

## Minutes of Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 8 March 2022, starting at 6.30 pm  
Present: Councillor T Austin (Chair)

Councillors:

J Alcock	B Holden
S Atkinson	S Hore
R Bennett	A Humpheys
S Bibby	G Mirfin
D Birtwhistle	R Newmark
A Brown	D O'Rourke
S Brunskill	S O'Rourke
B Buller	D Peat
J Clark	S Rainford
L Edge	M Robinson
S Farmer	J Rogerson
K Fletcher	J Schumann
S Fletcher	G Scott
M French	R Sherras
G Hibbert	R Thompson
J Hill	R Walsh
M Hindle	
S Hirst	

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

### 690 PRAYERS

Rev A Froud opened the meeting with prayers.

### 691 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors D Berryman, I Brown, S Carefoot, R Elms and K Horkin.

### 692 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY, OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests.

### 693 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There was no public participation.

### 694 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

695 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported on the events he had attended since the last meeting.

696 PRESENTATION OF RV PLAQUE TO PAST MAYOR CLLR S BRUNSKILL

The Mayor presented Councillor Brunskill with a Ribble Valley plaque in recognition of her role as Past Mayor.

697 LONG SERVICE AWARDS FOR STAFF

The Mayor made a presentation to Chris Shuttleworth, who had retired from his post of Emergency Planning Officer at the beginning of the year, after 50 years of service. Chris has spent his entire working life with the Council and its predecessor, Clitheroe Borough Council.

The Mayor also made presentations to staff who had achieved 25 years' service with the Council. He presented gifts to:

- Mark Edmondson – Head of Revenues and Benefits;
- Michelle Haworth – Principal Policy and Performance Officer.

The Mayor thanked the staff for their loyalty and commitment to the Council and for all their dedicated work over the years.

698 REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 – 2024/25 AND SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH CATEGORY OF DWELLING IN THE COUNCIL'S AREA FOR 2022/23

Consideration was given to the written report of the Director of Resources concerning the budget for 2022/23 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 2022/2023 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 S Hore.

The Leader presented his budget speech outlining the key economic issues that had been taken into account in setting the budget. He was pleased that it was proposed to remove the 12% reduction in support to working age local council tax support claimants.

As a consequence, Policy and Finance Committee had recommended a £5 increase in Council Tax for the financial year 2022/23.

The Leader recommended the Council's budget and Council Tax for 2022/2023.

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.

In supporting the proposals, Councillor Fletcher hoped that the Council would retain ownership of the Over 60's premises in Longridge and the former Salvation Army premises in Clitheroe. He also hoped that the Council's Discretionary Council Tax Rebate funding would be targeted at those most vulnerable residents.

The following Members voted for the motion:

J Alcock	S Fletcher	D Peat
T Austin	M French	S Rainford
S Atkinson	G Hibbert	M Robinson
R Bennett	J Hill	J Rogerson
S Bibby	M Hindle	J Schumann
D Birtwhistle	S Hirst	G Scott
A Brown	B Holden	R Sherras
S Brunskill	S Hore	R Thompson
R Buller	A Humphreys	R Walsh
J Clark	G Mirfin	
L Edge	R Newmark	
S Farmer	D O'Rourke	
K Fletcher	S O'Rourke	

The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the Council:

1. approve the following submitted by the Policy and Finance Committee:
  - a) the revised estimates of 2021/22 and the revenue estimates for 2022/23;
  - b) the revised capital programme for 2021/22 and the forward capital programme for 2022/23 to 2024/25.
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 2022/23, 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) 24,553 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	493
Balderstone	196
Barrow	733
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	206
Billington & Langho	2,189
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	485
Bowland Forest (High)	77
Bowland Forest (Low)	82
Bowland with Leagram	83
Chatburn	395
Chipping	537
Clayton le Dale	515
Clitheroe	5,869
Dinckley	46

