**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 3rd September 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 ML George

 NJ Harris A Pugh

 MW Purser RF Skoulding

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Asst Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public One

**81 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Field and Gowing.

**82 Police Update**

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

**83 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 one additional planning application would be discussed.

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

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR18/0758/F Mr Kisby, Otter Holts Farm, Middle Road, March.

 Change of use of 2 x agricultural buildings to dwellings comprising 1 x 2-storey 3-bed and 1x 2-storey 2-bed including raising of roofs at Agricultural Buildings 1 and 2 South of Otter Holts Farm, Middle Road, March.

 Received: 21 August 2018.

 Reply by: 11 September 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0759/O George Scarborough Ltd, 3 Town End Pits Lane, March.

Erection of up to 9 x dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) involving demolition of existing buildings at Land North West of 12 Knights End Road, March.

Received: 21 August 2018.

 Reply by: 11 September 2018.

 Recommend refusal for the following reasons:

1. Poor access (too close to another junction).
2. This area needs master-planning prior to the commencement of any development.

F/YR18/0761/F Batchelor Developments and Litchfield Roofing Contractors Ltd, c/o Agent (Swann Edwards).

 Erection of 11 x business units (B1, B2 and B8) and 1.8m high palisade fencing and gates at Land North of 57 Thorby Avenue, March.

 Received: 23 August 2018.

 Reply by: 13 September 2018.

Since he has associations with one of the applicants, Councillor Pugh declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0780/F Mr D Creese, c/o Agent.

 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.

 Received: 30 August 2018.

 Reply by: 20 September 2018.

 Recommend approval.

**84 Public Participation**

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

**85 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 6th August 2018.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 20th August 2018.

Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 20th August 2018.

**86 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 6th August 2018:

Minute 74: The Clerk reported that he had e-mailed Nigel Spencer on 7th August 2018. A response received the same day stated that urgent attention would be given to our request. It was noted, however, that no indications of cost had yet been received.

Minute 75: An e-mail was forwarded to Councillor Steve Count on 7th August 2018 advising him of MTC’s decisions in relation to the speed humps in Upwell Road.

**87 March Transport Committee**

The Mayor, Councillor Jan French, reported that the Members Steering Group for the March

Area Transport Study needed to appoint two March Town Councillors to sit thereon.

Following discussions, it was unanimously agreed that the two Councillors appointed to fulfil

such role would be as follows:

1. The Mayor, Councillor Jan French.
2. Councillor Robert Skoulding.

**88 Barkers Lane**

Councillor Owen reported that problems were being encountered in Barkers Lane, to the rear of 1-15 Cavalry Drive, with non-number-plated quad-bikes.

The issue had been reported to Sgt Lugg who had responded that this area of “footpath” was actually a BOAT (byway open to all traffic), which caused problems as regards enforcement against the perpetrators.

Since this byway was controlled by Cambridgeshire County Council Highways, Councillor Steve Count had agreed to find out how the designation of the byway could be changed.

Although full detail has not yet been received, we have been advised by one senior County Councillor that it is an extremely lengthy and difficult process.

Further information is being sought by certain personnel within Cambridgeshire County Council, and details will be forwarded to all Councillors as and when received.

**89 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 provided the following updates:

1. In her position as a CCC Area Champion, Councillor J French has put Fenland

 District Council in contact with funding opportunities which will support a

 replacement skate park on West End Park.

**90 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen reported on the following:

1. The reason that certain trees had been cut down in West End Park was due to their poor health and dangerous condition. It is the intention to plant replacements over the winter period.
2. The benches that had been vandalised in West End Park will be refurbished and put back in the near future.

**91 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm

Councillor J French ……………………………………….. 1st October 2018.

Mayor of March.