**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 21st December 2015 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

**Present** Councillor RF Skoulding Town Mayor

AR Donnelly Deputy Town Mayor

Councillors S Court MEC Field

J French K French

ML George JW Gowing

NJ Harris CC Owen

A Pugh MW Purser

Town Clerk C Lemmon

Public None

**141 Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**142 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 Owen declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to planning matters.

It was also 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 Owen, Purser and Skoulding left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item.

It was agreed that one additional planning application would be discussed.

Councillor J French took the Chair for this one agenda item only.

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

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR15/0934/A Withdrawn

Display of 1no externally illuminated individual letters fascia sign and 1no externally illuminated hanging sign at 112 High Street, March.

Withdrawal noted.

F/YR15/0935/LB Withdrawn

Works to a Listed Building involving display of 1no externally illuminated individual letters fascia sign and 1no externally illuminated hanging sign and re-rendering of southern elevation at 112 High Street, March.

Withdrawal noted.

F/YR15/1072/F Mr & Mrs R Howe, 12 Elwyn Court, March.

Erection of a first-floor side extension to existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 11 December 2015.

Reply By: 28 December 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1074/F Tradelink Direct Ltd, 1-14 Marwick Road, March.

Erection of 2 x single-storey rear extensions on north and south side buildings to house compressor units.

S/a.

Received: 11 December 2015.

Reply By: 28 December 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1080/F Mr D West, Grandford House, Wisbech Road, March.

Erection of a grain store building with associated gas tanks and hardstanding.

Agricultural Building, Wades Farm, Grandford Drove, March.

Received: 14 December 2015.

Reply By: 31 December 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1082/F Mr M Bates, Radnor Farm, Goosetree Road, Rings End, Wisbech.

Change of use of land, erection of barn and siting of portacabin to house exotic animals and siting of mobile home.

Land North East Of Radnor Farm, Goosetree Road, Rings End.

Received: 14 December 2015.

Reply By: 1 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1086/TRTPO Mr R Lord, Tarn Hows, Wimblington Road, March.

Works to Willow tree covered by TPO M/2/465/17

S/a.

Received: 14 December 2015.

Reply By: 2 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1087/F Mr D Armstrong, 19 Coneygear Court, Huntingdon.

Erection of a single-storey 3-bed dwelling.

Plot Two, Land North East Of 43 Wisbech Road, March.

Received: 14 December 2015.

Reply By: 1 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1088/F Greene King c/o agent.

Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling involving demolition of existing dwelling within a conservation area.

8A Acre Road, March.

Received: 16 December 2015.

Reply By: 4 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1090/F Mr J Simon, 14 Hillside Road, March.

Siting of a mobile home (temporary for 12 months).

Plot 1, Land South Of 5 Mill Hill Lane, March.

Received: 16 December 2015.

Reply By: 4 January 2016.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/1091/F Mr P Gumbley c/o agent.

Erection of 4 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings, 5 garages including garage for 119 West End and 1.3m high (max) wall and railings to front.

119 – 119A West End, March.

Received: 16 November 2015.

Reply By: 3 December 2015

Recommend approval.

**143 March Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillors had previously been circulated with a copy of the final draft policies for the March Neighbourhood Plan on 7th December 2015. These had been produced by Derek McKenzie as part of his contractual obligations, but needed approval by March Town Council prior to him preparing the formal submission draft.

These final draft policies had been revised following consultation with local residents, statutory consultees and Fenland District Council, and include the following:

H1 Large Development Sites

H2 Windfall Development

H3 Local Housing Need

TC1 Primary Shopping Frontages

TC2 Regeneration Sites

Site 1 Land to west of High Street

Site 2 Land to south of Station Road

Site 3 Land to north of Centenary Church

OS1 Open Space

NC1 Sites of Nature Conservation Value

Following detailed discussions, it was proposed by Councillor J French and seconded by Councillor K French, with unanimous approval, that the Clerk should notify Derek McKenzie of March Town Council’s approval.

It was also agreed that Derek McKenzie should be invited to attend a March Town Council Meeting to present the formal submission draft in person as soon as it is available so to do.

**144 Pay Parking in March**

Councillors discussed the possible introduction of pay parking by Fenland District Council in each of the four market towns as part of its Comprehensive Spending Review.

Following detailed and in-depth discussions, it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should e-mail the Leader of Fenland District Council, Councillor John Clark, to highlight March Town Council’s views and concerns in relation to the up-coming Cabinet financial proposals as follows:

1. March Town Council strongly opposes any move by Fenland District Council to introduce pay parking in March. It is felt that pay parking would contribute to the demise of town centre shopping, with the knock-on effect of a reduction in business rate receipts. Similarly this could allow Cambridgeshire County Council to introduce on-road parking charges. Additionally, high initial capital costs would be incurred with indeterminate revenue to compensate for such outlay. It is noted that when a parking profit is made the law states that, essentially, the money can only be spent on transport and environment projects.
2. March Town Council strongly urges the Cabinet of Fenland District Council to instigate a “top-down” Comprehensive Spending Review as opposed to the “bottom-up” suggestions currently being mooted. It is felt that services have suffered enough, whereas the management structure has been virtually untouched and remains unrealistically high for the size of the Council. If this recommendation is not accepted it will mean, yet again, that FDC Officers are being paid as much, or more, to manage even less.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Councillor RF Skoulding ……………………………………….. 4th January 2016.

Mayor of March.