



Council Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday, 11 March 2021 in the Members' Lounge, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde and remotely via WebEx.

Councillors present:

The Mayor, Councillor Andrea Kay and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Howard Ballard

Councillors A Turner, B Birch, I Amos, R Amos, Armstrong, Lady D Atkins, Sir R Atkins, Baxter, Beavers, Berry, C Birch, Bowen, Bridge, Cartridge, Catterall, Collinson, Cropper, E Ellison, P Ellison, Fail, Fairbanks, Gerrard, George, Henderson, Holden, Ibison, Ingham, Le Marinel, Leech, Longton, McKay, Minto, Moon, Orme, O'Neill, Raynor, Robinson, Smith, Stirzaker, Swales, S Turner, A Vincent, Matthew Vincent, M Vincent, D Walmsley, L Walmsley, Webster and Williams

Officers present:

Garry Payne, Chief Executive
Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities
Clare James, Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer
Emma Lyons, Communications and Marketing Lead
Peter Foulsham, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
Duncan Jowitt, Democratic Services Officer
Marianne Unwin, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

Also present: 7 members of the public watched this meeting on the Council's YouTube channel.

26 Confirmation of minutes

It was agreed, unanimously, that the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 12 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

27 Declarations of Interest

None.

28 Announcements

None.

29 Public questions or statements

None received.

30 Questions "On Notice" from councillors

None received.

31 Pay Policy Statement 2021/22

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Henderson) and the Corporate Director Resources (Clare James) submitted a report on the Council's Pay Policy Statement 2021/22.

It was **agreed** (unanimously) that members noted and approved the Pay Policy Statement in respect of 2021/22, which was attached at Appendix A of the report.

32 Refreshed Business Plan 2019-2023 (Update 2021)

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Henderson) and the Chief Executive (Garry Payne) submitted a report seeking approval of the Council's Business Plan for 2019-2023 (updated for 2021).

It was **agreed** (unanimously) that the Council's Business Plan for 2019-2023 (updated for 2021) be approved.

33 Revenue Budget, Council Tax and Capital Estimates

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Henderson) submitted a report to determine the Council Tax for the Borough for the 2021/22 financial year. His report included reference to the report of the Resources Portfolio Holder and Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer, which had been considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 17 February 2021. The minute detailing the Cabinet's recommendations was set out in Appendix 1 of his report to this Council meeting.

The Resources Portfolio Holder (Cllr A Vincent) seconded Cllr Henderson's proposal that the recommendations made by the Cabinet be approved.

Cllr Fail proposed and Cllr Beavers seconded the following amendment, that the formal Council Tax resolution as agreed by Cabinet on 17 February 2021, as set out in Appendix 1, be agreed with 3 additional changes:

1 Fees & Charges: Car Parking Charge for Blue Badge Holders

That the previous decision to charge for parking in blue badge holder spaces be reversed.

The reduction in annual revenue is predicted to be £5000 (£480k instead of £485k estimated revenue for 2021/22). Based on an assumption that revenue would be the same as 2019/20 (when blue badge holders weren't charged).

2 Fees & Charges: Green Waste Subscription

That the decision for the green waste subscription to be increased from £30 to £35 for those paying by Direct Debit be adjusted.

Instead, and irrespective of payment method, the cost of a green bin (including additional ones) be a standard charge of £32.

Whilst the amendment would result in a £58,500 reduction to the estimated annual revenue (£771.5k instead of £830k), it would still result in an increase in revenue of approximately £20k compared to 2020/21 estimate.

3 Fees & Charges: Care & Repair (minor adaptations)

That the decision to increase charges from £10 per job to £30 per hour be reversed.

The reduction in annual revenue is predicted to be £6000 (£6k instead of £12k estimated revenue for 2021/22).

The following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Armstrong, Beavers, B Birch, Fail, Longton, Raynor, Smith, Stirzaker and Swales.

The following members voted against the amendment: Councillors I Amos, R Amos, Lady D Atkins, Sir R Atkins, Ballard, Baxter, Berry, C Birch, Bowen, Bridge, Cartridge, Catterall, Cropper, E Ellison, P Ellison, Fairbanks, George, Gerrard, Henderson, Holden, Ibison, Ingham, Le Marinel, Leech, McKay, Minto, Moon, O'Neill, Orme, Robinson, A Turner, S Turner, A Vincent, Matthew Vincent, Michael Vincent, D Walmsley, L Walmsley, Webster and Williams. The amendment was therefore lost (by 9 votes to 39).

