**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 1st April 2019 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

**Present** Councillor J French Town Mayor

 CC Owen Deputy Town Mayor

 Councillors SR Court AR Donnelly

 MEC Field K French

 ML George JW Gowing

 MW Purser RF Skoulding

 Police & Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite

 Communities & Partnership Officer Alasdair Baker

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Asst Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public

**1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Harris and Pugh.

**2 Peter Catchpole, Fenland District Council Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer**

An e-mail was received at 4.18pm stating that Peter Catchpole was unable to get back to

March in time to attend the meeting, so his apologies were forwarded.

**3 Jason Ablewhite, Police and Crime Commissioner**

Jason Ablewhite and his Communities & Partnership Officer (Alasdair Baker) were in

attendance at the meeting at the invitation of the Mayor.

The Mayor asked whether all members were happy for Jason Ablewhite to provide them with

details of the Casualty Reduction Fund which he administered.

There was unanimous approval for this to take place.

The following points were highlighted:

1. There were 46 deaths on Cambridgeshire roads in 2018 (an average of nearly one per week).
2. Most of the casualties occur on Fen roads, with only a few attributed to motorways or dual carriageways.
3. The Casualty Reduction Fund is administered directly by Jason Ablewhite, with the monies therein being derived from fees charged on driver awareness courses. The scheme currently has available funding of £182,000 per annum.
4. All existing “wet film” speed cameras in Cambridgeshire are currently being upgraded to digital.

A question and answer session ensued covering all aspects of road safety.

Following his presentation, The Mayor thanked both Jason Ablewhite and Alasdair Baker and they left the meeting at 7.55pm.

**4 Police Update**

No police were in attendance, but a written update had been circulated earlier in the day.

**5 Planning Applications**

Because of his position on the Fenland District Council Planning and Development Committee and his commitment to Paragraph 28 of the Fenland District Council Code of Conduct, Councillor Court declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to planning matters.

It was noted that due to their involvement in the building industry, Councillors Purser and Skoulding would not take part in any discussions relating to planning issues.

Councillors Court, Purser and Skoulding all left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item.

It was agreed that two additional planning applications would be discussed.

*Application Name and address of applicant, details of application,*

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR18/1031/F Mrs Nancy Brownlow, 17 Gordon Avenue, March.

Replacement of timber joinery with 4 x upvc windows and 2 x GRP doors to fronbt elevations of existing dwellings at 131 – 131A High Street, March.

Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

The revision is: Revised scheme proposed with sash windows.

Received: 25 March 2019.

Reply by: 8 April 2019.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0196/F M Fovargue & J Kimberlin, 65 West End, March.

Erection of a 2-bed single-storey annexe ancillary to the main dwelling at 65 West End, March.

 Received: 18 March 2019.

 Reply by: 8 April 2019.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0218/F Ms Sara Fink, Allendale, Mill Hill Lane, March.

 Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with attached garage at Plot at Land North of Allendale, Mill Hill Lane, March.

 Received: 26 March 2019.

 Reply by: 16 April 2019.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0224/F Mrs Emma Briscoe, 16 Faifax Way, March.

 Erection of a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 16 Fairfax Way, March.

 Received: 26 March 2019.

 Reply by: 16 April 2019.

 Recommend approval.

F/2016/18/CW Cambridgeshire County Council.

 Retrospective application for the retention of steel containers as the means of enclosure; painting of the containers and minor variations to the previously approved landscaping scheme at Lodge Farm, Knights End Road, March.

 Received: 21 March 2019.

 Reply by: 11 April 2019.

 Since they are also County Councillors, Councillors J French and Gowing declared personal interests and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0211/VOC Mr Nick Leading, 33 Doddington Road, Wimblington.

 Variation of condition 3 (Plot 4 only) to enable amendment to approved plans of planning permission F/YR16/0696/RM (Reserved matters application relating to the detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR13/0562/O for erection of 3 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings and 1 x 2-storey 5-bed dwelling and detached garage with playroom/gym above) to change design of dwelling at Land East of Silver Street, March.

 Received: 27 March 2019.

 Reply by: 17 April 2019.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0230/F Mr R Purser, 11 Ravenhill Drive, March.

 Erection of a 2-storey 2-bed dwelling at Land North of 2 Ravenhill Drive, March.

 Received: 28 March 2019.

 Reply by: 18 April 2019.

 Recommend approval.

**6 Public Participation**

Since nobody had given the requisite notice to the Clerk to enable them to address the meeting, no public participation took place.

**7 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 4th March 2019.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 18th March 2019.

Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 18th March 2019.

**8 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 4th March 2018:

Minute 165: The Clerk advised Councillors that he had notified Citizens Advice Rural Cambs that their funding application had been carried forward for determination at the June 2019 meeting.

**9 Estover Update / Additional Funding**

Since they are both Directors of Estover Playing Field 2015 CIC, Councillor Owen and the Clerk (Clive Lemmon) both declared personal interests and took no part in the decision making processes within this agenda item.

However, the Clerk was requested to provide an update relating to on-site progress and the current financial situation so that others could determine any preferred courses of action.

It was noted that the Multi-Use Games Area had been completed at the end of October 2018, and it was anticipated that the pavilion would be completed around the middle of May 2019.

Unfortunately, certain unavoidable and unexpected cost increases had been encountered which had created an adverse effect on budgets and cash availability.

The result is that the pavilion will be completed to a high standard (with a relatively small shortfall in funds) but there would be no car-park to service it. With the heavy site usage that is already being experienced, this will create two problems as follows:

1. Complaints from residents in Estover Road due to the small amount of off-road parking facilities currently available.
2. The inability of site users to park on grass in wet conditions if the current parking limits were to be extended without a solid base being provided.

The only answer would appear to be to construct on-site car-parking facilities in the most cost-effective manner.

If March Town Council agreed to provide funding to cover the shortfall needed to complete the pavilion works and provide on-site car-parking, the user clubs would still have to provide funding for the following items:

1. Extensive fencing needed to divide the dog-walking areas from the playing areas.
2. Function room furniture i.e. tables and chairs.
3. Large paved area outside the patio doors of the pavilion to enable a marquee to be erected adjacent to the pavilion to allow large functions to be accommodated.
4. A path between the pavilion and the MUGA.
5. A new gate for the site.
6. A notice board.

Following a detailed report regarding the overall funding situation, it was proposed by Councillor J French and seconded by Councillor Skoulding, with all in favour, that an additional £125,000 be awarded to Estover Playing Field 2015 CIC. This was on the proviso that any expenditure should be made by March Town Council directly to the various contractors as opposed to being paid to EPF 2015 CIC by way of grants.

**10 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

It was noted that all information received from Cambridgeshire County Council had been circulated to Councillors by e-mail as and when received.

In addition, Councillors J French and Gowing provided the following updates:

1. The Transport Study is on-going.
2. The Boots Bridge works are currently ahead of schedule.

**11 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen reported that Richard Cassidy will be leaving his post later in the year.

**12 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

Prior to Councillors departing, they were reminded that the Annual Assembly is due to take place on Monday 15th April 2019, and were requested to arrive by 7pm with their robes to take part in the annual Council photograph.

Councillor J French also stated that volunteers were required for stewarding duties at St George’s Fayre on Sunday 28th April 2019. Anyone interested should contact her or Councillor Skoulding for details.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Councillor……………………………………….. 13th May 2019.

Mayor of March.