

Council Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday, 2 March 2017 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Councillors present:

The Mayor, Councillor Lees and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor E Anderton

Councillor I Amos	Councillor R Duffy	Councillor Ormrod
Councillor R Amos	Councillor Fail	Councillor Pimbley
Councillor M Anderton	Councillor Gibson	Councillor Reeves
Councillor Lady Atkins	Councillor Greenhough	Councillor Robinson
Councillor Ballard	Councillor Henderson	Councillor Smith
Councillor Balmain	Councillor Hodgkinson	Councillor V Taylor
Councillor Barrowclough	Councillor Holden	Councillor A Turner
Councillor Berry	Councillor Ibison	Councillor S Turner
Councillor B Birch MBE	Councillor Ingham	Councillor A Vincent
Councillor C Birch	Councillor Jones	Councillor Matthew Vincent
Councillor Bowen	Councillor Kay	Councillor Michael Vincent
Councillor Bridge	Councillor Moon	Councillor Walmsley
Councillor Collinson	Councillor Murphy	Councillor Wilson.
Councillor I Duffy	Councillor Orme	

Apologies: Councillors Beavers, Catterall, McKay, Shewan, B Stephenson, E Stephenson and T Taylor.

Officers present:

Garry Payne (Chief Executive)
Marianne Hesketh (Service Director Performance and Innovation)
Mark Billington (Service Director People and Places)
Mark Broadhurst (Service Director Health and Wellbeing)
Clare James (Head of Finance)
Roy Saunders (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager)
Stephanie Collinson (Senior Communications Officer)

Also present: Alderman Bannister, a representative of That's Lancashire TV and 4 members of the public

58 Confirmation of minutes

Councillor Fail said that he had made a statement at the Council meeting held on 19 January 2017 about the accuracy, style and content of the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2016 but, neither that statement nor a summary of it, was included in the unconfirmed minutes of the January meeting. He made further comments and proposed questions about the content of Council minutes and proposed an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor R Duffy, that the minutes of the 19 January meeting be confirmed subject to the addition of the following words:

“Cllr Fail said that there was an inadequate level of detail in the minutes of the December meeting and that the level of detail employed had not been discussed, debated, or agreed by Council. He went on to say that minutes are meant to be informative and interesting and that ‘dumbing down’ to the lowest common denominator was not the answer. Members, Officers and most importantly, the public, need and deserve a full and accurate set of minutes. Cllr Fail concluded by saying this needs re-thinking and bringing to Full Council.”

The amendment was lost (by 6 votes to 34)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 January 2017 be confirmed as a correct record (by 33 votes to 2).

59 Declarations of Interest

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.

No declarations of interest were made.

60 Announcements

The Mayor reminded Members about arrangements for The Mayor’s Charity Ball at the North Euston Hotel on Friday 24 March and a concert by Blackpool Male Voice Choir in aid of the Mayor’s charities, to be held at Thornton Little Theatre, on Friday 10 March 2017.

The Mayor said that he understood that Natalie Reeves was intending to stand down as a Councillor and that she would be resigning in mid-March, so that the election for the vacancy created could take place at the same time as the County Council elections on 4 May. He thanked her for her contribution to Wyre and wished her well for the future. The Leader of the Council (Cllr Gibson) endorsed the Mayor’s comments.

The Mayor said that, unfortunately, Cllr Ted Taylor was currently unwell and, following medical advice, he had indicated that he would regrettably not be able to be Mayor in 2017/18. He announced that the new Mayor Elect was Cllr Alice Collinson. Cllr Collinson commiserated with Cllr Taylor but said she would be honoured to be Mayor. She announced that the Deputy Mayor would be Cllr Julie Robinson.

The Chief Executive read to the Council the following statement which he had received from Councillor Michael Vincent:

"It has been brought to my attention that another person has registered to make comments on the Blackpool Gazette's website with the username "Michael Vincent". This person seemingly only posts on articles in some way related to this Council, but as they have not implied or stated that they are me, the Gazette will not agree to my request for this person to be required to change their username. It is possible that the person shares my name, however unlikely.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am not the person posting on the Gazette's site as Michael Vincent. I do not have and do not have any intention of getting an account to post on that site. I believe in engaging with the community, but do not believe comments on a website are the correct forum".

