**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 3rd December 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 AR Donnelly

 K French JW Gowing

 NJ Harris A Pugh

 MW Purser RF Skoulding

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Asst Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public One

**119 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Field and George.

**120 Police Update**

No police were in attendance, and no report had been received.

**121 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 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 Court, Purser and Skoulding all left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item.

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

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

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/2012/18/CW Cambridgeshire County Council (re Goldstar Metal Traders Limited).

Demolition of existing office portacabin, erection of an office accommodation building and establishment of relocated car parking facilities at Lodge Farm, Knights End, March.

Received: 22 November 2018.

Reply by: 13 December 2018.

Since they are both County Councillors, Councillors J French and Gowing declared personal interests and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

Councillor Owen took the chair for this application.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0780/F Mr D Creese, 327 Norwood Road, March.

Erection of 1 x single-storey 3-bed with garage and 2 x 2-storey 3-bed dwellings at Land West of 327 Norwood Road, March.

Application withdrawn.

Withdrawal noted.

F/YR18/1013/F Mr & Mrs Stokes, Knights End View, Cross Road, March.

 Change of use of land for domestic purposes at Land North of Knights End View, Cross Road, March.

 Received: 15 November 2018.

 Reply by: 6 December 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/1018/F Mr & Mrs Miller, 91 County Road, March.

 Erection of single-storey side and rear extensions to existing dwelling at 91 County Road, March.

 Received: 16 November 2018.

 Reply by: 7 December 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/1019/F Mr & Mrs M & S Wilson & Clews, 32 Regent Avenue, March.

 Erection of a 2-storey rear extension with balcony and juliet balcony to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing single-storey to rear of 32 Regent Avenue, March.

 Received: 16 November 2018.

 Reply by: 7 December 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/1020/O Mr P Cole c/o Swann Edwards.

 Erection of a dwelling (outline application with all matters reserved) involving demolition of outbuilding and partial demolition of garage at Land North of 80 Upwell Road, March.

 Received: 19 November 2018.

 Reply by: 10 December 2018.

 Since they are friends of the applicant, Councillors J and K French declared personal interests and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

 Councillor Owen took the chair for this application.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/1029/F Mr & Mrs C Roulstone, Lancaster Farm, Goosetree Road, Rings End.

 Erection of a 2-storey side extension to existing dwelling at Lancaster Farm, Goosetree Road, Rings End.

 Received: 19 November 2018.

 Reply by: 10 December 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/1031/F Mrs Nancy Brownlow, 17 Gordon Avenue, March.

 Replacement of timber joinery with 4 x upvc windows and 2 x GRP doors to front elevations of existing dwellings at 131 – 131A High Street, March.

 Received: 20 November 2018.

 Reply by: 11 December 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/1032/F Mr Paul Buist, Index House, 2 St Peters Road, March.

 Erection of a 2-storey side extension and a single-storey rear extension including demolition of existing wc and conservatory at Index House, 2 St Peters Road, March.

 Received: 20 November 2018.

 Reply by: 11 December 2018.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR18/1043/F Mrs Lette Bower, Winston Place, 2 Colessed Road, March.

 Change of use of land to gypsy and traveller residential use including the erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling at Land South of Railway Line, Colessed road, March.

Received: 22 November 2018.

Reply by: 13 December 2018.

 Recommend refusal. Inappropriate site for this use.

F/YR18/ 1051/F Cardtronics UK Ltd, T/a Cashzone, 41 Broad Street, March.

 Installation of a ATM machine (retrospective) at 41 Broad Street, March.

 Received: 27 November 2018.

 Reply by: 18 December 2018.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR18/1052/A Cardtronics UK Ltd, T/a Cashzone, 41 Broad Street, March.

 Display of 1 x internally illuminated logo panel and 1 x internally illuminated topsign to ATM at 41 Broad Street, March.

 Received: 27 November 2018.

