

Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 5 March 2013 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor I Sayers (Chairman)

Councillors:

J E Alcock	E M H Ranson
R Bennett	L Rimmer
S Bibby	M Robinson
S Brunskill	J Rogerson
S Carefoot	C Ross
R J Elms	G Scott
R Hargreaves	R E Sherras
J B Hill	D T Smith
K Hind	D Taylor
J Holgate	M Thomas
S Hore	R J Thompson
A M Knox	J White
S Knox	
G Mirfin	
R Newmark	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Head of HR, Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

667 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend A Froud, opened the meeting with prayers.

668 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors I Brown, T Hill, B Hilton, S Hirst, K Horkin, N Walsh, A Yearling.

669 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

670 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

671 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 December 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

672 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on engagements that he had attended since the last meeting. These included a final set of festive engagements, the annual Masonic

Keep Lodge Dinner, the official opening of Ribble Valley Boxing Club which the Council had supported via a recreational grant and a service at St Mary Magdalene for the rededication of the renovated spire. He had also attended the launch of the new Ribble Valley Visitors Guide and had attended the Lancaster Civic Tour. The Deputies had attended a range of Epiphany Services and the unveiling of the Ribchester Music Festival Programme.

673 BUDGET CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATE PAYERS

Consideration was given to the written report of the Director of Resources referring to a meeting which had taken place with representatives of non-domestic ratepayers on the Council's budget proposals. The meeting had been attended by Mr Atherton of Whalley Chamber of Trade and Mr Ian Lloyd of Clitheroe Chamber of Trade.

RESOLVED: That Members received the report.

674 REVENUE BUDGET 2013/14

Consideration was given to the written report of the Director of Resources concerning the budget for 2013/14 and the setting of the different amounts of Council Tax for different parts of the Council's area where special items applied (Parish Precepts).

Enclosed with the report was the budget summary for the financial year 2013/14 which contained details of revenue and capital requirements. Approval of the budget proposals was contained in the report and was proposed by Councillor EMH Ranson and seconded by Councillor R Thompson.

In his budget speech the Leader reminded Members of some of the significant issues that the Council had faced when preparing the 2013/14 budget, including the introduction of new local Council Tax support schemes to replace Council Tax benefit, fundamental changes to the how the Council would be funded for business rates and the continuation of further cuts in Central Government funding report.

The Leader confirmed that the Budget Working Group had met regularly throughout the last year and had carefully considered the pressures facing the Council. They had also looked at areas where the Council needed to invest more resources in order to improve performance. The Leader was pleased to announce that the budget included a freeze on all car-parking charges in the borough to support local traders and the tourism industry in the current difficult economic climate. He was also delighted that the sum of £40,000 for each year of the capital programme had been incorporated into the budget to pay for improvements to children's play areas. The Leader expressed his thanks for the time and effort committees, officers and the Budget Working Group had dedicated to achieving the budget as presented which had resulted in an excellent budget for the Council and the residents of the borough. He was confident that the budget presented an appropriate balance between maintaining valuable services whilst achieving significant savings.

RESOLVED: That the Council

1. approve the following submitted by the Policy and Finance Committee and included in the summary budget book:
 - (a) the revised revenue estimates for 2012/13 and the revenue estimates for 2013/14;
 - (b) the revised capital programme for 2012/13 and the capital programme for 2013/16.
2. approve the Prudential indicators, borrowing limits and MRP policy statement as set out in Annex 1 of the report;
3. note that under delegated powers in accordance with Section 84 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003, the Council determine the following amounts for 2013/14, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended), as its Council Tax base for the year.
 - a) 21,053 being the amount of its council tax base for the whole district [item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - b)

Parish Area	Tax base
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	427
Balderstone	194
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	196
Billington & Langho	1,973
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	464
Bowland Forest (High)	59
Bowland Forest (Low)	80
Bowland with Leagram	80
Chatburn	361
Chipping	466
Clayton le Dale	497
Clitheroe	4,584
Dinckley	41
Downham	48
Dutton	106
Gisburn	190
Grindleton	343
Horton	43

