

## Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 3 March 2015, starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor EMH Ranson (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	R Moores
J E Alcock	R Newmark
S Bibby	L Rimmer
I Brown	M Robinson
S Brunskill	J Rogerson (6.35pm)
S Carefoot	C Ross
P Dowson	I Sayers
R J Elms	G Scott
R Hargreaves	R E Sherras
T Hill	D T Smith
B Hilton	R Swarbrick
K Hind	D Taylor
S A Hirst	M Thomas
J Holgate	R J Thompson
A M Knox	N C Walsh
S Knox	J White
G Mirfin	A Yearling

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

The meeting opened with a minute's silence in respect of former Councillor Ron Pickup who had recently died.

### 606 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Roger Wood, opened the meeting with prayers.

### 607 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Bennett, J B Hill, S Hore and K Horkin.

### 608 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 609 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no items of public participation.

### 610 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 December 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

611 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that he had attended 25 engagements since the last meeting, the highlight of which had been the Mayor's Ball that had been attended by 150 guests. He wished to formally record his thanks to the Mayoress and the Mayor's Officer for their efforts in organising the Ball and to local traders for their generous donations of prizes. He was pleased to report that the event had raised over £4,000 for the Mayor's Charity Fund.

The Mayor had also attended events at Blackburn Cathedral including the laying of the first stone of the new Chapter House. He had also attended a service for the consecration of the new Bishop of Burnley – Philip North, at York Minster.

The Mayor reminded Members that his series of Boundary Walks had resumed and that there were some interesting walks planned for the coming months.

Finally the Mayor confirmed that he had planted a further tree to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and this had been at Dutton.

612 BUDGET CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATE PAYERS

Consideration was given to the 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 Gould of Clitheroe Chamber of Trade, Mr Sowerbutts of Clitheroe Chamber of Trade, Mr Atherton of Whalley Chamber of Trade and Councillor Rogerson, Longridge.

RESOLVED: That Members receive the report.

613 REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16

Consideration was given to the written report of the Director of Resources concerning the budget for 2015/16 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 of the financial year 2015/16 which contained details of revenue and capital requirements. Approval of the budget proposals contained in the report was proposed by Councillor S Hirst and seconded by Councillor T Hill. In his budget speech the Leader confirmed that the Budget Working Group had met regularly throughout last year and had carefully considered the pressures facing the Council. The Leader was pleased to announce that the budget included a continued Council Tax freeze for the sixth consecutive year. He also noted that the use of £150,000 of general balances was a prudent and modest use of reserves and that monies had also been allocated to support a £2.6m three year capital programme for 2015 to 2018.

The Leader expressed his thanks for the time and effort committee, 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.

Finally the Leader highlighted that the budget as recommended represented a genuine achievement in the context of an extremely testing financial climate and demonstrated the Council's continuing commitment to the twin objectives of balanced budgets and service excellence.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, proposed the following amendment to the motion:

“that in respect of the revenue budget, the budget be adjusted to include provision for a modern apprentice post and an additional dog warden post on a two year fixed term and in respect of the Capital Programme 2015/18 that monies be allocated for a feasibility study for solar panels at the Council Offices and a ground source heat pump for the pool.”

The amendment was seconded by Councillor A Yearling. The amendment was then debated. Following the debate a recorded vote was taken.

The following Members voted for the amendment:

A Knox	M Robinson
S Knox	A Yearling

The following Members voted against the amendment:

P Ainsworth	R Hargreaves	R Newmark	D Smith
J Alcock	T Hill	M Ranson	R Swarbrick
S Bibby	B Hilton	L Rimmer	D Taylor
I Brown	K Hind	J Rogerson	M Thomas
S Brunskill	S Hirst	C Ross	R Thompson
S Carefoot	J Holgate	I Sayers	N Walsh
P Dowson	G Mirfin	G Scott	J White
R Elms	R Moores	R Sherras	

The amendment was therefore lost.

