**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 1st August 2016 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

**Present** Councillor AR Donnelly Town Mayor

 K French Deputy Town Mayor

 Councillors MEC Field J French

 ML George JW Gowing

 NJ Harris CC Owen

 A Pugh MW Purser

 RF Skoulding

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

**64 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Court.

**65 Police Update**

No police were in attendance, but a written update had been circulated earlier in the day. Concerns were expressed that the recent Police Forum had been held at the Fire Station as opposed to the Town Hall. No notification had been forwarded to Councillors concerning the change of date or venue.

**66 Planning Applications**

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 Purser and Skoulding both left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item.

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

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

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR16/0571/F Greene King, c/o agent.

 Erection of a 2-storey, 3-bed dwelling and a 1.8m (max height) wall involving demolition of existing dwelling within a conservation area.

 8A Acre Road, March.

 Received: 22 July 2016.

 Reply by: 8 August 2016.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR16/0572/F Mr G Robinson (Pilgrims), 5 Melbourne Avenue, March.

 Erection of an extension to side of existing building to form two additional workshop bays and detached workshop building involving demolition of existing workshop.

 S/a.

 Received: 20 July 2016.

 Reply by: 8 August 2016.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR16/0573/F & Mr & Mrs R Stokes, 148 Norwood Road, March.

F/YR16/0574/LB Erection of a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling.

 S/a.

 Received: 22 July 2016.

 Reply by: 9 August 2016.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR16/0433/O Withdrawn.

 Erection of 2 x dwellings (max) (Outline with matters committed in respect of access and layout) at Land North Of Allendale, Mill Hill Lane, March.

 Withdrawal noted.

F/YR16/0601/TRTPO Mrs G Dobson, 4 Orchard Road South, March.

Works to a Walnut tree covered by 03/1987.

 Land South Of 89 Elwyn Road, March.

 Received: 27 July 2016.

 Reply by: 15 August 2016.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR16/0607/F Mr R Dempsey, Willow House, 122 Duncombes Road, March.

 Variation of condition 1 relating to planning permission F/YR13/0409/F (Siting of a mobile home for use as a 2-bed annexe ancillary to the main dwelling) to extend use until 30 July 2021.

 S/a.

Received: 1 August 2016.

 Reply by: 17 August 2016.

 Recommend approval subject to extension being limited to 30 July 2019 (otherwise recommend refusal).

F/YR16/0611/F Mr I Robinson, 16 Fairfax Way, March.

 Conversion of existing garage to form additional living accommodation to existing dwelling.

 S/a.

Received: 29 July 2016.

 Reply by: 17 August 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR16/0614/F Mr R Dowden, Peartree Farm Office, Cross Road, March.

 Erection of a porch to front of existing dwelling.

 Pear Tree Farm, Cross Road, March.

 Received: 1 August 2016.

 Reply by: 19 August 2016.

Recommend approval.

**67 Public Participation**

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

**68 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 4th July 2016.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 18th July 2016.

Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 18th July 2016.

**69 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 4th July 2016:

Minute 56 / 43: The Clerk reported that he and Councillor Owen had held a meeting with Matt Pickering and others on 12th July 2016 to discuss the proposed Wimblington Road streetlight commuted costs.

 A separate agenda item is included later in the meeting (Minute 72).

**70 Flooding Update**

An update from Trevor Watson was e-mailed to all Councillors earlier in the day.

Councillor Pugh reported that he had met with various people, including Trevor Watson, during the previous week regarding flooding issues in several areas of March, but none of this had been included in the Flooding Update.

In consequence, the Clerk was asked to enquire why this omission had taken place.

**71 New Pay Scales**

The Clerk informed Councillors that “The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has now reached agreement on the following:

1. New pay scales for 2016-2017 to be implemented immediately and backdated to 1st April 2016.
2. New pay scales for 2017-2018 to be implemented from 1st April 2017”.

In consequence, today’s Schedule of Accounts includes the increase mentioned under point a).

In percentage terms the rises equate to:

Town Clerk 2016-2017 1.0% 2017-2018 1.0%

Assistant Town Clerk 2016-2017 1.2% 2017-2018 1.8%

Councillors unanimously ratified the above increases.

**72 Wimblington Road Street Lighting**

Councillor Owen and the Clerk reported on their meeting with Matt Pickering, other Cambridgeshire County Council representatives and officers from Fenland District Council and Balfour Beatty.

It would appear that because this is a new scheme, the following conditions must apply:

1. All lights must meet the latest standards for that type of road.
2. Because the road is a main thoroughfare into town, the columns must be 8 metres high and utilise the most heavy-energy-usage lights.

However, it was admitted that the commuted costs had been worked out incorrectly by Balfour Beatty, and the error had not been noticed by Cambridgeshire County Council.

It was also agreed that the payment for commuted costs could be paid annually and not up-front as previously stated.

No agreement has yet been reached so, at this point in time, there is no deal on the table for March Town Council to ratify. As such, a further report will be brought to the September meeting.

**73 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.

**74 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen stated that Fenland District Council had stopped, or reduced dramatically, funding to Young People March, Fenland Youth Council and Citizens Advice Bureau. This would appear likely to cause difficulties for the younger members of society, and it was agreed that Councillor Owen should meet with Young People March to establish their current financial situation.

**75 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Councillor AR Donnelly…………………………………………….. 5th September 2016.

Mayor of March.