**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 2nd September 2019 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

**Present** Councillor R Skoulding Town Mayor

 K French Deputy Town Mayor

 Councillors AR Donnelly J French

 C Goundry R Jack

 R Johnson MW Purser

 G Tustin R White

 FDC Corporate Director P Catchpole

 Cambs County Councillor JW Gowing

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Assistant Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public Two

**81 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Connor and Court.

**82 Presentation by Peter Catchpole, Fenland District Council Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer**

Peter Catchpole introduced himself to March Town Councillors and provided the following

information:

1. He was previously employed by Norfolk District Council and, prior to that, in commerce.
2. He joined Fenland District Council in February 2019 and now lives in March.
3. He is currently working on the FDC Commercial and Investment Strategy.
4. The above strategy covers revenue and efficiency savings alongside possible commercial and trading activities.

A question and answer session then ensued to allow all Councillors the opportunity to raise any relevant queries.

Following his presentation, Peter Catchpole was thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.25pm.

**83 Presentation by Phil Clark, Cambridgeshire County Council Green Spaces Manager / Coordinator for Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum & Natural Cambridgeshire (Local Nature Partnership)**

This presentation did not take place because Phil Clark forwarded his apologies earlier in the day.

It was agreed that he could be invited to attend a future meeting if time allowed.

**84 Police Update**

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

**85 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 all left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item.

Councillor J French declared that she had been appointed as a substitute to Fenland District Council (FDC) Planning Committee. However, to ensure the Town Council has an appropriate level of expertise and experience she will not take up the FDC post until Town Councillors have had planning training.

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

Councillor Jack 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*

No plans received as at 28th August 2019 when agenda was first circulated.

Additional plan received since 28th August 2019:

F/YR19/0739/RM Brosman Mills c/o Agent.

 Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping and scale pursuant to the outline aspect of the Hybrid planning permission F/YR15/0640/F and subsequent non-material amendment F/YR18/0954/NONMAT for the erection of retail units (Class A1) at Land South of St Marys View, Wisbech Road, March.

 Received: 29 August 2019.

 Reply by: 19 September 2019.

 Since they live close to the application site, Councillors J & K French declared personal interests and left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item.

 Recommend approval.

**86 Public Participation**

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

**87 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 5th August 2019.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 19th August 2019.

**88 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 5th August 2019:

Minute 74 / 62: It was noted that Speedwatch training had now commenced.

Minute 75: The Clerk notified Rebecca Robinett of MTC’s decisions regarding the Green Dog Walkers Scheme on 6th August 2019, and a promotional event has subsequently taken place on West End Park.

**89 Grants and Donations**

Prior to discussions commencing, the Town Clerk advised Councillors that £2,000 had been

included in the 2019/2020 budget for this agenda item.

Councillors could determine whether this amount should be viewed as £500 per quarter or a

lump sum to be spent as and when required.

In the financial year to date, £250 had already been expended.

Three applications for funding had been received as follows:

Name: Fenland Arts Association.

Amount requested: £500.

Purpose: Contribution towards new projector for The Skoulding Suite.

Name: 4th March Rainbows (Girl guiding unit).

Amount requested: £240.

Purpose: Cost of outing for 16 members.

Name: Wisbech Phab Club.

Amount requested: £500.

Purpose: Contribution towards a sensory garden to be installed at the March home of a severely disabled 11 year old boy.

It was agreed that all applications met the necessary criteria and, following lengthy discussions, grants were unanimously awarded as follows:

Fenland Arts Association £250 (however, the Mayor also agreed to contribute £250 to this cause from his Mayor’s Charity Account.

4th March Rainbows £120.

Wisbech Phab Club £500.

The total of grants awarded at this evenings meeting totalled £870 which means that a further £880 is available for distribution over the remainder of the financial year.

**90 Adoption of Revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

To allow all Councillors adequate time to have studied the revised documents, the Town Clerk had circulated full copies to them by e-mail on 7th August 2019. All queries raised and clarifications required were discussed with the Clerk by individual members at their convenience.

Following a further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Jack and seconded by Councillor K French, with all in favour, that the two documents be accepted as presented.

The Clerk notified all members that hard copies of the revised documents (Standing Orders and Financial Regulations) would be circulated to them by the date of the next Main Council Meeting at the latest.

**91 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

Councillor Gowing had nothing to report.

**92 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor J French reported as follows:

1. Updates on all schemes, studies and consultations currently being undertaken and the possible financial benefits that may result therefrom.
2. Work to replace the bandstand in West End Park has now commenced.

**93 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Councillor RF Skoulding ……………………………………….. 7th October 2019.

Mayor of March.