A vote was then taken on the Cabinet's recommendations on the budget for 2021/22 and on the level of Council Tax as set out in paragraphs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 of the Leader's report.

The following members voted in support of the proposal: Councillors I Amos, R Amos, Lady D Atkins, Sir R Atkins, Ballard, Baxter, Berry, B Birch, C Birch, Bowen, Bridge, Cartridge, Catterall, Cropper, E Ellison, P Ellison, Fairbanks, Gerrard, Henderson, Holden, Ibison, Ingham, Le Marinel, Leech, McKay, Minto, Moon, O'Neill, Orme, Robinson, A Turner, S Turner, A Vincent, Matthew Vincent, Michael Vincent, D Walmsley, L Walmsley, Webster and Williams.

The following members voted against the proposal: Councillors Armstrong,

Beavers, Fail, George, Longton, Raynor, Smith, Stirzaker and Swales. The proposal was therefore carried (by 39 votes to 9).

Agreed:

1. That the formal Council Tax resolution as agreed by Cabinet on 17 February 2021, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Leader's report and attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes, be approved.
2. That this Council's Band D equivalent Council Tax for the 2021/22 financial year of £209.74 together with parish precepts, as submitted in the report on the budget, be approved for each of the valuation bands, as set out in Table A of Appendix 2 to these minutes.
3. That it be noted that for the year 2021/22 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 in Table B of Appendix 2 of these minutes.
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 amounts set as the Council Tax for the year 2021/22 for each part of the Wyre area and for each of the categories of dwellings were as shown in Table C of Appendix 2 to these minutes.

34

Members' Allowances Scheme

The Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer (Clare James) submitted a report to inform Council of the outcome of an interim review of the Members' Allowances Scheme undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) proposed and Cllr Alan Vincent seconded the recommendations in the report.

Cllr Fail proposed, and Cllr Beavers seconded, an amendment to the recommendation in paragraph 3.1 of the report, as follows:

That paragraph 3.1 of the report be changed from,

"That, in line with the formula applied since 2012 and endorsed last year, the Basic Allowance paid to each Councillor be increased by 2.75%, from £4,347 per annum, to £4,467 with effect from 2 May 2021."

to read

"That, the Basic Allowance increase paid to each Councillor be limited to 1%, so from £4,347 per annum to £4,390 with effect from 2 May 2021."

It is further proposed that the estimated savings of £5,280 (by reducing the proposed increase of 2.75% to 1%) should be used to fund a scheme of free entry to our gyms and pools on a dedicated day (or days) for people in financial hardship e.g. in receipt of Universal Credit or a legacy benefit.

The last paragraph of the proposed amendment was deemed by the Chief Executive to be invalid as it had implications for decisions about budget allocation that were not for consideration at this meeting. In addition, it would substantially change the intention of the wording of the report and as such did not accord with the Council's Constitution.

A further amendment was proposed by Cllr O'Neill and seconded by Cllr George, as follows

That councillors should forfeit the proposed increase in the Basic Allowance paid to each councillor.

Following some initial discussion on the amendment proposed by Cllr Fail, it was proposed by Cllr Sir R Atkins and seconded by Cllr S Turner, under the Council Procedure Rules (Council's Constitution Part 4.01/15, paragraph 16(a) (ii)) that the question now be put.

The proposal made by Cllr Sir R Atkins was supported (by 35 votes to 9).

It was **agreed** (by 35 votes to 9),

- (i) That, in line with the formula applied since 2012 and endorsed last year, the Basic Allowance paid to each Councillor be increased by 2.75%, from £4,347 per annum, to £4,467 with effect from 2 May 2021, and
- (ii) That no other changes be made to the Scheme for 2021/22.

35 Membership of Committees

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) and the Chief Executive (Garry Payne) submitted a report to enable changes to be made to the membership of committees for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year.

It was **agreed** (unanimously),

- 1 That the revised allocation of seats on committees, with an allocation of 59 seats to the Conservative Group, 13 seats to the Labour Group, 5 seats to the Wyre Alliance Group and 3 seats to the Wyre Residents Group, be noted.
- 2 That Councillor O'Neill be appointed to the Planning Committee in place of Councillor George.
- 3 That Councillor George be appointed to the Audit Committee in place of

Councillor O'Neill.

