**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

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

ML George JW Gowing

NJ Harris A Pugh

MW Purser RF Skoulding

FDC Environmental

Health Officer Justin Hanson

Town Clerk C Lemmon

Asst Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

Public One

**158 Apologies**

No apologies were received.

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

Justin Hanson informed Councillors that the requests for his Department’s service calls in the past year were as follows:

Food Hygiene Inspections in conjunction with the Food Standards Agency, Animal Premises Licensing and Pest & Vermin Problems.

This was in addition to their standard problem areas of Neighbourhood Noise Issues, Health and Safety Licensing, Unsavoury Odours, Smoke from Garden Fires, Illegal Waste Disposal, Neighbourhood Disputes and Miscellaneous.

Thereafter, a general discussion ensued during which Justin responded to Councillors’ queries and concerns.

Following his presentation, Justin Hanson was thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.30pm.

**160 Police Update**

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

**161 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 three additional planning applications would be discussed.

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

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR19/0135/F Mr Alex Manning, 174 Park Road, Stapleton, Bristol.

Change of use from HMO 6-bed dwelling (C4) to 7-bed of multiple occupation (HMO) at 61 Dartford Road, March.

Received: 18 February 2019.

Reply by: 11 March 2019.

Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0146/O Mr Michael Topping, 7 Mill Hill Lane, March.

Erection of up to 3 x dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land South and West of 4-5 Mill Hill Lane, March.

Received: 21 February 2019.

Reply by: 14 March 2019.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/1119/F Ms D Bower, 75 Station Road, March.

Erection of a 2-storey rear and single-storey side extension to existing dwelling and the formation of a new access from St Johns Road at 75 Station Road, March.

Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

The revision is: Side extension reduced to single-storey.

Received: 27 February 2019.

Reply by: 13 March 2019.

Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0160/F Mr M Palmer & Ms J Hepworth, 170 Elm Road, March.

Change of use from dwelling (C3) to mixed development of dwelling (C3) and cattery (Sui Generis) (retrospective) at 170 Elm Road, March.

Received: 27 February 2019.

Reply by: 20 March 2019.

Recommend approval.

F/YR19/0161/TRTPO Mr Jeffrey Stevens, Old Bank House, West End, March.

Fell 3 x Ash, 2 x Yew and 1 x Sycamore covered by TPO 01/2019 at TPO Land South of 2 West End, March.

Received: 1 March 2019.

Reply by: 22 March 2019.

Recommend approval.

**162 Public Participation**

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

**163 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 4th February 2019.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 18th February 2019.

**164 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 4th February 2019:

Minute 147: Contrary to March Town Council’s wishes, it was noted that the One-Stop Shop will be relocating to Fenland Hall on 13th March 2019.

**165 Grants and 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.

He also advised Councillors that all of the above-mentioned amount had already been

expended during this financial year.

However, further amounts could be expended, if so desired, if Councillors were prepared to

use monies from the Contingency Budget heading.

Three applications for funding had been received as follows:

Name: Cambridgeshire County Council (March Library).

Amount requested: £250 - £500.

Details of project: To support the provision of the annual Summer Reading Challenge and other activities during the school summer holidays.

Name: MADAOS.

Amount requested: £200.

Details of project: To support the group’s objective of bringing arts and culture to the townspeople of March

Name: Citizens Advice Rural Cambs.

Amount requested: £1,000.

Details of project: To support the provision of Citizen’s Advice services within March.

It was agreed all applicants met the necessary criteria, although problems had been

encountered with Citizens Advice Rural Cambs in the past.

It was proposed by Councillor Owen and seconded by Councillor George, with all in favour, that the following grants be awarded:

Cambridgeshire County Council £250

MADAOS £200

It was also agreed that the application by Citizens Advice Rural Cambs should be carried forward to the June 2019 Main Council Meeting for determination by the incoming Council.

**166 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, Councillors J French and Gowing provided the following updates:

1. The Gaul Road / A141 traffic lights are now operational and working successfully.
2. A Transport Study is being undertaken that is highlighting short, medium and long-term aspirations.
3. Speeding issues are still being encountered in Upwell and Norwood Roads.
4. Footpath resurfacing around the town is on-going.
5. Various fences and barriers in town need replacing or repairing following accident damage.
6. The works at Boots Bridge are progressing according to schedule.
7. The results of March Town Council’s LHI Applications should be known within the next month.

**167 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen updated Councillors as follows:

1. A Transport Study is being undertaken.
2. Skate park works are progressing.
3. The district grass cutting has now commenced.
4. The Community Rail Partnership is working in conjunction with train operators to bring forward the improvements to March, Whittlesey and Manea Railway Stations.

**168 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Councillor J French ……………………………………….. 1st April 2019.

Mayor of March.