Minutes of Meeting of the Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 5 March 2019 starting at 6.30pm

Present: Councillor S Carefoot (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth S A Hirst S Hore J E Alcock S Atkinson A M Knox R Bennett S Knox S Bibby G Mirfin A Brown R Newmark I Brown M Robinson S Brunskill J Rogerson P M Dobson I Sayers P Dowson G Scott R Elms R E Sherras D T Smith M Fenton M French R Swarbrick R Hargreaves D Taylor B Hilton R J Thompson

K Hind S Hind

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

N C Walsh

660 PRAYERS

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

661 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Geldard, L Graves, T Hill and J White.

662 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest.

663 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

664 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2018 and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 15 January 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

665 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on a wide range of events that he had attended since the last meeting.

666 STATUTORY BUDGET CONSULTATION WITH BUSINESS RATEPAYER REPRESENTATIVES

Consideration was given to the written report of the Director of Resources referring to the meeting which had taken place with representatives of non-domestic ratepayers and the Council's budget proposals. The meeting had been attended by Mr Philips of Clitheroe Chamber of Trade and Mr Atherton of Whalley Chamber of Trade, and Councillors S Atkinson, A Brown, R Swarbrick and J Rogerson, Chief Executive, Director of Resources and Head of Revenues and Benefits, Head of Financial Services and Director of Economic Development and Planning.

RESOLVED: That Members receive the report.

667 REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 – 2023/24 AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH CATEGORY OF DWELLING IN THE COUNCIL'S AREA FOR 2019/20

Consideration was given to the written report of the Director of Resources concerning the budget for 2019/20 and the setting of the different amounts of Council Tax for different parts of the Council's area where special items applied (Parish Precepts).

The report set out the budget summary of the financial year 2019/2020 which contained details of revenue and capital requirements. Approval of the budget proposals contained in the report was proposed by Councillor S Atkinson and seconded by Councillor R Swarbrick.

In his budget speech the Leader began by thanking officers for their hard work and diligence in preparing the Council's Revenue Budget for 2019/20 and the Capital Programme for 2019/24. He also thanked officers for their efforts in securing the Business Rate Pilot Scheme for Lancashire that could improve the finances of the Council by £360,000 in the next financial year. He reported that the Council would therefore retain over £1,000,000 in additional income from business rates in 2019/20.

He also reported that from April up to 250 high street businesses in the Ribble Valley were to receive business rate retail discount relief of up to a third and he believed that this 2 year scheme would provide a strong incentive to regenerate the highstreets within the borough.

The Leader also thanked members of the Budget Working Group and Policy and Finance Committee who had carefully considered the Council's finances when making the recommendations outlined in the report.

The Leader reported that the proposed Revenue Budget was just under £5,000,000 which would enable the Council to deliver all the services it provided and in addition support voluntary groups and charitable organisations throughout the borough. He was particularly pleased that the Revenue Budget allowed the Council to maintain excellent service delivery without any reductions in services, budget cuts increasing in the Council Tax share or compulsory staff cuts.

He was pleased to note that the Council would once again freeze the Council Tax for 2019/20 meaning that Council Tax would only have risen twice since April 2010. Ribble Valley's Council Tax for Band D property was now the 38th lowest in the country and by far the lowest in Lancashire.

The Leader went on to note that he believed 2020 would be a year of change where the Council would see the end of the current multi-year financial settlement and would receive results of the Fair Funding Review. Business rate retention reforms were also due to be introduced which could result in a significant reduction in the amount of business rates received by the Council. The Leader recommended caution but also said that the Council remained ambitious in its aspirations.

He believed that Ribble Valley had a bright future and to sustain that it needed to continue to put the needs of the borough's residents first and foremost when implementing policy.

The Leader recommended the Council's budget and Council Tax for 2019/2020.

The Leader was also pleased that the Council had been able to propose an ambitious capital programme for the years 2019/2020 to 2023/2024 and recommend for approval.

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.

