1291.02	1475.47	1659.90	2028.78	2397.63	2766.51	3319.80
Myerscough and Bilsborrow	1080.37	1260.41	1440.48	1620.54	1980.67	2340.78	2700.91	3241.08
Nateby	1061.95	1238.92	1415.92	1592.91	1946.90	2300.87	2654.86	3185.82
Nether Wyresdale	1086.38	1267.42	1448.49	1629.55	1991.68	2353.79	2715.93	3259.10
Out Rawcliffe	1068.56	1246.64	1424.74	1602.83	1959.02	2315.20	2671.39	3205.66
Pilling	1101.05	1284.54	1468.05	1651.56	2018.58	2385.59	2752.61	3303.12
Preesall	1083.87	1264.49	1445.15	1625.79	1987.09	2348.36	2709.66	3251.58
Stalmine with Staynall	1083.30	1263.83	1444.39	1624.94	1986.05	2347.14	2708.24	3249.88
Upper Rawcliffe with Tarnacre	1071.57	1250.14	1428.75	1607.34	1964.54	2321.71	2678.91	3214.68
Winmarleigh	1071.00	1249.47	1427.98	1606.48	1963.49	2320.47	2677.48	3212.96
All other areas of the Borough	1057.27	1233.46	1409.68	1585.89	1938.32	2290.73	2643.16	3171.78

Local Code of Good Practice for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process and Public Speaking at Planning Committee Meetings: Constitution Amendments

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) and the Corporate Director of Resources submitted a report on changes to the Local Code of Good Practice for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process and the procedures for public speaking at Planning Committee meetings.

Councillor Gibson, when introducing the report, sought the consent of Council under Procedure Rule 16.7, to alter a number of the proposals relating to the arrangements for public speaking at Planning Committee meetings set out in section 6 of the report, including:

- the removal of the requirement for Councillors to register to speak;
- the insertion of a requirement for the applicant and/or agent to register in advance if they wish to speak;
- the deletion of line 8 from the proposed procedure on page 44 of the agenda (removing the invitation to the Vice Chairman to comment at that stage in the proceedings);
- the insertion of an additional recommendation that the proposed changes initially be implemented for a 6 month trial period, prior to being reconsidered by the Planning Committee.

Members of the Council indicated their consent to the alterations to the report proposed by Councillor Gibson for consideration during the ensuing debate.

During the debate some Members asked questions and expressed concerns about the impact of the proposed changes, which they felt would unnecessarily reduce the opportunity of concerned local residents to be involved in the democratic process. Other members supported the proposed changes, stating that there would still be sufficient opportunities for members of the public and Councillors who were not members of the Planning Committee to speak, either to object or support an application and, that the quality of the meetings and the decisions made would improve as a consequence.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the revised procedures for public speaking at Planning Committee meetings described in section 6 of the report be approved, subject to the alterations proposed by Councillor Gibson, when introducing the report, as follows:
 - the removal of the requirement for Councillors to register to speak;
 - that, in Wyre wards with more than one member, each of those ward members will be able to speak on an application if they wished;
 - the insertion of a requirement for the applicant and/or agent (as well as objectors and supporters) to register in advance if they wish to speak;
 - the deletion of line 8 from the proposed procedure on page 44 of the agenda (removing the invitation to the Vice Chairman to comment at

- that stage in the proceedings);
- the insertion of an additional recommendation that the proposed changes initially be implemented for a 6 month trial period and then be reviewed by the Planning Committee.
- (2) That the revised Local Code of Good Practice for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process, attached as Appendix 1, and including the changes to section 9 – ‘Public Speaking at Planning Committee Meetings’, as amended in accordance with resolution (1) above, be approved and included in Part 5.07 of the Constitution, in place of the existing Code.
 - (3) That the Customer Guide to Public Speaking at Planning Committee Meetings attached as Appendix 2 be approved also as amended in accordance with resolution (1) above, but that Part 5.08 of the Constitution be deleted as the procedure is already included as section 9 of the Local Code of Good Practice for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process, which forms Part 5.07 of the Constitution.
 - (4) That the revised procedures be implemented from the first meeting of the Planning Committee in the 2016/17 Council Year, now scheduled for 11 May 2016.
 - (5) That, prior to implementation, information explaining the new procedures be made widely available, via the Council’s web-site and directly to new applicants, objectors, agents, Parish Councils and the media.

**COU.
108**

Proposed Senior Management Structure and Officer Delegations

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) and the Chief Executive submitted a report seeking approval for certain elements of the previously agreed new senior management structure being introduced from an earlier date than originally planned.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the new senior management structure be implemented from 1 April 2016 with the Chief Executive and the three new Service Director posts (People and Places, Health and Wellbeing and Performance and Innovation) being paid their new salary rates from the 1 April 2016.
- (2) That the post of Corporate Director of People and Places be deleted from the establishment with effect from 1 April 2016.
- (3) That the Corporate Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) continues in post, as originally agreed until 30 June 2016, prior to the post being deleted from the establishment.
- (4) That the Head of Business Support be appointed to the role of Monitoring Officer from 1 April 2016.

- (5) That the Officer Delegations (attached at Appendix 1) be agreed with an effective date of 1 July 2016, except where indicated in relation to the role of the Monitoring Officer, which will be effective from 1 April 2016.

The meeting started at 7.00pm, and finished at 8.24pm

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