Members then debated the substantive budget proposal. At the end of the debated a recorded vote was taken. The following Members voted for the motion:

P Ainsworth	T Hill	R Newmark	D Smith
J Alcock	B Hilton	M Ranson	R Swarbrick
S Bibby	K Hind	L Rimmer	D Taylor
I Brown	S Hirst	M Robinson	M Thomas
S Brunskill	J Holgate	J Rogerson	R Thompson
S Carefoot	A Knox	C Ross	N Walsh
P Dowson	S Knox	I Sayers	J White
R Elms	G Mirfin	G Scott	A Yearling
R Hargreaves	R Moores	R Sherras	

The motion was carried.

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 estimates of 2014/15 and the revenue estimates for 2015/16;
  - b) the revised capital programme for 2014/15 and the forward capital programme for 2015/18.
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 determined the following amounts for 2015/16, in accordance with the Local Authority's (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulation 1992 (as amended) as its Council Tax base for the year:
- a) 21,703 being the amount of its Council Tax Base for the whole district [item T and the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act)], and
  - b)

<b>Parish Area</b>	<b>Tax base</b>
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	440
Balderstone	192
Barrow	352
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	197
Billington & Langho	1,993
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	473
Bowland Forest (High)	67
Bowland Forest (Low)	83
Bowland with Leagram	82
Chatburn	367
Chipping	483
Clayton le Dale	499
Clitheroe	4,797
Dinckley	45
Downham	51
Dutton	105
Gisburn	194
Grindleton	355
Horton	44
Hothersall	72
Longridge	2,622
Mearley	8
Mellor	986
Newsholme	20
Newton	145

<b>Parish Area</b>	<b>Tax base</b>
Osbaldeston	106
Paythorne	43
Pendleton	103
Ramsgreave	266
Read	547
Ribchester	651
Rimington & Middop	216
Sabden	516
Salesbury	171
Simonstone	493
Slaidburn & Easington	147
Thornley with Wheatley	160
Twiston	37
Waddington	447
West Bradford	356
Whalley	1,474
Wilpshire	1,076
Wiswell	179
Worston	43
	<b>21,703</b>

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 2015/16 (excluding Parish precepts) is £3,053,395.
5. Calculate the following amounts for 2015/16, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
  - a) £26,128,430 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) £22,711,043 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - c) £3,417,387 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 5(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 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) £157.46 Being the amount at 5(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (3(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) £363,992 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 5(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 5(e) above by Item T (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:

<b>Parts of the Council's area</b>		<b>£</b>
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley		151.49
Balderstone		146.89
Barrow		157.74
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton		146.79
Billington & Langho		147.46
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley		161.62
Bowland Forest Higher		172.53
Bowland Forest Lower		155.15
Bowland with Leagram		142.97
Chatburn		168.17
Chipping		155.49
Clayton le Dale		146.26
Clitheroe		159.98
Dinckley		140.69
Downham		140.69
Dutton		145.25
Gisburn		160.67
Grindleton		161.82
Horton		140.69
Hothersall		151.11
Longridge		163.40
Mearley		140.69
Mellor		155.19
Newsholme		140.69
Newton		157.63

<b>Parts of the Council's area</b>		<b>£</b>
Osbaldeston		147.68
Paythorne		140.69
Pendleton		152.98
Ramsgreave		147.79
Read		155.02
Ribchester		152.34
Rimington & Middop		158.96
Sabden		168.38
Salesbury		168.41
Simonstone		157.32
Slaidburn & Easington		152.59
Thornley with Wheatley		150.07
Twiston		140.69
Waddington		170.89
West Bradford		158.11
Whalley		161.96
Wilpshire		154.77
Wiswell		154.63
Worston		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:

	<b>VALUATION BANDS</b>							
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	100.99	117.83	134.66	151.49	185.15	218.82	252.48	302.98
Balderstone	97.92	114.25	130.57	146.89	179.53	212.18	244.81	293.78
Barrow	105.16	122.69	140.22	157.74	192.79	227.85	262.90	315.48
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	97.86	114.17	130.48	146.79	179.41	212.03	244.65	293.58
Billington & Langho	98.30	114.70	131.08	147.46	180.22	213.00	245.76	294.92
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	107.74	125.71	143.66	161.62	197.53	233.45	269.36	323.24

