**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 4th February 2019 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

 MEC Field K French

 JW Gowing A Pugh

 MW Purser RF Skoulding

 FDC Head of Governance &

 Legal Services Anna Goodall

 FDC Portfolio Holder for

 Customer Services Cllr Anne Hay

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Asst Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public One

**145 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors George and Harris.

**146 Presentation by Justin Hanson, FDC Environmental Health Officer**

Because of the need to close a food premises due to poor hygiene during the afternoon, and the follow-up work involved, Justin Hanson had to forward his apologies and cancel his attendance at this evening’s Main Council Meeting.

It was agreed that his presentation would be re-booked for 4th March 2019.

**147 Presentation by Anna Goodall, FDC Head of Governance & Legal Services**

Anna Goodall was accompanied by the Fenland District Portfolio Holder for Customer

Services, Councillor Anne Hay.

Anna Goodall updated Councillors regarding the proposed closure of the Broad Street One-Stop Shop (on 8th March 2019) and relocating to either March Library or Fenland Hall.

Although significant capital costs will be incurred in surrendering the lease, revenue savings will be made during the ensuing years.

It was noted, mainly due to customers having greater access to Council internet services, that the Broad Street customer numbers had fallen by about 70% in the last 12 years.

It was stressed, however, that FDC were aiming to maintain a high-quality service in a more cost-efficient manner.

Thereafter, a general discussion ensued during which Anna Goodall and Cllr Hay responded to Councillors’ queries and concerns.

Following these discussions, a vote was taken to ascertain where Councillors preferred to see the service relocated to. Mainly on the basis of “ease of access”, Councillors voted by a margin of nine to one in favour of the Library.

Following the presentation, Anna Goodall and Cllr Hay were thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.45pm.

**148 Police Update**

No police were in attendance but a report had been circulated earlier in the day.

**149 Planning Applications and Street Naming**

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/YR19/0052/F Mr Andrew Dean, 4 Church Gardens, Westry, March.

Erection of a single-storey side extension and re-positioning / removal of windows to northeast side elevation of existing dwelling at 4 Church Gardens, Westry, March.

Received: 22 January 2019.

Reply by: 12 February 2019.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0061/F Mr & Mrs S Brett, 36 Elwyn Road, March.

 Formation of a dormer roof extension to rear and insertion of 4 x velux windows to existing dwelling to enable loft conversion at 36 Elwyn Road, March.

 Received: 24 January 2019.

 Reply by: 14 February 2019.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0065/F J & M Betts & Adcock, 84 Station Road, March.

 Erection of a chimney to existing dwelling at 84 Station Road, March.

 Received: 24 January 2019.

 Reply by: 14 February 2019.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0067/F Millfield Developments Ltd., 38 Burrowmoor Road, March.

 Erection of 11 x industrial units (B1 & B2 use) and 2.0 metre high palisade fencing (mixed development with Sui Generis use for remaining units) involving demolition of 6 x existing units atv Gaul Farm Industrial Units, Gaul Road, March.

Received: 28 January 2019.

 Reply by: 18 February 2019.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0069/F Mr & Mrs M Haydon, 46 Elwyndene Road, March.

 Erection of a garage to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing garage at 46 Elwyndene Road, March.

 Received: 28 January 2019.

 Reply by: 18 February 2019.

 Recommend approval.

Street Naming: Land South West of 386 Wisbech Road, Westry, March.

Developer’s proposal:

Barley Close.

March Town Council raised no objections to the developer’s proposal.

F/YR18/0584/F Mr Mike Daines, Middle Level Waterman’s 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.

 Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

The revision is: Revised drawings to reduce the size of the scheme and amended Design & Heritage Statement Rev.B to address concerns such as impact on protected species.

Received: 30 January 2019.

Reply by: 13 February 2019.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0075/F Mr & Mrs Peart, Rains Blue House, March Road, Coldham.

 Erection of a 2-storey rear extension and loft conversion with dormer windows to front and rear of existing dwelling including an integrated single garage involving demolition of existing garage at 8 Knights End Road, March.

 Received: 30 January 2019.

 Reply by: 20 February 2019.

 Recommend approval.

**150 Public Participation**

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

**151 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 7th January 2019.

Personnel and Administrative Sub-Committee Meeting of 15th January 2019.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 21st January 2019.

Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 21st January 2019.

**152 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 7th January 2019:

Minute 138: The Clerk reported that the Precept Application Form had been forwarded to Fenland District Council on 8th January 2019.

Re Personnel and Administrative Sub-Committee Meeting of 15th January 2019:

Councillors unanimously ratified all the Committee’s recommendations.

**153 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 update:

The traffic lights on the A141 are due to be turned on week commencing 11th February 2019. There has been a one week delay due to frosty weather delaying the re-surfacing of Gaul Road. The turning on of the traffic lights and the re-opening of Gaul Road will take place at the same time.

**154 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen presented the plans for March Railway Station which had been produced by the Community Rail Partnership in conjunction with train operators, Network Rail and the Cambs & Peterborough Combined Authority.

The total costs involved for the upgrading of March, Whittlesey and Manea Railway Stations is £15 million.

At this point in time, £9.5 million has been secured.

Although no time-scale has yet been identified, it is hoped that the work in March will be undertaken in the foreseeable future.

**155 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Councillor J French ……………………………………….. 4th March 2019.

Mayor of March.