The Leader of the opposition, Councillor A Knox, added his thanks to Officers for their work in preparing the budget and proposed an amendment to increase Revenue Budget expenditure by £127,045 and increase Capital Programme by £93.500 as set out below:

Increase available revenue budget funding by £127,045

From unallocated New Homes Bonus	£58,023
From unallocated Business Rate Growth Reserve	£58,022
From cancellation of revenue budget for Ribble Valley News	£11,000
Total	£127,045

Increase revenue budget expenditure by £127,045 Comprising:

Provide 2x PCSOs	£86,614
One dog warden	£25,000
Better Ribble Valley monitoring costs	£10,000
Single use plastic free Borough Council	£5,431
Total	£127,045

Capital Programme Adjustments

Increase Clitheroe Market improvements by	£75,000
Funded by unallocated Business Rate Growth Reserves	
Provide better Ribble Valley Setup costs	£5,000
Funded by unallocated Invest to Save Reserves	
Van for additional dog warden	£13,500
Funded by unallocated New Homes Bonus	

A recorded vote was taken.

The following Members voted for the motion:

M Fenton S Knox M French M Robinson

A Knox

The following Members voted against the motion:

P Ainsworth P Dowson R Newmark J Alcock R Elms J Rogerson S Atkinson R Hargreaves I Sayers R Bennett B Hilton G Scott S Bibby K Hind R Sherras S Hind A Brown D Smith I Brown S Hirst R Swarbrick S Brunskill S Hore D Taylor N Walsh P Dobson G Mirfin

The following Members abstained:

S Carefoot R Thompson

The amendment was lost.

Members then debated the substantive motion. At the end of the debate a recorded vote was taken.

The following Members voted for the substantive motion:

P Ainsworth P Dowson J Rogerson J Alcock R Elms I Sayers S Atkinson B Hilton G Scott R Sherras R Bennett K Hind S Bibby S Hind D Smith A Brown S Hirst R Swarbrick I Brown S Hore D Taylor S Brunskill G Mirfin N Walsh

P Dobson R Newmark

The following Members voted against the motion:

M French S Knox A Knox M Robinson

The following Members abstained:

S Carefoot R Hargreaves M Fenton R Thompson

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED: That the Council:

- 1. approve the following submitted by the Policy and Finance Committee and included in the budget summary book:
 - a) the revised estimates of 2018/19 and the revenue estimates for 2019/20:
 - b) the revised capital programme for 2018/19 and the forward capital programme for 2019/20 to 2023/24.
- 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 2019/20, 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) 23,209 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)

Parish Area	Tax base
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	442
Balderstone	198
Barrow	484
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	203
Billington & Langho	2,141
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	493
Bowland Forest (High)	73
Bowland Forest (Low)	79
Bowland with Leagram	80
Chatburn	379
Chipping	490
Clayton le Dale	514
Clitheroe	5,372
Dinckley	47
Downham	49
Dutton	106
Gisburn	218
Grindleton	362
Horton	46
Hothersall	69
Longridge	2,804
Mearley	9

Parish Area	Tax base
Mellor	995
Newsholme	18
Newton	142
Osbaldeston	110
Paythorne	45
Pendleton	106
Ramsgreave	280
Read	562
Ribchester	658
Rimington & Middop	242
Sabden	521
Salesbury	191
Simonstone	496
Slaidburn & Easington	148
Thornley with Wheatley	169
Twiston	37
Waddington	454
West Bradford	368
Whalley	1,699
Wilpshire	1,082
Wiswell	183
Worston	45
	23,209

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 2019/20 (excluding Parish precepts) is £3,497,364.
- 5. Calculate the following amounts for 2019/20, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - a) £28,418,651 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) £24,470,523 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

- E3,948,128 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) £170.11 Being the amount at 8.5(c) above (Item R), all
- d) £170.11 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 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- e) £450,764 Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) £150.69 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	162.79
Balderstone	163.32
Barrow	173.69
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	158.69
Billington & Langho	160.64
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	187.55
Bowland Forest Higher	180.37
Bowland Forest Lower	165.88
Bowland with Leagram	160.82
Chatburn	180.70
Chipping	167.59
Clayton le Dale	156.53
Clitheroe	171.85
Dinckley	150.69
Downham	150.69
Dutton	155.41
Gisburn	174.89

