

COUNCIL MEETING

22 February 2022

Present – The Chairman (Councillor Sutcliffe) and Councillors Brockbank, Foster, Handley, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Mercer, Moorby, Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Ogden, Pighills, Rose, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Staveley, Wheeler and Whitaker.

Officers – Chief Executive, Director of Services, Chief Finance Officer, Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Solicitor to the Council (Deputy Monitoring Officer), Senior Democratic Services Officer, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager.

Start: 6.40pm

Finish: 8.30pm

Apologies for Absence – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barrett, Brown, Harbron, Madeley, Metcalfe, Place and Pringle.

Minutes –

Resolved – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 October 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

Public Participation – There were no members of the public in attendance.

Declarations of Interest – Councillors Mulligan and Staveley declared an interest in relation to minute \$CL.1254 confidential Agenda Item \$10 Joint Venture Company, Craven Barnfield Regeneration Ltd and in relation to minute \$CL.1255 confidential Agenda Item \$11 Council Owned land in Skipton. Councillor Lis declared an interest in relation to minute CL.1248, Agenda Item 9 Langcliffe Quarry Enterprise Centre - Broadband Connectivity. The Members left the meeting at the start of these items and did not vote.

CL.1244

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, Councillor Sutcliffe, reported that Covid is still having an impact and unfortunately, several civic engagements were cancelled.

CL.1245

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONFIRMATION

Recommendations of Policy Committee held on 1 February 2022 were submitted.

For each minute, the motion was proposed and seconded "That the recommendations in the minute are confirmed".

- POL.1171 – Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (including the Capital Strategy).

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1171 are confirmed.

- POL.1172 – Capital Programme 2022/23.

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1172 are confirmed.

- POL.1173 – 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and Annual Investment Strategy

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1173 are confirmed.

- POL.1174 – Pay Policy Statement 2022/23.

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute POL.1174 are confirmed.

Recommendations of Licensing Committee held on 25 January 2022 were submitted.

For each minute, the motion was proposed and seconded “That the recommendations in the minute are confirmed”.

- LIC.253 - Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

Resolved – That the recommendations at Minute LIC.253 are confirmed.

CL.1246

COUNCIL TAX LEVELS 2022-23

The Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) submitted a report in relation to the Council Tax requirement for 2022-23.

Councillor Mulligan, Lead Member for Finance thanked the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) and his team for all their hard work. This will be the last budget for Craven District Council, and there was much to be proud of. Despite some challenges, the Council continues to balance the budget whilst still successfully delivering major projects, such as Skipton Town Hall refurbishment, Shared Ownership Scheme, Skipton Gateway Project, and Otley Street Gateway.

Members thanked the Finance Team and the Leader of the Council for keeping them fully informed.

Councillor Noland requested that in recognition of the strong financial position that the Council is in, he would like to move an amendment to the proposed Revenue Budget 2022/23 to double the Ward Member Grants from £1000 to £2000 per Member. This was seconded by Councillor Solloway.

Resolved – That Ward Member Grants remain at £1000 per Member.

The following motions were voted on:

- 1) That the recommendations contained in Minute POL.1171 (Revenue Budget 2022-23 and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (including the Capital Strategy) as set out below are confirmed:**

AGENDA ITEM 2

- 1) That the revenue budget assumptions as detailed in the report submitted are noted.
- 2) That the revenue budget for 2022/23 of £8.935m detailed in Appendix B and the revenue growth bids of £265k as identified in Appendix C to the report are approved.
- 3) That, the Medium Term Financial Plan (Annex 1) and the Capital Strategy (Annex 2) including the contributions to/from reserves, the level of general fund working balance and the assumptions used to construct the budget are approved.
- 4) That, for 2022/2023, Council Tax is increased by £5 to £187.21 (band D equivalent) is approved.
- 5) That, the Section 25 report 'The Assessment of the Robustness of the budget and adequacy of reserves as detailed at Appendix E is noted.
- 6) That, the outcome of the budget consultation exercise as outlined in the report now submitted is noted.