36 Appointment to Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Scrutiny Committee

The Leader of the Council (Cllr Henderson) and the Chief Executive (Garry Payne) submitted a report to report the appointment of a councillor as the council's representative on the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Scrutiny Committee for the period until the next elections in May 2023.

It was **agreed** (unanimously) that Councillor Matthew Vincent be appointed as the council's representative on the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Scrutiny Committee until the next elections in May 2023.

37 Audit Committee Periodic Report

The Chairman of the Audit Committee (Cllr McKay) and the Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer (Clare James) submitted a report detailing issues being dealt with by the Audit Committee.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

38 Notices of Motion

None.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 9.36 pm.

Appendix to Council Minutes- 11 March 2021

Extract from minutes of Cabinet meeting of

CAB.25 Revenue Budget, Council Tax and Capital Programme

The Resources Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director Resources (S.151 Officer) submitted a report asking Cabinet to confirm the Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Revised Capital Budget 2020/21 and Capital Programme 2021/22 onwards.

The Resources Portfolio Holder expressed his thanks to Clare James, all of her staff and all the staff of Wyre Council for helping keep businesses afloat during the COVID 19 pandemic and said that Wyre Council and Lancashire County Council had both been brilliant during the pandemic. He added that preparing a Medium Term Financial Plan had been difficult under the circumstances as the Government had set only a one-year deal and that it was difficult to predict the impact of the pandemic. Wyre's track record indicated that the council would continue to deal with whatever was to come.

The Leader also expressed his thanks to Clare James and her team and said that he was proud of all the staff of Wyre Council. He had observed that Wyre had been one of the first places to begin the roll out of vaccinations and had watched how the vaccinations were progressing.

Decisions

Cabinet agreed

1. That the following be approved and recommended to Council for their approval:-
 - a. The Revised Revenue Budget for the year 2020/21 and the Revenue Budget for 2021/22.
 - b. For the purpose of proposing an indicative Council Tax for 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, taking into account the Medium Term Financial Plan at Appendix 2 of the report, 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 2021/22 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 2021/22 in Appendix 4 of the report.
 - 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 2020/21 and the Capital Programme for 2021/22 onwards in Appendix 8 of the report.
2. That it be noted that, in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, as agreed by Council at their meeting on 24 February 2005:
- a. The amount of 36,980.66 has been calculated as the 2021/22 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	1,005.41
Bleasdale	59.55
Cabus	610.82
Catterall	896.61
Cloughton-on-Brock	386.46
Fleetwood	6,320.95
Forton	606.80
Garstang	1,797.87
Great Eccleston	689.05
Hambleton	1,051.51
Inskip-with-Sowerby	410.19
Kirkland	134.70
Myerscough and Bilsborrow	452.31
Nateby	212.24
Nether Wyresdale	323.30
Out Rawcliffe	262.10
Pilling	844.85
Preesall	1,892.07
Stalmine-with-Staynall	635.64
Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre	291.88
Winmarleigh	123.85

3. The Council Tax requirement for the council's own purposes for 2021/22(excluding Parish precepts) is £7,756,324.
4. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:-

a.	£69,791,020	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.
	£61,250,72	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
	£8,540,295	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).
	£230.94	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).
	£783,971	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.
	£209.74	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 2020/21 is not considered excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

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Council Minutes 11 March 2021:

Appendix 2

Table A: Parish Precepts

Valuation bands

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barnacre-with-Bonds	145.43	169.67	193.91	218.15	266.63	315.11	363.58	436.30
Bleasdale	149.90	174.88	199.87	224.85	274.82	324.78	374.75	449.70
Cabus	150.74	175.86	200.99	226.11	276.36	326.60	376.85	452.22
Catterall	200.80	234.27	267.73	301.20	368.13	435.07	502.00	602.40
Claughton-on-Brock	170.88	199.36	227.84	256.32	313.28	370.24	427.20	512.64
Fleetwood	161.68	188.63	215.57	242.52	296.41	350.31	404.20	485.04
Forton	161.80	188.77	215.73	242.70	296.63	350.57	404.50	485.40
Garstang	173.47	202.39	231.30	260.21	318.03	375.86	433.68	520.42
Great Eccleston	164.98	192.48	219.97	247.47	302.46	357.46	412.45	494.94
Hambleton	165.19	192.72	220.25	247.78	302.84	357.90	412.97	495.56
Inskip-with-Sowerby	157.71	183.99	210.28	236.56	289.13	341.70	394.27	473.12
Kirkland	196.74	229.53	262.32	295.11	360.69	426.27	491.85	590.22
Myerscough and Bilsborrow	162.67	189.79	216.90	244.01	298.23	352.46	406.68	488.02
Nateby	145.13	169.32	193.51	217.70	266.08	314.46	362.83	435.40
Nether Wyresdale	179.47	209.39	239.30	269.21	329.03	388.86	448.68	538.42
Out Rawcliffe	156.36	182.42	208.48	234.54	286.66	338.78	390.90	469.08
Pilling	197.43	230.34	263.24	296.15	361.96	427.77	493.58	592.30
Preesall	174.68	203.79	232.91	262.02	320.25	378.47	436.70	524.04
Stalmine-with-Staynall	174.17	203.19	232.22	261.25	319.31	377.36	435.42	522.50
Upper Rawcliffe-with-Taranacre	155.81	181.78	207.75	233.72	285.66	337.60	389.53	467.44
Winmarleigh	159.29	185.83	212.38	238.93	292.03	345.12	398.22	477.86
All other area of the Borough	139.83	163.13	186.44	209.74	256.35	302.96	349.57	419.48

Table B: Precepts from major precepting authorities

Valuation bands

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lancashire County Council	970.79	1132.59	1294.39	1456.19	1779.79	2103.39	2426.98	2912.38
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	150.97	176.13	201.29	226.45	276.77	327.09	377.42	452.90
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	48.18	56.21	64.24	72.27	88.33	104.39	120.45	144.54

Table C: Total tax payments for Wyre (including precepts from parish councils and other precepting authorities)

Valuation bands

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barnacre-with-Bonds	1315.37	1534.60	1753.83	1973.06	2411.52	2849.98	3288.43	3946.12
Bleasdale	1319.84	1539.81	1759.79	1979.76	2419.71	2859.65	3299.60	3959.52
Cabus	1320.68	1540.79	1760.91	1981.02	2421.25	2861.47	3301.70	3962.04
Catterall	1370.74	1599.20	1827.65	2056.11	2513.02	2969.94	3426.85	4112.22
Claughton-on-Brock	1340.82	1564.29	1787.76	2011.23	2458.17	2905.11	3352.05	4022.46
Fleetwood	1331.62	1553.56	1775.49	1997.43	2441.30	2885.18	3329.05	3994.86
Forton	1331.74	1553.70	1775.65	1997.61	2441.52	2885.44	3329.35	3995.22
Garstang	1343.41	1567.32	1791.22	2015.12	2462.92	2910.73	3358.53	4030.24
Great Eccleston	1334.92	1557.41	1779.89	2002.38	2447.35	2892.33	3337.30	4004.76
Hambleton	1335.13	1557.65	1780.17	2002.69	2447.73	2892.77	3337.82	4005.38
Inskip-with-Sowerby	1327.65	1548.92	1770.20	1991.47	2434.02	2876.57	3319.12	3982.94
Kirkland	1366.68	1594.46	1822.24	2050.02	2505.58	2961.14	3416.70	4100.04
Myerscough and Bilsborrow	1332.61	1554.72	1776.82	1998.92	2443.12	2887.33	3331.53	3997.84
Nateby	1315.07	1534.25	1753.43	1972.61	2410.97	2849.33	3287.68	3945.22
Nether Wyresdale	1349.41	1574.32	1799.22	2024.12	2473.92	2923.73	3373.53	4048.24
Out Rawcliffe	1326.30	1547.35	1768.40	1989.45	2431.55	2873.65	3315.75	3978.90
Pilling	1367.37	1595.27	1823.16	2051.06	2506.85	2962.64	3418.43	4102.12
Preesall	1344.62	1568.72	1792.83	2016.93	2465.14	2913.34	3361.55	4033.86
Stalmine	1344.11	1568.12	1792.14	2016.16	2464.20	2912.23	3360.27	4032.32
Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre	1325.75	1546.71	1767.67	1988.63	2430.55	2872.47	3314.38	3977.26
Winmarleigh	1329.23	1550.76	1772.30	1993.84	2436.92	2879.99	3323.07	3987.68
All other areas of the Borough	1309.77	1528.06	1746.36	1964.65	2401.24	2837.83	3274.42	3929.30