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bowland Forest Higher	115.02	134.19	153.36	172.53	210.87	249.21	287.55	345.06
Bowland Forest Lower	103.43	120.68	137.91	155.15	189.62	224.11	258.58	310.30
Bowland with Leagram	95.31	111.20	127.09	142.97	174.74	206.51	238.28	285.94
Chatburn	112.11	130.80	149.49	168.17	205.54	242.91	280.28	336.34
Chipping	103.66	120.94	138.22	155.49	190.04	224.60	259.15	310.98
Clayton le Dale	97.50	113.76	130.01	146.26	178.76	211.27	243.76	292.52
Clitheroe	106.65	124.43	142.21	159.98	195.53	231.08	266.63	319.96
Dinckley	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Downham	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Dutton	96.83	112.98	129.11	145.25	177.52	209.81	242.08	290.50
Gisburn	107.11	124.97	142.82	160.67	196.37	232.08	267.78	321.34
Grindleton	107.88	125.86	143.84	161.82	197.78	233.74	269.70	323.64
Horton	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Hothersall	100.74	117.53	134.32	151.11	184.69	218.27	251.85	302.22
Longridge	108.93	127.09	145.25	163.40	199.71	236.02	272.33	326.80
Mearley	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Mellor	103.46	120.71	137.95	155.19	189.67	224.16	258.65	310.38
Newsholme	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Newton	105.08	122.61	140.12	157.63	192.65	227.69	262.71	315.26
Osbaldeston	98.45	114.87	131.27	147.68	180.49	213.32	246.13	295.36
Paythorne	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Pendleton	101.98	118.99	135.98	152.98	186.97	220.97	254.96	305.96
Ramsgreave	98.52	114.95	131.37	147.79	180.63	213.48	246.31	295.58
Read	103.34	120.58	137.80	155.02	189.46	223.92	258.36	310.04
Ribchester	101.56	118.49	135.42	152.34	186.19	220.05	253.90	304.68
Rimington & Middop	105.97	123.64	141.30	158.96	194.28	229.61	264.93	317.92
Sabden	112.25	130.97	149.67	168.38	205.79	243.22	280.63	336.76
Salesbury	112.27	130.99	149.70	168.41	205.83	243.26	280.68	336.82
Simonstone	104.88	122.36	139.84	157.32	192.28	227.24	262.20	314.64
Slaidburn & Easington	101.72	118.69	135.64	152.59	186.49	220.41	254.31	305.18
Thornley with Wheatley	100.04	116.73	133.40	150.07	183.41	216.77	250.11	300.14
Twiston	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Waddington	113.92	132.92	151.90	170.89	208.86	246.84	284.81	341.78
West Bradford	105.40	122.98	140.54	158.11	193.24	228.38	263.51	316.22
Whalley	107.97	125.97	143.97	161.96	197.95	233.94	269.93	323.92
Wilpshire	103.18	120.38	137.58	154.77	189.16	223.56	257.95	309.54
Wiswell	103.08	120.27	137.45	154.63	188.99	223.36	257.71	309.26
Worston	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 2015/16 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.

<b>Valuation Bands</b>							
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
753.19	878.72	1,004.25	1,129.78	1,380.84	1,631.90	1,882.97	2,259.56

7. Note, that for 2015/16 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.

<b>Valuation Bands</b>							
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
106.04	123.71	141.39	159.06	194.41	229.75	265.10	318.12

8. Note, that for 2015/16 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.

<b>Valuation Bands</b>							
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
43.24	50.45	57.65	64.86	79.27	93.69	108.10	129.72

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 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

<b>VALUATION BANDS</b>								
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	<b>£</b>							
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	1,003.46	1,170.71	1,337.95	1,505.19	1,839.67	2,174.16	2,508.65	3,010.38