2) That the recommendations contained in the report of the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) in relation to Council Tax Levels 2022-23, as set out below are confirmed:

- 2.1 It be noted that the Council has already approved the Council Tax Base 2022/23 as detailed below:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 23,234.41 [Item T in the formula in Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix A.
- 2.2 Calculates that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022/23 (excluding Parish precepts) is £4,349,714.
- 2.3 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) **£27,127,202** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)a of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) **£21,292,779** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)a of the Act.
 - (c) **£5,834,423** being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (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 32(4) of the Act).
 - (d) **£251.11** being the amount at (c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2.1(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) **£1,484,709**, being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix B).

AGENDA ITEM 2

- (f) **£187.21** being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by Item T (2.1(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.

- 2.4 To note that the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire and Rescue Service have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2022/23 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation bands

Craven District Council

<u>BAND A</u>	<u>BAND B</u>	<u>BAND C</u>	<u>BAND D</u>	<u>BAND E</u>	<u>BAND F</u>	<u>BAND G</u>	<u>BAND H</u>
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
124.81	145.61	166.41	187.21	228.81	270.41	312.02	374.42

North Yorkshire County Council

<u>BAND A</u>	<u>BAND B</u>	<u>BAND C</u>	<u>BAND D</u>	<u>BAND E</u>	<u>BAND F</u>	<u>BAND G</u>	<u>BAND H</u>
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
978.23	1,141.27	1,304.31	1,467.35	1,793.43	2,119.50	2,445.58	2,934.70

Police and Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire

<u>BAND A</u>	<u>BAND B</u>	<u>BAND C</u>	<u>BAND D</u>	<u>BAND E</u>	<u>BAND F</u>	<u>BAND G</u>	<u>BAND H</u>
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
187.37	218.60	249.83	281.06	343.52	405.98	468.43	562.12

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

<u>BAND A</u>	<u>BAND B</u>	<u>BAND C</u>	<u>BAND D</u>	<u>BAND E</u>	<u>BAND F</u>	<u>BAND G</u>	<u>BAND H</u>
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
50.41	58.81	67.21	75.61	92.41	109.21	126.02	151.22

Aggregate of the Council tax Requirements

<u>BAND A</u>	<u>BAND B</u>	<u>BAND C</u>	<u>BAND D</u>	<u>BAND E</u>	<u>BAND F</u>	<u>BAND G</u>	<u>BAND H</u>
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,383.42	1,613.99	1,844.56	2,075.13	2,536.27	2,997.40	3,458.55	4,150.26

AGENDA ITEM 2

- 2.5 The Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 2.6 If the formal Council Tax Resolution is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2022/23 £
Craven DC	187.21
North Yorkshire County Council	1,467.35
Police and Crime Commissioner North Yorkshire	281.06
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service	75.61
Sub-Total	2,011.23
Town & Parish Council (average)	63.90
Total	2,075.13

- 2.7 To note the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022/23 remains unchanged.

Resolved –

1. That in respect of Motion 1, Minute POL.1171 (Revenue Budget 2022-23 and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (including the Capital Strategy) as set out above is confirmed and adopted.

For the Motion: Councillors Brockbank, Foster, Handley, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Mercer, Moorby, Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Ogden, Pighills, Rose, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Staveley, Sutcliffe, Wheeler and Whitaker. (22)

Against the Motion: None (0)

Abstain: Councillor Noland (1)

2. That in respect of Motion 2, the recommendations contained in the report of the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) in relation to Council Tax Levels 2022-23, as set out above, are adopted.