Downham	51
Dutton	105
Gisburn	237
Grindleton	358
Horton	49
Hothersall	77
Longridge	3,052
Mearley	8
Mellor	992
Newsholme	20
Newton	141
Osbaldeston	102
Paythorne	46
Pendleton	111
Ramsgreave	282
Read	585
Ribchester	671
Rimington & Middop	235
Sabden	562
Salesbury	193
Simonstone	500
Slaidburn & Easington	156
Thornley with Wheatley	173
Twiston	37
Waddington	452
West Bradford	376
Whalley	1,772
Wilpshire	1,078
Wiswell	181
Worston	45
	<b>24,553</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 2022/23 (excluding Parish precepts) is £3,945,422.
5. Calculate the following amounts for 2022/23, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
  - a) £31,347,407 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) £26,884,638 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

- c) £4,462,769 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) £181.76 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) £517,347 Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) £160.69 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:

Parts of the Council's area	£
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	173.87
Balderstone	181.10
Barrow	189.34
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	168.57
Billington & Langho	171.81
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	160.69
Bowland Forest Higher	188.83
Bowland Forest Lower	175.32
Bowland with Leagram	172.74
Chatburn	189.48
Chipping	181.51
Clayton le Dale	166.52
Clitheroe	181.28
Dinckley	160.69
Downham	160.69
Dutton	165.45
Gisburn	186.01
Grindleton	183.04
Horton	160.69
Hothersall	173.68
Longridge	188.09
Mearley	160.69
Mellor	185.89

Parts of the Council's area	£
Newsholme	160.69
Newton	171.33
Osbaldeston	170.49
Paythorne	160.69
Pendleton	177.36
Ramsgreave	171.85
Read	181.17
Ribchester	178.31
Rimington & Middop	188.35
Sabden	188.95
Salesbury	185.56
Simonstone	177.49
Slaidburn & Easington	173.83
Thornley with Wheatley	169.36
Twiston	160.69
Waddington	201.65
West Bradford	181.11
Whalley	195.53
Wilpshire	178.92
Wiswell	199.50
Worston	160.69

Being the amount given by adding to the amount at 8.5(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 8.3(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	115.92	135.23	154.56	173.87	212.51	251.15	289.79	347.74
Balderstone	120.74	140.85	160.98	181.10	221.35	261.59	301.84	362.20
Barrow	126.23	147.26	168.31	189.34	231.42	273.49	315.57	378.68
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	112.38	131.11	149.84	168.57	206.03	243.49	280.95	337.14
Billington & Langho	114.54	133.63	152.72	171.81	209.99	248.17	286.35	343.62
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	107.13	124.98	142.84	160.69	196.40	232.11	267.82	321.38

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Bowland Forest Higher	125.89	146.87	167.85	188.83	230.79	272.76	314.72	377.66
Bowland Forest Lower	116.88	136.36	155.84	175.32	214.28	253.24	292.20	350.64
Bowland with Leagram	115.16	134.35	153.55	172.74	211.13	249.52	287.90	345.48
Chatburn	126.32	147.37	168.43	189.48	231.59	273.70	315.80	378.96
Chipping	121.01	141.17	161.35	181.51	221.85	262.18	302.52	363.02
Clayton le Dale	111.02	129.51	148.02	166.52	203.53	240.53	277.54	333.04
Clitheroe	120.86	140.99	161.14	181.28	221.57	261.85	302.14	362.56
Dinckley	107.13	124.98	142.84	160.69	196.40	232.11	267.82	321.38
Downham	107.13	124.98	142.84	160.69	196.40	232.11	267.82	321.38
Dutton	110.30	128.68	147.07	165.45	202.22	238.99	275.75	330.90
Gisburn	124.01	144.67	165.35	186.01	227.35	268.68	310.02	372.02
Grindleton	122.03	142.36	162.71	183.04	223.72	264.39	305.07	366.08
Horton	107.13	124.98	142.84	160.69	196.40	232.11	267.82	321.38
Hothersall	115.79	135.08	154.39	173.68	212.28	250.87	289.47	347.36
Longridge	125.40	146.29	167.20	188.09	229.89	271.69	313.49	376.18
Mearley	107.13	124.98	142.84	160.69	196.40	232.11	267.82	321.38
Mellor	123.93	144.58	165.24	185.89	227.20	268.51	309.82	371.78
Newsholme	107.13	124.98	142.84	160.69	196.40	232.11	267.82	321.38
Newton	114.22	133.26	152.30	171.33	209.40	247.48	285.55	342.66
Osbaldeston	113.66	132.60	151.55	170.49	208.38	246.27	284.15	340.98
Paythorne	107.13	124.98	142.84	160.69	196.40	232.11	267.82	321.38
Pendleton	118.24	137.95	157.66	177.36	216.77	256.19	295.60	354.72
Ramsgreave	114.57	133.66	152.76	171.85	210.04	248.23	286.42	343.70
Read	120.78	140.91	161.04	181.17	221.43	261.69	301.95	362.34
Ribchester	118.88	138.68	158.50	178.31	217.94	257.56	297.19	356.62
Rimington & Middop	125.57	146.49	167.43	188.35	230.21	272.06	313.92	376.70
Sabden	125.97	146.96	167.96	188.95	230.94	272.93	314.92	377.90
Salesbury	123.71	144.32	164.95	185.56	226.80	268.03	309.27	371.12
Simonstone	118.33	138.05	157.77	177.49	216.93	256.38	295.82	354.98
Slaidburn & Easington	115.89	135.20	154.52	173.83	212.46	251.09	289.72	347.66
Thornley with Wheatley	112.91	131.72	150.55	169.36	207.00	244.63	282.27	338.72
Twiston	107.13	124.98	142.84	160.69	196.40	232.11	267.82	321.38
Waddington	134.44	156.84	179.25	201.65	246.46	291.27	336.09	403.30
West Bradford	120.74	140.86	160.99	181.11	221.36	261.61	301.85	362.22
Whalley	130.36	152.08	173.81	195.53	238.98	282.43	325.89	391.06
Wilpshire	119.28	139.16	159.04	178.92	218.68	258.44	298.20	357.84
Wiswell	133.00	155.17	177.34	199.50	243.83	288.17	332.50	399.00
Worston	107.13	124.98	142.84	160.69	196.40	232.11	267.82	321.38