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balderstone	1,000.39	1,167.13	1,333.86	1,500.59	1,834.05	2,167.52	2,500.98	3,001.18
Barrow	1,007.63	1,175.57	1,343.51	1,511.44	1,847.31	2,183.19	2,519.07	3,022.88
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	1,000.33	1,167.05	1,333.77	1,500.49	1,833.93	2,167.37	2,500.82	3,000.98
Billington & Langho	1,000.77	1,167.58	1,334.37	1,501.16	1,834.74	2,168.34	2,501.93	3,002.32
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	1,010.21	1,178.59	1,346.95	1,515.32	1,852.05	2,188.79	2,525.53	3,030.64
Bowland Forest (High)	1,017.49	1,187.07	1,356.65	1,526.23	1,865.39	2,204.55	2,543.72	3,052.46
Bowland Forest (Low)	1,005.90	1,173.56	1,341.20	1,508.85	1,844.14	2,179.45	2,514.75	3,017.70
Bowland with Leagram	997.78	1,164.08	1,330.38	1,496.67	1,829.26	2,161.85	2,494.45	2,993.34
Chatburn	1,014.58	1,183.68	1,352.78	1,521.87	1,860.06	2,198.25	2,536.45	3,043.74
Chipping	1,006.13	1,173.82	1,341.51	1,509.19	1,844.56	2,179.94	2,515.32	3,018.38
Clayton le Dale	999.97	1,166.64	1,333.30	1,499.96	1,833.28	2,166.61	2,499.93	2,999.92
Clitheroe	1,009.12	1,177.31	1,345.50	1,513.68	1,850.05	2,186.42	2,522.80	3,027.36
Dinckley	996.26	1,162.31	1,328.35	1,494.39	1,826.47	2,158.56	2,490.65	2,988.78
Downham	996.26	1,162.31	1,328.35	1,494.39	1,826.47	2,158.56	2,490.65	2,988.78
Dutton	999.30	1,165.86	1,332.40	1,498.95	1,832.04	2,165.15	2,498.25	2,997.90
Gisburn	1,009.58	1,177.85	1,346.11	1,514.37	1,850.89	2,187.42	2,523.95	3,028.74
Grindleton	1,010.35	1,178.74	1,347.13	1,515.52	1,852.30	2,189.08	2,525.87	3,031.04
Horton	996.26	1,162.31	1,328.35	1,494.39	1,826.47	2,158.56	2,490.65	2,988.78
Hothersall	1,003.21	1,170.41	1,337.61	1,504.81	1,839.21	2,173.61	2,508.02	3,009.62
Longridge	1,011.40	1,179.97	1,348.54	1,517.10	1,854.23	2,191.36	2,528.50	3,034.20
Mearley	996.26	1,162.31	1,328.35	1,494.39	1,826.47	2,158.56	2,490.65	2,988.78
Mellor	1,005.93	1,173.59	1,341.24	1,508.89	1,844.19	2,179.50	2,514.82	3,017.78
Newsholme	996.26	1,162.31	1,328.35	1,494.39	1,826.47	2,158.56	2,490.65	2,988.78
Newton	1,007.55	1,175.49	1,343.41	1,511.33	1,847.17	2,183.03	2,518.88	3,022.66
Osbaldeston	1,000.92	1,167.75	1,334.56	1,501.38	1,835.01	2,168.66	2,502.30	3,002.76
Paythorne	996.26	1,162.31	1,328.35	1,494.39	1,826.47	2,158.56	2,490.65	2,988.78
Pendleton	1,004.45	1,171.87	1,339.27	1,506.68	1,841.49	2,176.31	2,511.13	3,013.36
Ramsgreave	1,000.99	1,167.83	1,334.66	1,501.49	1,835.15	2,168.82	2,502.48	3,002.98
Read	1,005.81	1,173.46	1,341.09	1,508.72	1,843.98	2,179.26	2,514.53	3,017.44
Ribchester	1,004.03	1,171.37	1,338.71	1,506.04	1,840.71	2,175.39	2,510.07	3,012.08
Rimington & Middop	1,008.44	1,176.52	1,344.59	1,512.66	1,848.80	2,184.95	2,521.10	3,025.32
Sabden	1,014.72	1,183.85	1,352.96	1,522.08	1,860.31	2,198.56	2,536.80	3,044.16
Salesbury	1,014.74	1,183.87	1,352.99	1,522.11	1,860.35	2,198.60	2,536.85	3,044.22
Simonstone	1,007.35	1,175.24	1,343.13	1,511.02	1,846.80	2,182.58	2,518.37	3,022.04
Slaidburn & Easington	1,004.19	1,171.57	1,338.93	1,506.29	1,841.01	2,175.75	2,510.48	3,012.58