 Reply by: 18 December 2018.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR18/1057/F Mr & Mrs P Wing, The Ship Inn, Nene Parade, March.

 Erection of a 2-storey side extension with integral garage and single-storey rear extension involving demolition of existing rear extension and conservatory, and installation of a front bay window, to existing dwelling at 2 Orchard Road, March.

 Received: 30 November 2018.

 Reply by: 21 December 2018.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR18/1062/F Ms Alison Hawes, 36 Truman Avenue, March.

 Erection of a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 36 Truman Avenue, March.

 Received: 30 November 2018.

 Reply by: 21 December 2018.

 Recommend approval.

**122 Public Participation**

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

**123 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 5th November 2018.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 19th November 2018.

Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 19th November 2018.

**124 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**125 Grants & Donations**

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

had been included in the 2018/19 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.

To date, £1,450 has been expended during this financial year.

One application for funding had been received as follows:

Name: MAGPAS.

Amount requested: Unspecified.

Details of project: To contribute towards the cost of this lifesaving air ambulance service within March and surrounding areas.

Following discussions, it was agreed (proposed by Councillor K French, seconded by

Councillor Skoulding, with all in favour) to award £550.00p to this applicant.

**126 Budget 2019 / 2020**

The Clerk presented the proposals for the 2019 / 2020 budget and precept.

The Clerk also informed Councillors of the following:

1. At this point in time, Towns and Parishes did not have to work under the same Government constraints that Districts and Counties were bound by i.e. a restricted rise in Council Tax charges.
2. Towns and Parishes could, in the future, be requested to undertake more additional functions that Districts and Counties currently undertook but may decide to cut back due to budget constraints.
3. The budget presented took account of the economic climate and likely changes to future precept rules. It had been set to maintain the services and support currently provided whilst ensuring adequate reserves.
4. Due to the possibility of the FDC tax-base estimate changing, it would be necessary to approve the budget and precept in principle at this meeting and then ratify or amend the figures accordingly at the 7th January 2019 meeting.

In particular, the Clerk highlighted the following points within the budget:

1. An increased grant for Christmas Lights, the first increase in funding for over ten years.
2. An increased grant for both March Summer Festival and March Events (St Georges and Xmas Market). In particular, the increase in Summer Festival funding will compensate for the closure of the City Road toilets.
3. Maintaining relatively high contingencies due to the unpredictable nature of local politics in possibly having to provide unexpected support.
4. Continued support for the town’s CCTV.
5. Continued support for Estover Playing Field 2015 CIC.

Following discussions, it was unanimously agreed that the budget and precept be accepted without amendment (Proposer Councillor Pugh, Seconder Councillor K French).

The figures accepted equated to a budget of £294,270 and a precept requirement of £283,000.

It was agreed that these figures would be ratified (following amendment if necessary) at the 7th January 2019 meeting.

Full details relating to the budget and precept will be included as an appendix to the 7th January 2019 minutes, at which time all outstanding items will have been finalised.

**127 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, Councillor J French and Gowing provided the following updates:

1. The new CCC Transport Study is progressing satisfactorily and is paying particular attention to problem areas within the town.

**128 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen reported on the following:

1. Due to the high costs involved, there appears to be no chance of footpath improvements in High Street (as highlighted under Minute 112 of 5th November 2018).
2. Final resolutions relating to the disposal / collection of used syringes (sharps) are still being discussed.
3. The sauna at the Hudson Centre will be closed in the near future.
4. No winter bedding plants are being supplied this year and, in future, it will be the responsibility of the Street Pride groups to purchase them if so required.
5. There is a major problem with the floor in the disabled toilet in Broad Street, and this unit is liable to remain closed for a considerable period of time.

**129 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

Prior to the meeting closing, Councillors were reminded that their assistance was required at the Senior Citizens Concert at the GER Club on Thursday evening 6th December 2018.

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

Councillor J French ……………………………………….. 7th January 2019.

Mayor of March.