*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 2022/23 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,009.53	1,177.78	1,346.04	1,514.29	1,850.80	2,187.31	2,523.82	3,028.58

7. Note, that for 2022/23 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
157.63	183.91	210.18	236.45	288.99	341.54	394.08	472.90

8. Note, that for 2022/23 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
51.51	60.10	68.68	77.27	94.44	111.61	128.78	154.54

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 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	1,334.59	1,557.02	1,779.46	2,001.88	2,446.74	2,891.61	3,336.47	4,003.76
Balderstone	1,339.41	1,562.64	1,785.88	2,009.11	2,455.58	2,902.05	3,348.52	4,018.22
Barrow	1,344.90	1,569.05	1,793.21	2,017.35	2,465.65	2,913.95	3,362.25	4,034.70

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	1,331.05	1,552.90	1,774.74	1,996.58	2,440.26	2,883.95	3,327.63	3,993.16
Billington & Langho	1,333.21	1,555.42	1,777.62	1,999.82	2,444.22	2,888.63	3,333.03	3,999.64
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	1,325.80	1,546.77	1,767.74	1,988.70	2,430.63	2,872.57	3,314.50	3,977.40
Bowland Forest (High)	1,344.56	1,568.66	1,792.75	2,016.84	2,465.02	2,913.22	3,361.40	4,033.68
Bowland Forest (Low)	1,335.55	1,558.15	1,780.74	2,003.33	2,448.51	2,893.70	3,338.88	4,006.66
Bowland with Leagram	1,333.83	1,556.14	1,778.45	2,000.75	2,445.36	2,889.98	3,334.58	4,001.50
Chatburn	1,344.99	1,569.16	1,793.33	2,017.49	2,465.82	2,914.16	3,362.48	4,034.98
Chipping	1,339.68	1,562.96	1,786.25	2,009.52	2,456.08	2,902.64	3,349.20	4,019.04
Clayton le Dale	1,329.69	1,551.30	1,772.92	1,994.53	2,437.76	2,880.99	3,324.22	3,989.06
Clitheroe	1,339.53	1,562.78	1,786.04	2,009.29	2,455.80	2,902.31	3,348.82	4,018.58
Dinckley	1,325.80	1,546.77	1,767.74	1,988.70	2,430.63	2,872.57	3,314.50	3,977.40
Downham	1,325.80	1,546.77	1,767.74	1,988.70	2,430.63	2,872.57	3,314.50	3,977.40
Dutton	1,328.97	1,550.47	1,771.97	1,993.46	2,436.45	2,879.45	3,322.43	3,986.92
Gisburn	1,342.68	1,566.46	1,790.25	2,014.02	2,461.58	2,909.14	3,356.70	4,028.04
Grindleton	1,340.70	1,564.15	1,787.61	2,011.05	2,457.95	2,904.85	3,351.75	4,022.10
Horton	1,325.80	1,546.77	1,767.74	1,988.70	2,430.63	2,872.57	3,314.50	3,977.40
Hothersall	1,334.46	1,556.87	1,779.29	2,001.69	2,446.51	2,891.33	3,336.15	4,003.38
Longridge	1,344.07	1,568.08	1,792.10	2,016.10	2,464.12	2,912.15	3,360.17	4,032.20
