**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 2nd November 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

 JW Gowing NJ Harris

 CC Owen A Pugh

 MW Purser

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Assistant Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public None

**115 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor George.

It was agreed that Agenda Item 121 be heard prior to any other business taking place.

**116 Police Update**

Since no police were in attendance, a report had been circulated to all Councillors earlier in the day.

**117 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 six additional planning applications 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/YR15/0913/TRTPO Mr Love, Cherryholt, Lewis Close, March.

 Works to TPO 10/1974 comprising of Section A – Tree Belt and Willows: Section B – All trees and 2no Willows and 1no Sycamore; Section C – Willow, Oak and Lime.

 Land West Of Linwood Lane, March.

Received: 21 October 2015.

Reply By: 10 November 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0914/PNSOL Installation of a 50kW solar photovoltaic array to roof of existing building at March Library, City Road, March.

Received: 20 October 2015.

Reply By: 10 November 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0934/A Mr YI Cheung, 112 High Street, March.

 Display of 1no externally illuminated individual letters fascia sign and 1no externally illuminated hanging sign.

 S/a.

Received: 26 October 2015.

Reply By: 13 November 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0935/LB Mr YI Cheung, 112 High Street, March.

 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.

 S/a.

Received: 26 October 2015.

Reply By: 13 November 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0937/F Mr J Crack, 23 Wimblington Road, March.

Erection of extension to existing domestic garage.

S/a.

Received: 26 October 2015.

Reply By: 13 November 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0947/F Mr B Solak, 26 Broad Street, March.

Change of use of existing premises from an estate agents (A2) to a barbers (A1).

28 Market Place, March.

Received: 30 October 2015.

Reply By: 18 November 2015

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0953/F Mr & Mrs D Coe, Elm House, Elm Road, March.

Change of use of Car Hire and MOT Centre to 2-storey 4-bed dwelling including erection of a 2-storey extension and Offices to a 3-bed single storey dwelling involving part demolition; formation of 2no new vehicular access points and demolition of existing workshop.

S/a.

Received: 30 October 2015.

Reply By: 18 November 2015

Because she is a friend of the applicants’ daughter, Councillor K French declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0705/F Withdrawn.

Erection of a 2-storey building for use as offices at Land North Of Mill Hill Garage, Wimblington Road, March.

 Withdrawal noted.

F/YR15/0782/F Withdrawn.

Installation of external wall insulation to front and sides of existing dwelling at 225 Norwood Road, March.

 Withdrawal noted.

F/YR15/0954/F Mr & Mrs F Robertson, Oak House, 36 Station Road, March.

Erection of 2 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings with detached hovels.

Land West Of Oak House, 36 Station Road, March.

Received: 2 November 2015.

Reply By: 20 November 2015

Recommend approval subject to the areas being described as “hovels” may be used only as carports.

F/YR15/0962/F Mr R Munden, 111 High Street, March.

Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling.

Land West Of 17 Richmond Avenue, March.

Received: 2 November 2015.

Reply By: 20 November 2015.

Recommend approval.

**118 Public Participation**

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

**119 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 5th October 2015.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 19th October 2015.

Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 19th October 2015.

**120 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 5th October 2015:

Minute 102: The Mayor reported that he had spoken to Bruce Smith on 2nd November 2015 regarding the Auction Rooms site. Following discussions, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Rob Bridge and express deep concern that the former “Mike Ogden Office” was now regarded as an important conservation site that could not be demolished.

Minute 106 / 87 / 73 / 59 / 43 / 35: The Town Clerk reported that:

1. The lease from Cambs County Council is still not signed, although substantial further progress had been made. The funding agreements prepared by MTC and FDC with the Estover Trust had now been approved by CCC. In consequence, it was proposed by Councillor Purser and seconded by Councillor Donnelly that approval be given for March Town Council to attach its seal to the MTC document and thereafter it be signed by the Mayor. This was unanimously approved.
2. A public meeting will be called as soon as the lease is finally signed.

Minute 106 / 87 / 73 / 59 / General: The illumination of Britannia is still awaited. A further reminder was forwarded on 28th October 2015.

Minute 106 / 87 / 73 / 64: We are still awaiting budget figures from Matt Pickering in respect of the Wimblington Road replacement streetlights. A further reminder was forwarded on 28th October 2015.

Minute 107: The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the President of the Town of Zawiercie in Poland (Witold Grim) outlining details of how he envisaged a twinning agreement could be established and what his expectations would be from such an arrangement.

 It was noted that Councillors K French and Harris could be prepared to undertake an exploratory visit if so required. However, it was agreed that, at this point in time, the Clerk should not make any arrangements or enter into any communications until he had received further instructions from one of the above.

Re Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 19th October 2015:

General: It was noted that the dates for the Planning Training for Town and Parish Councils has now been organised for Thursday 26th November 2015.

**121 Defibrillators – Mr Andrew Deptford**

This agenda item actually took place prior to Agenda Item 116.

Mr Andrew Deptford detailed the benefits, costs and ease of use of defibrillator machines at the request of the Mayor, Councillor Robert Skoulding, who’s declared aim is to purchase and install as many of these machines as possible during his year of office from his Mayor’s Charity Fund.

Once other Councillors had been given the opportunity to raise questions about the machines, the Mayor announced that he had already raised enough money to purchase six indoor-mounted defibrillators and that he was placing an order for that number with immediate effect.

Following his presentation, Andrew Deptford was thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.35pm.

**122 Flooding Update**

Trevor Watson’s update was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and its contents were noted.

**123 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.

**124 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen provided the following information:

1. The questionnaires forwarded to all residents of Fenland to ascertain where £1.8M savings could be made had achieved a response rate of 26%.

**125 External Audit Report for Year Ending 31st March 2015**

The Clerk reported that the External Auditor had commented as follows:

“On the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met”.

However, it was noted that figures had been amended since the year end since, contrary to Whiting & Partners previous approval and normal business practices, provisions are not allowed within Town Council Accounts. In effect, this means that the accounts will always show a much higher balance sheet value, but have an appendix attached thereto noting the amount of expenditure to which the Council is committed at year end.

**126 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

Prior to the meeting closing Councillors were reminded of the details concerning the following:

Remembrance Day Parade of Sunday 8th November 2015.

Senior Citizens Concert of Thursday 3rd December 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Councillor RF Skoulding ……………………………………….. 7th December 2015.

Mayor of March.