**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 2nd July 2018 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 MEC Field

 K French ML George

 JW Gowing MW Purser

 RF Skoulding

 Asst Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public 1

**53 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Donnelly and Pugh.

**54 Presentation by Cllr. David Mason, Fenland District Council (FDC), regarding March Masterplan**

Councillor David Mason reported that £50,000 funding had been awarded by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority towards the cost of establishing a March Masterplan for Growth.

The following points were highlighted:

The objective is to stimulate the economy. The target to completion is 5 years. FDC will use the grant to tender for and engage consultants to complete the Masterplan. The Town Council will form a Steering Group with FDC support. Consultants were expected to be in place by December 2018. Cllr Mason’s role is as facilitator.
Following his presentation, Councillor Mason was thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

**55 Police Update**

No police were in attendance, but their report was circulated to all Councillors earlier in the day.

**56 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. Councillors J and K French left the room during consideration of application F/YR18/0566/F.

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

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

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR17/0685/VOC Gregg Morris Property Consultants.
 Variation of condition 1 (condition listing approved plans)

relating to planning permission F/YR14/0886/RM (Erection of 6 x 3-storey, 3-bed dwellings with balcony

to front and integral garage and 4 x 3-storey, 2-bed dwellings) to provide for 10 x 2- storey 3-bed dwellings with accommodation in the roof space, revisions to design,

materials, floor area, turning head, landscaping and boundary treatments, amenity areas and removal of the integral garages. Land South West Of Queen Street

Close March.

Revised proposals: Changes include provision of 2 storey terrace dwellings with accommodation in the roof space, revisions to design, materials, floor areas, turning

head, landscaping and boundary treatments, amenity areas and removal of integral garages.

Received: 20 June 2018.

Reply by: 4 July 2018.

Recommend Refusal – Over development, lack of garages. The revised proposals will make the situation worse.

F/YR18/0562/F Mr M Durant, Lodge House Ltd, 2 Clifton Close, March.

Erection of 4 x single-storey 2-bed dwellings at Land West of 9 Church Street, March.

Received: 21 June 2018.

Reply by: 12 July 2018.

 Recommend Approval

F/YR18/0397/F Mr & Mrs J Manchett, 33 Shaftesbury Avenue, March.

Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with integral garage at Land South Of 33 Shaftesbury Avenue March.

Received: 21 June 2018.

Reply by: 5 July 2018.

 Recommend Approval

F/YR18/0566/F Brossman Mills Ltd

Erection of 13 x retail units (Class A1), 1 x drive-thru restaurant/coffee shop (Class A3/A5), 2 x units with A3/A5 use and associated parking and street furniture, and the erection of a pumping station, electricity substations, formation of a customer and delivery access, a new roundabout on A141, 3 x balancing ponds, involving the demolition of existing dwelling (St Mary's View) at Land South And West Of 322 Wisbech Road, Westry, March.

Received: 22 June 2018.

Reply by: 5 July 2018.

Recommend Refusal. Inappropriate location, not in accord with the March Neighbourhood Plan.

F/YR18/0432/F Mr Stovin, 6 Birchwood Avenue, March.

Erection of a single-storey extension to front of existing property involving demolition of existing garage at 6 Birchwood Avenue March.

Revised Proposals: Revisions to proposed extension: now single storey.

Received: 27 June 2018.

 Reply by: 10 July 2018.

Recommend Approval

F/YR18/0570/F Mr S Sarilmaz, 25 Broad Street, March.

Change of use of ground floor only from A1 (Retail) to A3/A5 (Restaurants and Cafe and Hot Food Takeaway) including alteration of shop front, installation of external extraction and erection of timber waste storage area to rear at 25 Broad Street, March.

Received: 27 June 2018.

 Reply by: 17 July 2018.

Recommend Approval

F/YR18/0581/F Mr A Witts & Miss S Snell, 55 Green Street, March.

Erection of a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 55 Green Street March.

 Received: 28 June 2018.

 Reply by: 19 July 2018.

 Recommend Approval

F/YR18/0587/TRTPO Mr D Wright, 76 West End, March.

Works to a Holme Oak tree covered by TPO 08/1986 at 76 West End March.

 Received: 28 June 2018.

 Reply by: 19 July 2018.

 Recommend Approval

F/YR18/0586/F Mr S Holmes, 30 Acacia Grove, March.

Erection of a part 2-storey part single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 30 Acacia Grove March.

 Received: 2 July 2018.

 Reply by: 20 July 2018.