Mearley	1,325.80	1,546.77	1,767.74	1,988.70	2,430.63	2,872.57	3,314.50	3,977.40
Mellor	1,342.60	1,566.37	1,790.14	2,013.90	2,461.43	2,908.97	3,356.50	4,027.80
Newsholme	1,325.80	1,546.77	1,767.74	1,988.70	2,430.63	2,872.57	3,314.50	3,977.40
Newton	1,332.89	1,555.05	1,777.20	1,999.34	2,443.63	2,887.94	3,332.23	3,998.68
Osbaldeston	1,332.33	1,554.39	1,776.45	1,998.50	2,442.61	2,886.73	3,330.83	3,997.00
Paythorne	1,325.80	1,546.77	1,767.74	1,988.70	2,430.63	2,872.57	3,314.50	3,977.40
Pendleton	1,336.91	1,559.74	1,782.56	2,005.37	2,451.00	2,896.65	3,342.28	4,010.74
Ramsgreave	1,333.24	1,555.45	1,777.66	1,999.86	2,444.27	2,888.69	3,333.10	3,999.72
Read	1,339.45	1,562.70	1,785.94	2,009.18	2,455.66	2,902.15	3,348.63	4,018.36
Ribchester	1,337.55	1,560.47	1,783.40	2,006.32	2,452.17	2,898.02	3,343.87	4,012.64
Rimington & Middop	1,344.24	1,568.28	1,792.33	2,016.36	2,464.44	2,912.52	3,360.60	4,032.72
Sabden	1,344.64	1,568.75	1,792.86	2,016.96	2,465.17	2,913.39	3,361.60	4,033.92
Salesbury	1,342.38	1,566.11	1,789.85	2,013.57	2,461.03	2,908.49	3,355.95	4,027.14
Simonstone	1,337.00	1,559.84	1,782.67	2,005.50	2,451.16	2,896.84	3,342.50	4,011.00

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Slaidburn & Easington	1,334.56	1,556.99	1,779.42	2,001.84	2,446.69	2,891.55	3,336.40	4,003.68
Thornley with Wheatley	1,331.58	1,553.51	1,775.45	1,997.37	2,441.23	2,885.09	3,328.95	3,994.74
Twiston	1,325.80	1,546.77	1,767.74	1,988.70	2,430.63	2,872.57	3,314.50	3,977.40
Waddington	1,353.11	1,578.63	1,804.15	2,029.66	2,480.69	2,931.73	3,382.77	4,059.32
West Bradford	1,339.41	1,562.65	1,785.89	2,009.12	2,455.59	2,902.07	3,348.53	4,018.24
Whalley	1,349.03	1,573.87	1,798.71	2,023.54	2,473.21	2,922.89	3,372.57	4,047.08
Wilpshire	1,337.95	1,560.95	1,783.94	2,006.93	2,452.91	2,898.90	3,344.88	4,013.86
Wiswell	1,351.67	1,576.96	1,802.24	2,027.51	2,478.06	2,928.63	3,379.18	4,055.02
Worston	1,325.80	1,546.77	1,767.74	1,988.70	2,430.63	2,872.57	3,314.50	3,977.40

10. Approve a change to the Local Council Tax Support to remove the 12% reduction in support to working age claimants from 1 April 2022.

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#### LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader began by expressing his support for the people of the Ukraine, in light of recent events. He reported that he had had a briefing from the Housing Strategy Officer on how the Council might be involved in supporting refugees coming to the Ribble Valley.