Parish Area	Tax base
Hothersall	71
Longridge	2,526
Mearley	7
Mellor	982
Newsholme	19
Newton	143
Osbaldeston	104
Paythorne	41
Pendleton	103
Ramsgreave	266
Read	542
Ribchester	631
Rimington & Middop	216
Sabden	468
Salesbury	170
Simonstone	485
Slaidburn & Easington	143
Thornley with Wheatley	165
Twiston	34
Waddington	427
West Bradford	350
Whalley	1,408
Wilpshire	1,072
Wiswell	485
Worston	43
	21,053

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

4. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2013/14 (excluding Parish precepts) is £2,961,947.
5. Calculate the following amounts for 2013/14, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

- a) £25,394,129 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) £22,085,072 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- c) £3,309,057 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 8.5(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 8.5(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) £157.18 Being the amount at 8.5(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (8.3(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- e) £347,110 Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) £140.69 Being the amount at 8.5(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 8.5(e) above by Item T (8.3(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.
- g) Aggregate of the basic amount of council tax for Ribble Valley Borough Council and Parish precept for Band D properties:

Parts of the Council's area	£
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	151.34
Balderstone	147.08
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	146.27
Billington & Langho	145.97
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	168.71
Bowland Forest Higher	176.36
Bowland Forest Lower	155.69
Bowland with Leagram	148.01
Chatburn	167.05

Parts of the Council's area	£
Chipping	155.96
Clayton le Dale	146.57
Clitheroe	159.76
Dutton	145.37
Gisburn	160.23
Grindleton	161.50
Horton	140.69
Hothersall	151.13
Longridge	162.59
Mellor	155.25
Newton	157.64
Osbaldeston	147.84
Pendleton	152.72
Ramsgreave	146.80
Read	154.85
Ribchester	152.35
Rimington & Middop	157.56
Sabden	169.66
Salesbury	167.96
Simonstone	156.14
Slaidburn & Easington	152.20
Thornley with Wheatley	150.07
Waddington	172.31
West Bradford	157.55
Whalley	162.29
Wilpshire	154.73
Wiswell	152.63
All other parts of the Council's area	140.69

Being the amount given by adding to the amount at 5(f) above to the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount contained in 3(b), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- h) Aggregate of the basic amount of council tax for Ribble Valley Borough Council and Parish precept for Band D properties by valuation band:

VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	100.89	117.71	134.53	151.34	184.97	218.60	252.23	302.68
Balderstone	98.05	114.40	130.74	147.08	179.76	212.45	245.13	294.16
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	97.51	113.77	130.02	146.27	178.77	211.28	243.78	292.54
Billington & Langho	97.31	113.54	129.75	145.97	178.40	210.85	243.28	291.94
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	112.47	131.22	149.97	168.71	206.20	243.69	281.18	337.42
Bowland Forest Higher	117.57	137.17	156.77	176.36	215.55	254.74	293.93	352.72
Bowland Forest Lower	103.79	121.10	138.39	155.69	190.28	224.89	259.48	311.38
Bowland with Leagram	98.67	115.12	131.57	148.01	180.90	213.79	246.68	296.02
Chatburn	111.36	129.93	148.49	167.05	204.17	241.30	278.41	334.10
Chipping	103.97	121.31	138.63	155.96	190.61	225.28	259.93	311.92
Clayton le Dale	97.71	114.00	130.29	146.57	179.14	211.71	244.28	293.14
Clitheroe	106.50	124.26	142.01	159.76	195.26	230.77	266.26	319.52
Dutton	96.91	113.07	129.22	145.37	177.67	209.98	242.28	290.74
Gisburn	106.82	124.63	142.43	160.23	195.83	231.44	267.05	320.46
Grindleton	107.66	125.62	143.56	161.50	197.38	233.28	269.16	323.00
Hothersall	100.75	117.55	134.34	151.13	184.71	218.30	251.88	302.26
Longridge	108.39	126.46	144.53	162.59	198.72	234.85	270.98	325.18
Mellor	103.50	120.75	138.00	155.25	189.75	224.25	258.75	310.50
Newton	105.09	122.61	140.13	157.64	192.67	227.70	262.73	315.28
Osbaldeston	98.56	114.99	131.42	147.84	180.69	213.55	246.40	295.68
Pendleton	101.81	118.79	135.75	152.72	186.65	220.60	254.53	305.44
Ramsgreave	97.86	114.18	130.49	146.80	179.42	212.05	244.66	293.60
Read	103.23	120.44	137.65	154.85	189.26	223.67	258.08	309.70
Ribchester	101.56	118.50	135.42	152.35	186.20	220.06	253.91	304.70
Rimington & Middop	105.04	122.55	140.06	157.56	192.57	227.59	262.60	315.12
Sabden	113.10	131.96	150.81	169.66	207.36	245.07	282.76	339.32
Salesbury	111.97	130.64	149.30	167.96	205.28	242.61	279.93	335.92
Simonstone	104.09	121.45	138.79	156.14	190.83	225.54	260.23	312.28

VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Slaidburn & Easington	101.46	118.38	135.29	152.20	186.02	219.85	253.66	304.40
Thornley with Wheatley	100.04	116.73	133.40	150.07	183.41	216.77	250.11	300.14
Waddington	114.87	134.02	153.17	172.31	210.60	248.89	287.18	344.62
West Bradford	105.03	122.54	140.05	157.55	192.56	227.57	262.58	315.10
Whalley	108.19	126.23	144.26	162.29	198.35	234.42	270.48	324.58
Wilpshire	103.15	120.35	137.54	154.73	189.11	223.50	257.88	309.46
Wiswell	101.75	118.72	135.67	152.63	186.54	220.47	254.38	305.26
All other parts of the Council's area	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38

being the amounts given by multiplying (as appropriate) the amounts at 5(f) or 5(g) by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

6. Note, that for 2013/14 Lancashire County Council has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands								
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	
724.09	844.77	965.45	1,086.13	1,327.49	1,568.85	1,810.22	2,172.26	

7. Note, that for 2013/14 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands								
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	
101.95	118.94	135.93	152.92	186.90	220.88	254.87	305.84	

8. Note, that for 2013/14 Lancashire Combined Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with

Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
42.43	49.51	56.58	63.65	77.79	91.94	106.08	127.30

9. Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 5(h), 6, 7 and 8 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for 2013/14 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	969.36	1,130.93	1,292.49	1,454.04	1,777.15	2,100.27	2,423.40	2,908.08
Balderstone	966.52	1,127.62	1,288.70	1,449.78	1,771.94	2,094.12	2,416.30	2,899.56
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	965.98	1,126.99	1,287.98	1,448.97	1,770.95	2,092.95	2,414.95	2,897.94
Billington & Langho	965.78	1,126.76	1,287.71	1,448.67	1,770.58	2,092.52	2,414.45	2,897.34
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	980.94	1,144.44	1,307.93	1,471.41	1,798.38	2,125.36	2,452.35	2,942.82
Bowland Forest (High)	986.04	1,150.39	1,314.73	1,479.06	1,807.73	2,136.41	2,465.10	2,958.12
Bowland Forest (Low)	972.26	1,134.32	1,296.35	1,458.39	1,782.46	2,106.56	2,430.65	2,916.78
Bowland with Leagram	967.14	1,128.34	1,289.53	1,450.71	1,773.08	2,095.46	2,417.85	2,901.42
Chatburn	979.83	1,143.15	1,306.45	1,469.75	1,796.35	2,122.97	2,449.58	2,939.50
Chipping	972.44	1,134.53	1,296.59	1,458.66	1,782.79	2,106.95	2,431.10	2,917.32
Clayton le Dale	966.18	1,127.22	1,288.25	1,449.27	1,771.32	2,093.38	2,415.45	2,898.54
Clitheroe	974.97	1,137.48	1,299.97	1,462.46	1,787.44	2,112.44	2,437.43	2,924.92
Dutton	965.38	1,126.29	1,287.18	1,448.07	1,769.85	2,091.65	2,413.45	2,896.14
Gisburn	975.29	1,137.85	1,300.39	1,462.93	1,788.01	2,113.11	2,438.22	2,925.86
Grindleton	976.13	1,138.84	1,301.52	1,464.20	1,789.56	2,114.95	2,440.33	2,928.40
Hothersall	969.22	1,130.77	1,292.30	1,453.83	1,776.89	2,099.97	2,423.05	2,907.66
Longridge	976.86	1,139.68	1,302.49	1,465.29	1,790.90	2,116.52	2,442.15	2,930.58
Mellor	971.97	1,133.97	1,295.96	1,457.95	1,781.93	2,105.92	2,429.92	2,915.90
Newton	973.56	1,135.83	1,298.09	1,460.34	1,784.85	2,109.37	2,433.90	2,920.68
Osbaldeston	967.03	1,128.21	1,289.38	1,450.54	1,772.87	2,095.22	2,417.57	2,901.08
Pendleton	970.28	1,132.01	1,293.71	1,455.42	1,778.83	2,102.27	2,425.70	2,910.84
Ramsgreave	966.33	1,127.40	1,288.45	1,449.50	1,771.60	2,093.72	2,415.83	2,899.00

VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Read	971.70	1,133.66	1,295.61	1,457.55	1,781.44	2,105.34	2,429.25	2,915.10
Ribchester	970.03	1,131.72	1,293.38	1,455.05	1,778.38	2,101.73	2,425.08	2,910.10
Rimington & Middop	973.51	1,135.77	1,298.02	1,460.26	1,784.75	2,109.26	2,433.77	2,920.52
Sabden	981.57	1,145.18	1,308.77	1,472.36	1,799.54	2,126.74	2,453.93	2,944.72
Salesbury	980.44	1,143.86	1,307.26	1,470.66	1,797.46	2,124.28	2,451.10	2,941.32
Simonstone	972.56	1,134.67	1,296.75	1,458.84	1,783.01	2,107.21	2,431.40	2,917.68
Slaidburn & Easington	969.93	1,131.60	1,293.25	1,454.90	1,778.20	2,101.52	2,424.83	2,909.80
Thornley with Wheatley	968.51	1,129.95	1,291.36	1,452.77	1,775.59	2,098.44	2,421.28	2,905.54
Waddington	983.34	1,147.24	1,311.13	1,475.01	1,802.78	2,130.56	2,458.35	2,950.02
West Bradford	973.50	1,135.76	1,298.01	1,460.25	1,784.74	2,109.24	2,433.75	2,920.50
Whalley	976.66	1,139.45	1,302.22	1,464.99	1,790.53	2,116.09	2,441.65	2,929.98
Wilpshire	971.62	1,133.57	1,295.50	1,457.43	1,781.29	2,105.17	2,429.05	2,914.86
Wiswell	970.22	1,131.94	1,293.63	1,455.33	1,778.72	2,102.14	2,425.55	2,910.66
All Other Parts of the Council's Area	962.26	1,122.65	1,283.02	1,443.39	1,764.13	2,084.89	2,405.65	2,886.78

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LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported on a range of initiatives that had been developed in the borough. He began by highlighting the "People Power" initiative which was an energy switching scheme that could save Ribble Valley households up to £250 per year. The scheme, led by Lancashire County Council, aimed to combine purchasing power to cut the cost of heating and lighting for households, and achieve considerable economies of scale with significant savings passed on to the consumer. "People Power" was an excellent example of how local Councils were working together to help people save money on their energy bills.