 Recommend Approval

F/YR18/0578/F Ms A Sayeed, 60 Robingoodfellows Lane, March. Installation of an extractor unit to side of existing building (retrospective) at The Little Friar County Road, March

Received: 2 July 2018.

 Reply by: 23 July 2018.

 Recommend Approval

F/YR18/0584/F Mr M Daines, Middle Level Watermans Club, 11 Waterside Gardens, March.

Erection of a single-storey building for use as toilet/shower/store facilities, with a retaining wall to building and ramp at Land South Of March Health Centre West End, March.

Received: 2 July 2018.

 Reply by: 23 July 2018.

 Recommend Approval

F/YR18/0600/F Mr & Mrs J Rowney, 17 Orchard Road, March.

Erection of a single-storey rear extension involving the demolition of existing extension at 63 Highfield Road, March.

Received: 2 July 2018.

 Reply by: 23 July 2018.

 Recommend Approval

**57 Public Participation**

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

**58 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 4th June 2018.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 18th June 2018.

**59 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 2nd June 2018:

Minute 44: The updated Standing Orders were circulated to all Councillors

on 5th June 2018.

Minute 45: The Local Highway Improvement Bids are due to be forwarded to Cambridgeshire County Council in the next week or two.

Minute 47: The Schedule of Councillors for band concert supervision was forwarded to all Councillors on 5th June 2018.

**60 Internal Audit Review to Year Ending 31st March 2018 and**

 **Re-appointment of Internal Auditors**

Whiting and Partners, in a letter dated 4th June 2018, stated the following:

1. “Based on our tests there are no material items in relation to which we need to report”.
2. “We have reviewed the expenses supplied by the Mayor which indicate that the Mayor’s Allowance has been expended”.

Following the proposition of Councillor J French, seconded by Councillor M George, it was unanimously agreed to accept the Internal Audit Review.

Following the proposition of Councillor J French, seconded by Councillor M George, it was unanimously agreed that Whiting and Partners be re-appointed as the Council’s Internal Auditors for year ending 31st March 2019.

**61 March Educational Foundation**

Since Trevor Quince has now completed his four year term of office, it has become necessary

to appoint a replacement with effect from October 2018.

It was duly agreed that the Assistant Town Clerk should write to Trevor Quince enquiring if

he wished to remain on March Educational Foundation of such decision.

**62 Estover Playing Field 2015 CIC**

Councillor Owen updated Councillors as follows:

1. Initial instructions to commence the development of Estover Playing Field have now been issued.
2. The highways works stipulated within the planning application have now been completed.
3. A contract to build the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) was signed on 26th June 2018. The funding for this will be provided by Fenland District Council and EPF 2015 CIC’s own funds.
4. Tenders have been accepted for the provision of a pavilion. Groundworks can commence in the near future since there are enough funds in the EPF 2015 CIC to cover the costs thereof. However, there will be a shortfall of approximately £350,000 to complete the pavilion to a fully usable condition (i.e. all the above-ground works completed).
5. The Clerk and Councillor Owen are currently investigating a loan to cover this shortfall, and an update will be provided in due course.
6. It will be essential that March Town Council support the repayment of such loan in accordance with Minute 24 of the 27th April 2015 Planning Meeting as reproduced below:

*Following a proposal by Councillor French, which was seconded by Councillor Skoulding, it was also unanimously agreed that March Town Council would commit to providing any shortfall of funding necessary to achieve the desired level of sports provision / accommodation to achieve a first-class sports hub on the Estover site.*

*In reality, this would mean that MTC could borrow the required funds in the most cost-effective way and repay such monies by way of mortgage or loan agreement over a period of years. Similarly, if it was possible or desirable, a lump sum payment could be provided out of MTC funds to achieve the same goal.*

1. It is not envisaged that a 3G pitch can be substantiated or afforded within the foreseeable future.

Councillor Owen then requested that Councillors ratify their previous decision so that loan negotiations could continue in confidence.

This was duly unanimously ratified.

**63 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. CCC have agreed to resurface Waterside Gardens
2. The Fire Authority is continuing to operate as normal. Three other authorities are challenging the Combined Authority Plans to take over the Authorities.
3. The Composting Challenge – to reduce the number of food waste blockages in drains – now has all the volunteers necessary.
4. CCC had commenced development of a Transport Strategy.

**64 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen reported on the following:

1. FDC were considering the possibility of sharing the economic development function.

**65 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Councillor J French ……………………………………….. 6th August 2018.

Mayor of March.