The Leader also said that the Council's thoughts were with residents and families who had been affected by a house fire on Queen Street in Whalley earlier in the day. This had affected 5 households and the Council had been involved in helping with residents find alternative accommodation.

The Leader reminded Members that at the last Council meeting, it had been unanimously agreed to take forward the County deal to Government. He noted that the Levelling Up white paper had been published on 2 February 2022 and that Lancashire's request as agreed, did not fit the governance structures that the Council had voted for but he was pleased to report that after further discussions the agreed position was to take forward the deal that had been presented to Council to Government.

The Leader reported that the Government had announced that the replacement to the European Regional Development Funding would be known as the UK Shares Prosperity Funding UK. Unlike the European Funding, there would be an allocation to every lower tier Council, although like the existing European Funding, the most deprived areas would receive a higher allocation, however the Council was expected to receive a multi-year funding package soon.

The Leader went on to update Members on a recent meeting with Lancashire County Council's Leader and Chief Executive to discuss a number of matters relating to Ribble Valley.

Finally, the Leader updated Members on a recent TV commission which had been filmed in the borough and was due to be aired on TV in June and a project to shoot a major feature film in the borough. He noted the importance of such projects to our

visitor economy and thanked all the officers who had worked hard to deliver the projects.

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#### LEADER'S QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the opposition, Councillor Fletcher, asked the Leader how the Council would help and support those directly affected by the current conflict in the Ukraine.

The Leader thanked Councillor Fletcher for his question and confirmed that the Council would support a wider Refugee Settlement Programme if one was introduced by the Government.

He noted that currently there were two visa schemes, one for those with family links in the United Kingdom and another for refugees sponsored by Churches and Community Groups. He awaited details of how the sponsorship scheme would work. He noted that the situation was a very fast moving humanitarian crisis and one that the Council would be watching closely to see how it could help.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Fletcher asked if the Council could agree to send a letter of support to show solidarity with the Ukrainian people. The Leader confirmed that, with the Council's support, he would send a letter of support to the Ukrainian Embassy on the Council's behalf.

Next Councillor Fletcher noted that Suffolk County Council had taken the decision to sever ties with the Russian owned energy company Gazprom and other Council's were taking similar measures. He asked if the Leader could confirm whether the Council had any contracts with Russian suppliers, and if so, was it looking for alternatives.

The Leader confirmed that the Council was reviewing all its contracts to see if there are any links with Russian businesses. The Council's gas supplier had already confirmed that they had no trading or other relationships with Gazprom or Russia.

Finally, Councillor Fletcher referred Members to a quote from the official record of Parliamentary Proceedings (Hansard) from 1957 which noted investigations that had been taken into excessive pollution in the Ribble Valley. Councillor Fletcher noted that the borough was still experiencing unacceptable levels of pollution in its watercourses and asked how the Council could pressure the Environment Agency into taking action. The Leader noted that where cases of pollution were brought to the attention of the Council they were reported to the Environment Agency, although he had found that recent response to any such incidents had not been as comprehensive as in the past. He was hopeful that a representative from the Environment Agency would attend a meeting of Health and Housing Committee in the near future to discuss concerns with pollution in the Ribble Valley.

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#### COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. Planning & Development committee – 6 January 2022
2. Community Services committee – 11 January 2022
3. Personnel committee – 12 January 2022
4. Health and Housing committee – 13 January 2022
5. Policy & Finance committee – 18 January 2022

6. Economic Development committee – 20 January 2022
7. Emergency committee – 25 January 2022
8. Parish Councils Liaison committee – 27 January 2022
9. Licensing committee – 1 February 2022
10. Accounts & Audit committee – 2 February 2022
11. Planning and Development committee – 10 February 2022
12. Special Policy & Finance committee – 22 February 2022

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above committees be received with the exception of Minute numbers 557 and 650.

Minute 557 – Pay Policy Statement

RESOLVED:

That the Council approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23.

Minute 650 – Opting into the National Scheme for External Auditors Appointments

RESOLVED:

That the Council accepts Public Sector Audit Appointments invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years from 1 April 2023.

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EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items of business under this heading.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Michelle Smith [michelle.smith@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.smith@ribblevalley.gov.uk).