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Thornley with Wheatley	1,002.51	1,169.61	1,336.69	1,503.77	1,837.93	2,172.11	2,506.28	3,007.54
Twiston	996.26	1,162.31	1,328.35	1,494.39	1,826.47	2,158.56	2,490.65	2,988.78
Waddington	1,016.39	1,185.80	1,355.19	1,524.59	1,863.38	2,202.18	2,540.98	3,049.18
West Bradford	1,007.87	1,175.86	1,343.83	1,511.81	1,847.76	2,183.72	2,519.68	3,023.62
Whalley	1,010.44	1,178.85	1,347.26	1,515.66	1,852.47	2,189.28	2,526.10	3,031.32
Wilpshire	1,005.65	1,173.26	1,340.87	1,508.47	1,843.68	2,178.90	2,514.12	3,016.94
Wiswell	1,005.55	1,173.15	1,340.74	1,508.33	1,843.51	2,178.70	2,513.88	3,016.66
Worston	996.26	1,162.31	1,328.35	1,494.39	1,826.47	2,158.56	2,490.65	2,988.78

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#### LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader began by expressing his gratitude to the Council for its support of the budget just approved. He was pleased that the Council had succeeded in freezing its Council Tax for the sixth year running within a balanced budget that protected core services and jobs for the year ahead. He thanked Members and Officers for their work on the budget and in particular the Director of Resources and her staff.

The Leader went on to focus on an issue which he had highlighted at last Council, namely, the impact of the devolution of power in England. He noted that in respect of Ribble Valley the recent discussions and arrangements within Greater Manchester indicated a clear commitment by the Government to the use of the Combined Authority model of local government as the vehicle to discharge newly devolved powers. The Leader reminded Members that he had reported at the last Council meeting that initiatives had been taken by colleagues in Blackburn and to an extent in Burnley to create an East Lancashire Unitary Authority. He reported that there had been two meetings which had been called to discuss the proposals and that there was little enthusiasm for the project. He assured Members that throughout any discussions he had always confirmed that the Council's clear position was to oppose a unitary option.

The Leader also reminded Members of steps that had been taken by the Leaders Group to look at a Combined Authority model for Lancashire. Such a model would preserve the independence of each authority whilst giving an equal seat at the table and equal influence in the discharge of devolved powers within its remit. The Leader reported that at this stage the status of the Combined Authority was only a concept and that it had been agreed that preparation of a governance review would not be considered by constituent councils until after the May elections.

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#### LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor A Knox, asked if the Leader welcomed the decision of Lancashire County Council to refuse a planning application for Seismic and Pressure Monitoring by Quadrilla in Singleton.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed that the Council did not have an agreed position on seismic and pressure monitoring in

relation to any specific planning applications such as the one suggested, so he was not in a position to make any further useful comments.

Next Councillor Knox asked if the Leader could confirm how many disabled facilities grant applications had been received in the past 4 years and what was the average cost of those. The Leader reported the following figures:

<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15 to date</b>
54	43	48	37	25
£3,413	£3,521	£3,571	£5,216	£4,690

Finally Councillor Know asked how much the Council had received in capital receipts from the sale of public conveniences. The Leader reported that total capital receipts from the sale of public conveniences was £91,665.

#### 616 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Planning and Development Committee – 18 December 2014

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

(ii) Community Services Committee – 13 January 2015

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

(iii) Planning and Development Committee – 15 January 2015

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

(iv) Personnel Committee – 31 January 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be approved with the exception of minute number 517.

#### MINUTE 517 – ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT

RESOLVED: That the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2015/16 be approved.

(v) Health and Housing Committee – 22 January 2015

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

(vi) Policy and Finance Committee – 27 January 2015

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

(vii) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 29 January 2015

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

(viii) Special Policy and Finance Committee – 10 February 2015

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

(ix) Planning and Development Committee – 12 February 2015

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

The meeting closed at 7.44pm.

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