Parts of the Council's area	£
Grindleton	171.41
Horton	150.69
Hothersall	165.18
Longridge	176.75
Mearley	150.69
Mellor	168.95
Newsholme	150.69
Newton	168.30
Osbaldeston	159.78
Paythorne	150.69
Pendleton	160.12
Ramsgreave	159.62
Read	168.14
Ribchester	162.58
Rimington & Middop	177.55
Sabden	180.29
Salesbury	175.82
Simonstone	167.63
Slaidburn & Easington	164.54
Thornley with Wheatley	159.57
Twiston	150.69
Waddington	180.43
West Bradford	170.06
Whalley	172.41
Wilpshire	167.71
Wiswell	180.41
Worston	150.69

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	108.53	126.61	144.71	£ 162.79	198.97	£ 235.14	£ 271.32	325.58
Balderstone	108.88	127.02	145.18	163.32	199.62	235.90	272.20	326.64
Barrow	115.79	135.09	154.39	173.69	212.29	250.88	289.48	347.38
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	105.79	123.42	141.06	158.69	193.96	229.22	264.48	317.38
Billington & Langho	107.09	124.94	142.79	160.64	196.34	232.03	267.73	321.28
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	125.03	145.87	166.71	187.55	229.23	270.90	312.58	375.10
Bowland Forest Higher	120.25	140.28	160.33	180.37	220.46	260.53	300.62	360.74
Bowland Forest Lower	110.59	129.01	147.45	165.88	202.75	239.60	276.47	331.76
Bowland with Leagram	107.21	125.08	142.95	160.82	196.56	232.29	268.03	321.64
Chatburn	120.47	140.54	160.63	180.70	220.86	261.01	301.17	361.40
Chipping	111.73	130.34	148.97	167.59	204.84	242.07	279.32	335.18
Clayton le Dale	104.35	121.74	139.14	156.53	191.32	226.10	260.88	313.06
Clitheroe	114.57	133.66	152.76	171.85	210.04	248.22	286.42	343.70
Dinckley	100.46	117.20	133.95	150.69	184.18	217.66	251.15	301.38
Downham	100.46	117.20	133.95	150.69	184.18	217.66	251.15	301.38
Dutton	103.61	120.87	138.15	155.41	189.95	224.48	259.02	310.82
Gisburn	116.59	136.02	155.46	174.89	213.76	252.62	291.48	349.78
Grindleton	114.27	133.32	152.37	171.41	209.50	247.59	285.68	342.82
Horton	100.46	117.20	133.95	150.69	184.18	217.66	251.15	301.38
Hothersall	110.12	128.47	146.83	165.18	201.89	238.59	275.30	330.36
Longridge	117.83	137.47	157.11	176.75	216.03	255.30	294.58	353.50
Mearley	100.46	117.20	133.95	150.69	184.18	217.66	251.15	301.38
Mellor	112.63	131.40	150.18	168.95	206.50	244.04	281.58	337.90
Newsholme	100.46	117.20	133.95	150.69	184.18	217.66	251.15	301.38
Newton	112.20	130.90	149.60	168.30	205.70	243.10	280.50	336.60
Osbaldeston	106.52	124.27	142.03	159.78	195.29	230.79	266.30	319.56
Paythorne	100.46	117.20	133.95	150.69	184.18	217.66	251.15	301.38
Pendleton	106.75	124.53	142.33	160.12	195.71	231.28	266.87	320.24
Ramsgreave	106.41	124.15	141.89	159.62	195.09	230.56	266.03	319.24
Read	112.09	130.77	149.46	168.14	205.51	242.87	280.23	336.28
Ribchester	108.39	126.45	144.52	162.58	198.71	234.83	270.97	325.16
Rimington & Middop	118.37	138.09	157.83	177.55	217.01	256.46	295.92	355.10
Sabden	120.19	140.22	160.26	180.29	220.36	260.42	300.48	360.58

	VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	£	D £	£	F £	G £	H £	
Salesbury	117.21	136.75	156.29	175.82	214.89	253.96	293.03	351.64	
Simonstone	111.75	130.38	149.01	167.63	204.88	242.13	279.38	335.26	
Slaidburn & Easington	109.69	127.97	146.26	164.54	201.11	237.67	274.23	329.08	
Thornley with Wheatley	106.38	124.11	141.84	159.57	195.03	230.49	265.95	319.14	
Twiston	100.46	117.20	133.95	150.69	184.18	217.66	251.15	301.38	
Waddington	120.29	140.33	160.39	180.43	220.53	260.62	300.72	360.86	
West Bradford	113.37	132.27	151.17	170.06	207.85	245.64	283.43	340.12	
Whalley	114.94	134.09	153.26	172.41	210.73	249.03	287.35	344.82	
Wilpshire	111.81	130.44	149.08	167.71	204.98	242.24	279.52	335.42	
Wiswell	120.27	140.32	160.37	180.41	220.50	260.59	300.68	360.82	
Worston	100.46	117.20	133.95	150.69	184.18	217.66	251.15	301.38	

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 2019/20 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									
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
897.73	1,047.35	1,196.97	1,346.59	1,645.83	1,945.07	2,244.32	2,693.18		

7. Note, that for 2019/20 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									
Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н		
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
134.30	156.68	179.07	201.45	246.22	290.98	335.75	402.90		

8. Note, that for 2019/20 the 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 £ £ £ £ £ £									
46.32	54.04	61.76	69.48	84.92	100.36	115.80	138.96		

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 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	1,186.88	1,384.68	1,582.51	1,780.31	2,175.94	2,571.55	2,967.19	3,560.62	
Balderstone	1,187.23	1,385.09	1,582.98	1,780.84	2,176.59	2,572.31	2,968.07	3,561.68	
Barrow	1,194.14	1,393.16	1,592.19	1,791.21	2,189.26	2,587.29	2,985.35	3,582.42	
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	1,184.14	1,381.49	1,578.86	1,776.21	2,170.93	2,565.63	2,960.35	3,552.42	
Billington & Langho	1,185.44	1,383.01	1,580.59	1,778.16	2,173.31	2,568.44	2,963.60	3,556.32	
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	1,203.38	1,403.94	1,604.51	1,805.07	2,206.20	2,607.31	3,008.45	3,610.14	
Bowland Forest (High)	1,198.60	1,398.35	1,598.13	1,797.89	2,197.43	2,596.94	2,996.49	3,595.78	
Bowland Forest (Low)	1,188.94	1,387.08	1,585.25	1,783.40	2,179.72	2,576.01	2,972.34	3,566.80	
Bowland with Leagram	1,185.56	1,383.15	1,580.75	1,778.34	2,173.53	2,568.70	2,963.90	3,556.68	
Chatburn	1,198.82	1,398.61	1,598.43	1,798.22	2,197.83	2,597.42	2,997.04	3,596.44	
Chipping	1,190.08	1,388.41	1,586.77	1,785.11	2,181.81	2,578.48	2,975.19	3,570.22	
Clayton le Dale	1,182.70	1,379.81	1,576.94	1,774.05	2,168.29	2,562.51	2,956.75	3,548.10	
Clitheroe	1,192.92	1,391.73	1,590.56	1,789.37	2,187.01	2,584.63	2,982.29	3,578.74	
Dinckley	1,178.81	1,375.27	1,571.75	1,768.21	2,161.15	2,554.07	2,947.02	3,536.42	
Downham	1,178.81	1,375.27	1,571.75	1,768.21	2,161.15	2,554.07	2,947.02	3,536.42	
Dutton	1,181.96	1,378.94	1,575.95	1,772.93	2,166.92	2,560.89	2,954.89	3,545.86	
Gisburn	1,194.94	1,394.09	1,593.26	1,792.41	2,190.73	2,589.03	2,987.35	3,584.82	
Grindleton	1,192.62	1,391.39	1,590.17	1,788.93	2,186.47	2,584.00	2,981.55	3,577.86	
Horton	1,178.81	1,375.27	1,571.75	1,768.21	2,161.15	2,554.07	2,947.02	3,536.42	

	VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £	
Hothersall	1,188.47	1,386.54	1,584.63	1,782.70	2,178.86	2,575.00	2,971.17	3,565.40	
Longridge	1,196.18	1,395.54	1,594.91	1,794.27	2,193.00	2,591.71	2,990.45	3,588.54	
Mearley	1,178.81	1,375.27	1,571.75	1,768.21	2,161.15	2,554.07	2,947.02	3,536.42	
Mellor	1,190.98	1,389.47	1,587.98	1,786.47	2,183.47	2,580.45	2,977.45	3,572.94	
Newsholme	1,178.81	1,375.27	1,571.75	1,768.21	2,161.15	2,554.07	2,947.02	3,536.42	
Newton	1,190.55	1,388.97	1,587.40	1,785.82	2,182.67	2,579.51	2,976.37	3,571.64	
Osbaldeston	1,184.87	1,382.34	1,579.83	1,777.30	2,172.26	2,567.20	2,962.17	3,554.60	
Paythorne	1,178.81	1,375.27	1,571.75	1,768.21	2,161.15	2,554.07	2,947.02	3,536.42	
Pendleton	1,185.10	1,382.60	1,580.13	1,777.64	2,172.68	2,567.69	2,962.74	3,555.28	
Ramsgreave	1,184.76	1,382.22	1,579.69	1,777.14	2,172.06	2,566.97	2,961.90	3,554.28	
Read	1,190.44	1,388.84	1,587.26	1,785.66	2,182.48	2,579.28	2,976.10	3,571.32	
Ribchester	1,186.74	1,384.52	1,582.32	1,780.10	2,175.68	2,571.24	2,966.84	3,560.20	
Rimington & Middop	1,196.72	1,396.16	1,595.63	1,795.07	2,193.98	2,592.87	2,991.79	3,590.14	
Sabden	1,198.54	1,398.29	1,598.06	1,797.81	2,197.33	2,596.83	2,996.35	3,595.62	
Salesbury	1,195.56	1,394.82	1,594.09	1,793.34	2,191.86	2,590.37	2,988.90	3,586.68	
Simonstone	1,190.10	1,388.45	1,586.81	1,785.15	2,181.85	2,578.54	2,975.25	3,570.30	
Slaidburn & Easington	1,188.04	1,386.04	1,584.06	1,782.06	2,178.08	2,574.08	2,970.10	3,564.12	
Thornley with Wheatley	1,184.73	1,382.18	1,579.64	1,777.09	2,172.00	2,566.90	2,961.82	3,554.18	
Twiston	1,178.81	1,375.27	1,571.75	1,768.21	2,161.15	2,554.07	2,947.02	3,536.42	
Waddington	1,198.64	1,398.40	1,598.19	1,797.95	2,197.50	2,597.03	2,996.59	3,595.90	
West Bradford	1,191.72	1,390.34	1,588.97	1,787.58	2,184.82	2,582.05	2,979.30	3,575.16	
Whalley	1,193.29	1,392.16	1,591.06	1,789.93	2,187.70	2,585.44	2,983.22	3,579.86	
Wilpshire	1,190.16	1,388.51	1,586.88	1,785.23	2,181.95	2,578.65	2,975.39	3,570.46	
Wiswell	1,198.62	1,398.39	1,598.17	1,797.93	2,197.47	2,597.00	2,996.55	3,595.86	
Worston	1,178.81	1,375.27	1,571.75	1,768.21	2,161.15	2,554.07	2,947.02	3,536.42	

668 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader confirmed that this was his first report to Council having been Leader for 2 months and thanked colleagues, officers and staff who had supported him since his appointment to the role of Leader.

The Leader reported that the Council was working well and efficiently.