The Leader went on to confirm that the Council had organised a series of Dementia awareness training and support sessions in Ribble Valley villages. The sessions had been organised following a very successful Dementia Awareness Day that had been held in Clitheroe last November. The Council had joined forces with Age UK Lancashire, the Alzheimer's Society and NHS East Lancashire to bring the sessions to isolated communities. The sessions were targeted at family carers and aimed to raise awareness of the signs, symptoms, concerns and implications of Dementia.

Finally the Leader was pleased to report that Councillor S Hirst and T Hill, together with members of the Whalley Action Group, the Clitheroe Action Group and the CPRE were attending a meeting with the Planning Minister Nick Boles in London. The meeting had been arranged by the borough's MP, Nigel Evans.

LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, asked what the procedure was for notifying a resident when a special collection was to take place.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and explained that at the time of enquiring about the service a resident was informed that the collection would be completed within 10 working days. Collections were grouped together by area and typical collection times were between 3 and 5 days. In a supplementary statement Councillor Knox suggested that it would be helpful if a special collection could be confirmed with the resident either the night before the collection was due or on the morning of the collection. Councillor Ranson said that he would follow up this suggestion with officers.

Next Councillor Knox asked how many dog fouling prosecutions there had been in the last year.

The Leader reported that there had been no prosecutions. However 5 fixed penalty notices had been served regarding dog fouling since 1 April 2012. In total 64 fixed penalty notices had been issued to date for dog fouling offences. In addition Councillor Ranson reminded Members of the significant amount of dog fouling issues that were addressed informally, and he confirmed that it was normal for 20 informal warnings to be issued per year.

Councillor Knox thanked Councillor Ranson for his reply and went on to suggest that officers look at best practice in other authorities and report their findings to a future meeting of Community Committee.

Finally Councillor Knox asked what policies the Council had in place relating to egress from development sites.

The Leader reported that there were no specific policies relating to egress from development sites but some highway issues would be contained within Policy G12 of the DWLP and Policy DMG1 of the Core Strategy Regulation 22 Submission Draft. The Council also had regard to the advice of Lancashire County Council Highways on a site-by-site basis.

Next Councillor J B Hill expressed concern that there was a risk that the traditional annual Christian Procession of Witness through Read and Simonstone may not take place as the Police no longer had the necessary resources to control traffic. He asked if the Leader would speak to the Ribble Valley Advisory Group to seek urgent clarification from the Police as to what approach was to be adopted towards helping community events in the future. The Leader thanked Councillor Hill for his question and confirmed that he shared his concerns. He confirmed that the matter had been recently raised at the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group and since that meeting the Chief Superintendent had spoken to the Chief Executive to confirm that he was willing to work with the Council to try and reach a solution that was acceptable to all. The Leader confirmed that he would be meeting with the Chief Superintendent in the very near future.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Community Committee – 15 January 2013

Councillor J B Hill commented on the emptying of dog bin waste in Read and suggested that it would be more effective for the bins to be emptied by one single waste collection authority ie the borough council. The Chairman, Councillor R Thompson thanked Councillor Hill for his comments and reminded him that the dog waste bins had been provided for the Parish of Read on condition that the Parish Council took responsibility for their emptying and maintenance.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(ii) Planning and Development Committee – 17 January 2013

Councillor J B Hill asked if the Chairman could clarify the procedure and process that was followed by Planning Officers in responding to people requesting pre-planning application enquiries in respect of potential development schemes or for retrospective planning permission, and particularly whether Councillors should be aware of any such enquiries. The Vice Chairman, Councillor R Thompson, thanked Councillor Hill for his question and confirmed that it was not the current policy or established practice to inform Councillors of pre-planning application enquiries. However the Planning Department was currently looking at all aspects of its service including the accessibility of information in relation to pre-application advice.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(iii) Personnel Committee – 23 January 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute number 593.

MINUTE 593 ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT

RESOLVED: That the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2013/14 be approved.

(iv) Health and Housing Committee – 24 January 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(v) Policy and Finance Committee – 29 January 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(vi) Special Policy and Finance Committee – 12 February 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(vii) Planning and Development Committee – 14 February 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).