The Chief Executive stated that he had a duty to support and protect the welfare of elected Members as well as staff and, should the individual who had registered in the name of Michael Vincent continue to post messages which were clearly political and thereby could wrongly be attributed to Councillor Michael Vincent, he would instruct the Senior Solicitor to write to the Gazette requesting that the user be blocked or advised to change their registered name. If they refused to do so, the Council would consider taking legal action to ensure Councillor Michael Vincent received the appropriate level of support and protection. He stressed that he would provide such support for any Councillor, irrespective of political party.

61 Public questions or statements

None.

62 Questions "On Notice" from councillors

None.

63 Pay Policy Statements

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) and the Service Director Performance and Innovation submitted a report on the Council's Pay Policy Statement for the 2016/17 financial year.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved.

64 Business Plan 2015-2019 (2017 update)

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) and the Chief Executive submitted a report on a refreshed Business Plan for 2015-2019 (2017 update), which had been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 January 2017.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Business Plan for 2015-2019 (2017 update), as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

65 Council Tax 2017-18

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Gibson) submitted a report on the setting of Council Tax for 2017/18. His report included reference to the report of the Head of Finance (S. 151 Officer) on the Revenue Budget, Council Tax and Capital Programme, which had been considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 15 February 2017. The full minute of that Cabinet meeting was included as Appendix 1 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 commenting on or 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 15 February 2017 and formally proposed the recommendations on the budget and the setting of the Council Tax for 2017/18, as set out in his report (on pages 23 and of the agenda).

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 amendments.

Following a debate, a vote was taken on the Cabinet's recommendations on the budget for 2017/18 and on the level of the Council Tax for 2017/18, 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, Collinson, Gibson, Greenhough, Henderson, Hodgkinson, Holden, Ibison, Ingham, Jones, Kay, Moon, Murphy, Orme, Ormrod, Pimbley, Robinson, V Taylor, A Turner, S Turner, A Vincent, Matthew Vincent, Michael Vincent, Walmsley, Wilson.

The following Members voted against the proposals:

Councillors E Anderton, M Anderton, Barrowclough, I Duffy, R Duffy, Fail, Lees, Reeves, Smith.

The proposals were therefore carried by 34 votes to 9 and it was

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the formal Council Tax resolution as agreed by Cabinet 15 February 2017, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Leader be agreed, as set out below:

(PLEASE NOTE – the paragraph numbers, format and wording below directly reflect the numbering in the Appendix to the Leader’s report).

1. that the following be approved:
 - a. The Revised Revenue Budget for the year 2016/17 and the Revenue Budget for 2017/18.
 - b. For the purpose of proposing an indicative Council Tax for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21, taking into account the Medium Term Financial Plan at Appendix 2 which reflects an increase of £5 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 of the report.
 - d. Any increases in the base level of expenditure and further additional expenditure arising during 2017/18 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 of the report.
 - f. The manpower estimates for 2017/18.
 - g. In accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance, those indicators included at Appendix 7 of the report.
 - h. The Revised Capital Budget for 2016/17 and the Capital Programme for 2017/18 onwards.
2. Cabinet 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 35,784.77 had been calculated as the 2017/18 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	937.96
Bleasdale	64.67
Cabus	603.27
Catterall	816.51
Cloughton-on-Brock	297.79
Fleetwood	6,375.85
Forton	517.28
Garstang	1,684.19
Great Eccleston	540.83
Hambleton	1,014.62
Inskip-with-Sowerby	319.13
Kirkland	136.58
Myerscough and Bilsborrow	410.92
Nateby	220.9
Nether Wyresdale	315.4
Out Rawcliffe	262.01
Pilling	796.48
Preesall	1,905.81
Stalmine-with-Staynall	541.06
Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre	286.3
Winmarleigh	129.83

3. The Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2017/18 (excluding Parish precepts) is £6,738,630.
4. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2017/18 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - a. £89,357,911 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. £81,974,512 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - c. £7,383,399 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. £ 206.33 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. £644,769 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 of the report.
- f. £188.31 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.