He commented on the proposal for the creation of an East Lancashire Unitary Authority encompassing Pendle, Burnley, Blackburn with Darwen and Rossendale Councils.

He also reported that he had attended the District Councils Network Conference in February where the theme was "Delivering the Difference". He believed that this Council delivered a difference compared to peers in many areas in the region.

He noted that this year the Council was due a follow up visit from the Local Government Association as part of the Peer Review process that had been started in November 2017 and he had asked for the scope of this visit to be extended to measure the efficiency of Ribble Valley in delivering its services.

The Leader went on to report that the Council had now applied for funding from the Future High Street Fund to regenerate Clitheroe town centre.

The Leader highlighted the actions that the Council would take to improve the health of its residents and that housing quality, community offer and leisure would all play a significant role in achieving the specific objectives of:

- improving health and wellbeing;
- enhancing the experience of care and support;
- reducing per capita costs; and
- reducing health in equality by 2020/23.

Finally the Leader reported that he had arranged to meet with the Chief Constable of Lancashire in the near future to see how he could work with the Police to improve rural policing and to re-establish a Police front desk in the Ribble Valley.

The Leader closed by confirming that the ambition of Members for Ribble Valley and its residents remained steadfast and thanked all Members and staff for "Delivering the Difference".

669 LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Alan Knox, asked if the Leader could update the Council on the current situation in respect of the proposed development of 110 houses off Henthorn Road, both in terms of re-application and appeal.

The Leader thanked Councillor Knox for his question and confirmed that the applicants Gladman Development Ltd had lodged an appeal in respect of the Council's decision to refuse the outline planning application at land off Henthorn Road. This would be considered by the appointed Planning Inspector at a public inquiry set for the 8 – 10 May. The applicants had also submitted a further outline application for 110 houses on the land which was currently under consideration.

He also reported that the Council had appointed Counsel to defend the appeal on its behalf.

Next Councillor Knox asked if the Council had directly or indirectly, received an approach from any local business about turning the Castle field into a car park in the past 4 years.

The Leader reported that in October 2017 the Car Park Working Group had been informed that the then Leader had received a suggestion from a local business that part of the Castle field should be turned into a car park.

Finally Councillor Knox asked how many complaints the Council had received about overflowing litter bins and overflowing dog bins in each of the past 5 years.

The Leader confirmed that the Council did not keep detailed records of complaints received about the areas in question but did try to respond promptly to any complaints that were received.

670 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) <u>Licensing Sub-Committee – 14 December 2019</u>

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

(ii) Community Services Committee – 8 January 2019

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

(iii) Planning and Development Committee – 10 January 2019

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

(iv) Personnel Committee – 16 January 2019

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute number 563:

Pay Policy Update

RESOLVED: That the Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20 be approved.

(v) Health and Housing Committee – 17 January 2019

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

(vi) Policy and Finance Committee – 22 January 2019

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute number 595:

Review of Financial Regulations and Contract procedure Rules

RESOLVED: That the revised Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules be accepted.

(vii) Economic Development Committee – 24 January 2019

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

(viii) Licensing Committee – 29 January 2019

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

(ix) Parish Council Liaison Committee – 31 January 2019

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

(x) Special Policy and Finance Committee – 5 February 2019

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be received with the exception of Minute numbers 635 and 636 which had already been approved at Agenda item 7.

(xi) <u>Planning and Development Committee – 7 February 2019</u>

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

(xii) Accounts and Audit Committee – 13 February 2019

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

671 NOTICE OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Richard Sherras that:

"That this Council supports the campaign by the Rural Services Network – "It's Time for a Rural Strategy" – calling for Government to produce a Rural Strategy setting out their priorities for England's Rural Communities and the Rural Economy for the Future."

The Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor R Elms and was then debated.

RESOLVED: That the following Notice of Motion be carried:

"That this Council supports the campaign by the Rural Services Network – "It's Time for a Rural Strategy" – calling for Government to produce a Rural Strategy setting out their priorities for England's Rural Communities and the Rural Economy for the Future."

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

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