For the Motion: Councillors Brockbank, Brown, Foster, Handley, Heseltine, Hull, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Mercer, Metcalfe, Moorby, Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Ogden, Rose, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Staveley, Sutcliffe and Wheeler. (23)

Against the Motion: None (0)

Abstain: None (0)

CL.1247

NJC PAY AWARD 2021-22

The Chief Executive said it was very unusual to ask for approval to implement the (proposed) Pay Award in advance of agreement with the Trade Unions. It is expected to be agreed but not before April 2022. The increase in National Insurance contributions due to be introduced in April and the rise in the cost of living would mean that staff would see little financial benefit from a pay increase if it was not implemented before the new tax year. Other districts and authorities have agreed to this, and the Chief Executive asked for Member support to do the same. Members agreed that staff have worked extremely hard during the pandemic, and it was noted sickness and absence levels have decreased over the last year. The Leader of the Council moved the recommendation, and this was seconded by the Deputy Leader.

Resolved – That all staff will receive a Pay Award (including payment of the accrued back pay) in March 2022.

CL.1248

**LANGCLIFFE QUARRY ENTERPRISE CENTRE -
BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY**

Members agreed that the Langcliffe Quarry Enterprise Centre plays a vital role in supporting local businesses and that access to high quality broadband connectivity is crucial if it is to succeed.

Resolved –

- a) That Craven District Council continues discussions with Broadband for the Rural North to make available their broadband services to the Langcliffe Quarry Enterprise Centre.
- b) That the Council includes a supplementary capital budget of £50,000 in its capital programme for the financial year 2021/22 to fund the infrastructure required to supply a gigabit fibre broadband connection to each business unit at the Langcliffe Quarry Enterprise Centre and associated costs.
- c) That delegated authority is given to the Director of Services in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council and the Strategic Manager (Financial Services) to agree terms and enter into all agreements required with Broadband for the Rural North for delivery and implementation of their infrastructure to the Langcliffe Quarry Enterprise Centre.

CL.1249

STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Foster, Leader of the Council, spoke of the passing of Councillor Arthur Stockdale who was the first Chairman of Craven District Council. Elections are still due to take place on 5 May and there should be an update on LGR legislation in March. Staff worked hard to support residents affected by the flooding.

Councillor Brockbank informed Members that the bus service from Bentham to Lancaster is being reduced from April 2022, which will have a negative impact on local residents. It was pointed out this was a decision made by Stagecoach and not NYCC.

Councillor Solloway asked the Leader to make sure that the message of “business as usual” is communicated to residents who may think that things are winding down as we move towards April 2023. Councillor Foster confirmed that he would look into this so that residents are aware that services are still being delivered.

Councillor Noland asked if Craven District Council could agree in principle to a circular walk in and around Skipton as a legacy project, and if this could be added as an agenda item at a future Policy Committee. Councillor Foster explained that this may be included in the Local Plan but will be brought to Policy if required.

CL.1250

**STATEMENT FROM LEAD MEMBERS, CHAIRMEN OF
COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Myers, Vice-Chair of Policy Committee, was happy to announce that the Council has received funding from Heritage England for the Skipton Heritage Action Zone. The money will be spent on the Arts House, the internal frontage and restoration of the ginnels. Cllr Myers thanked the Officers for successfully bidding for the grant.

Councillor Staveley, Chair of Select Committee, provided an update on recent work undertaken by the Committee. At its Crime and Disorder meeting, they discussed child exploitation, county lines and grooming. Select Committee also received an update on staff absence management. He paid credit to the Officers who have worked tirelessly during the pandemic. The Committee will present an Impact of Tourism report to Policy Committee in June.

CL.1251

GENERAL QUESTION / STATEMENT TIME

Councillor Rose provided a statement asking the Council to consider becoming a Local Authority District of Sanctuary with an aim of supporting refugees and asylum seekers in the Craven area. It could become a legacy that will be passed onto the new authority. Councillor Foster felt that further research should be carried out before making any commitment.

Councillor Shuttleworth expressed his concern about the vacant posts in the Planning Department, which appears to be having a negative impact on the enforcement function of the Department. Councillor Foster and the Chief Executive explained the Council advertise on several platforms to try and recruit but all local authorities are experiencing a shortage of planning officers.

CL.1252

ANY OTHER ITEMS

There were no other items of business to consider.

CL.1253

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 26 April 2022 at 6.30pm.

	AGENDA ITEM 2
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Chairman