5. That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2017/18 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 2017/18 financial year of £188.31 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	130.16	151.85	173.55	195.24	238.63	282.01	325.40	390.48
Bleasdale	130.69	152.47	174.26	196.04	239.61	283.17	326.73	392.08
Cabus	135.49	158.06	180.65	203.23	248.40	293.55	338.72	406.46
Catterall	178.61	208.38	238.15	267.92	327.46	386.99	446.53	535.84
Cloughton-on-Brock	159.12	185.64	212.16	238.68	291.72	344.76	397.80	477.36
Fleetwood	143.94	167.93	191.92	215.91	263.89	311.87	359.85	431.82
Forton	151.31	176.53	201.75	226.97	277.41	327.84	378.28	453.94
Garstang	153.31	178.86	204.42	229.97	281.08	332.18	383.28	459.94
Great Eccleston	145.26	169.47	193.68	217.89	266.31	314.73	363.15	435.78
Hambleton	145.25	169.46	193.67	217.88	266.30	314.71	363.13	435.76
Inskip-with-Sowerby	146.43	170.84	195.25	219.65	268.46	317.27	366.08	439.30
Kirkland	184.11	214.80	245.49	276.17	337.54	398.91	460.28	552.34
Myerscough and								
Bilsborrow	148.25	172.96	197.67	222.38	271.80	321.21	370.63	444.76
Nateby	129.96	151.62	173.28	194.94	238.26	281.58	324.90	389.88
Nether Wyresdale	156.31	182.35	208.41	234.46	286.57	338.66	390.77	468.92
Out Rawcliffe	138.26	161.30	184.35	207.39	253.48	299.56	345.65	414.78
Pilling	170.74	199.19	227.66	256.11	313.03	369.93	426.85	512.22
Preesall	157.93	184.24	210.57	236.89	289.54	342.17	394.82	473.78
Stalmine-with-Staynall	154.38	180.11	205.84	231.57	283.03	334.49	385.95	463.14
Upper Rawcliffe-with-								
Tarnacre	140.67	164.12	187.57	211.01	257.90	304.79	351.68	422.02
Winmarleigh	141.39	164.95	188.52	212.08	259.21	306.33	353.47	424.16
All other area of the								
Borough	125.54	146.46	167.39	188.31	230.16	272.00	313.85	376.62

- 3) That it be noted that for the year 2017/18 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	814.49	950.24	1085.99	1221.74	1493.24	1764.74	2036.23	2443.48
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	110.30	128.68	147.07	165.45	202.22	238.98	275.75	330.90
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 3.2 and 3.3 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 2017/18 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	1098.62	1281.71	1464.83	1647.93	2014.15	2380.34	2746.55	3295.86
Bleasdale	1099.15	1282.33	1465.54	1648.73	2015.13	2381.50	2747.88	3297.46
Cabus	1103.95	1287.92	1471.93	1655.92	2023.92	2391.88	2759.87	3311.84
Catterall	1147.07	1338.24	1529.43	1720.61	2102.98	2485.32	2867.68	3441.22
Claughton-on-Brock	1127.58	1315.50	1503.44	1691.37	2067.24	2443.09	2818.95	3382.74
Fleetwood	1112.40	1297.79	1483.20	1668.60	2039.41	2410.20	2781.00	3337.20
Forton	1119.77	1306.39	1493.03	1679.66	2052.93	2426.17	2799.43	3359.32
Garstang	1121.77	1308.72	1495.70	1682.66	2056.60	2430.51	2804.43	3365.32
Great Eccleston	1113.72	1299.33	1484.96	1670.58	2041.83	2413.06	2784.30	3341.16
Hambleton	1113.71	1299.32	1484.95	1670.57	2041.82	2413.04	2784.28	3341.14
Inskip-with-Sowerby	1114.89	1300.70	1486.53	1672.34	2043.98	2415.60	2787.23	3344.68
Kirkland	1152.57	1344.66	1536.77	1728.86	2113.06	2497.24	2881.43	3457.72
Myerscough and Bilsborrow	1116.71	1302.82	1488.95	1675.07	2047.32	2419.54	2791.78	3350.14
Nateby	1098.42	1281.48	1464.56	1647.63	2013.78	2379.91	2746.05	3295.26
Nether Wyresdale	1124.77	1312.21	1499.69	1687.15	2062.09	2436.99	2811.92	3374.30
Out Rawcliffe	1106.72	1291.16	1475.63	1660.08	2029.00	2397.89	2766.80	3320.16
Pilling	1139.20	1329.05	1518.94	1708.80	2088.55	2468.26	2848.00	3417.60
Preesall	1126.39	1314.10	1501.85	1689.58	2065.06	2440.50	2815.97	3379.16
Stalmine	1122.84	1309.97	1497.12	1684.26	2058.55	2432.82	2807.10	3368.52
Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre	1109.13	1293.98	1478.85	1663.70	2033.42	2403.12	2772.83	3327.40
Winmarleigh	1109.85	1294.81	1479.80	1664.77	2034.73	2404.66	2774.62	3329.54
All other areas of the Borough	1094.00	1276.32	1458.67	1641.00	2005.68	2370.33	2735.00	3282.00

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 7.53 pm.