**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 4th September 2017 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

**Present** Councillor K French Town Mayor

J French Deputy Town Mayor

Councillors SR Court ML George

MEC Field JW Gowing

CC Owen MW Purser

RF Skoulding

Town Clerk C Lemmon

Asst Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

Japanese Visitors Seven

Public One

**76 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Donnelly, Harris and Pugh.

**77 Welcome to Our Guests from Japan**

The Mayor, Councillor Kim French, formally welcomed our Japanese guests and presented them

with a gift from the town.

**78 Police Update**

No police were in attendance but a written report from PCSO Thomas Horwood had been circulated on Wednesday 30th August 2017.

Discussions ensued whereby the Clerk was requested to do the following:

1. Write to the Police requesting that more parking enforcement is undertaken within the town.
2. Write to FDC (Paul Medd) and the Middle Level Commissioners asking whether any action can be taken regarding the boat that has been parked long-term on the river close to the town-centre moorings.

**79 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 declared personal interests and stated that they 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/YR17/0743/F Mr J Spence, 384 Creek Road, March.

Erection of a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing brickwork structure at 384 Creek Road, March.

Received: 21 August 2017.

Reply by: 11 September 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0746/F Mr Phil Cole, 80 Upwell Road, March.

Install enlarged dormer to front elevation of existing dwelling at 80 Upwell Road, March.

Received: 22 August 2017.

Reply by: 12 September 2017.

Since she is a friend of the applicant, Councillor K French declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application. Councillor J French took the Chair for this one application only.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0751/F Mr & Mrs Howlett, 2A Wimblington Road, March.

Erection of a summer house at 2A Wimblington Road, March.

Received: 22 August 2017.

Reply by: 12 September 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0771/TRTPO Mr Eric Hart, 10 High School Close, March.

Works to 6 x Lime Trees covered by TPO 15/1986 at 10 High School Close, March.

Received: 23 August 2017.

Reply by: 13 September 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0772/F Ms Emma Briscoe, 16 Fairfax Way, March.

Conversion of existing garage to form additional living accommodation at 16 Fairfax Way, March.

Received: 23 August 2017.

Reply by: 13 September 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0727/VOC Mr Martin Reynolds, 183 The Drove, Barroway Drove, Downham Market.

Variation of Condition 18 (condition listing approved plans) for Plot 2 only, relating to planning permission F/YR13/0452/F (Erection of 2 x light industrial units, 2 x 5-bed 2-storey dwellings and 2 x detached double garages, involving the demolition of existing buildings) to enable the repositioning of the dwelling at The Old Dairy Buildings, Grange Road, March.

Received: 1 September 2017.

Reply by: 22 September 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0776/F Mr & Mrs F Robertson, Oak House, 36 Station Road, March.

Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling at Land West of Oak House, 36 Station Road, March.

Received: 30 August 2017.

Reply by: 20 September 2017.

Recommend approval subject to satisfactory access and egress.

F/YR17/0806/F Mr Dennis Willis, 2 Fishermans Drive, March.

Erection of a first-floor side extension with supporting pillars and alterations to front bay window of existing dwelling at 2 Fishermans Drive, March.

Received: 31 August 2017.

Reply by: 21 September 2017.

Recommend approval.

**80 Public Participation**

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

**81 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 7th August 2017.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 21st August 2017.

**82 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 7th August 2017:

Minute 61: The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Lorraine Moore on the morning of 8th August 2017, and received e-mail confirmation later in the day that Brendan Arnold would attend the 6th November 2017 Main Council Meeting.

Minute 67: Walters Limited were contacted on 8th August 2017 to discuss the financial implications of upgrading to a machine with printing capacity up to A3 size. In consequence, a quote was received on 15th August 2017 which will be discussed at the 4th September 2017 Main Council Meeting.

Minute 68: Aarron Locks, the FDC Community Safety Manager, was advised of the March Town Council Public Space Protection Order requirements on 8th August 2017. A reply dated 9th August stated that our comments would be included within the consultation process.

**83 Premises Licensing**

The Clerk informed Councillors that he had held a meeting with Michelle Bishop, Fenland District Council’s Interim Licensing Manager, on 22nd August 2017.

The outcome of discussions held was that FDC would no longer allow its license to be used by third-party event organisers.

As such, it will be necessary for March Town Council to hold its own premises licenses to support such activities.

The following licenses are needed:

1. West End Park – this will be required for March Summer Festival and the Summer Band Concerts. This can be obtained by merely transferring the current FDC license over to March Town Council.
2. Market Place / High Street / Broad Street – this will be required for the Christmas Lights “Switch-on”. This will need a completely new application, but Michelle Bishop is prepared to complete the necessary forms on our behalf.

Both licenses would require a designated premises license holder, and it was suggested that Councillor Robert Skoulding may be prepared to accept such role.

Following Councillor Skoulding’s agreement, and discussions between Councillors, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Michelle Bishop to arrange for such licenses to be acquired without further delay.

In addition, it was noted that Councillor Malcolm George was also a personal license holder and would be prepared to act as a reserve / back-up if so required.

**84 Public Toilets**

The Clerk reported that several instances of dirty behavior had been received via social media

regarding the City Road public toilets.

It would appear that, however hard the cleaning operatives work, some people will try their

utmost to ensure that the toilets are not left in a suitable condition for those following them.

It is accepted that these toilets are old-fashioned, and the materials they are made from make it

difficult to give a bright and clean appearance.

As such, and at some time in the future, it will be necessary for Councillors to decide on one of

the following options:

1. Maintain the toilets in their current condition and accept that complaints will, from time to time, be received.
2. Upgrade the toilets to a modern specification. This, however, will be very expensive and not necessarily improve the behavior of certain users.
3. Close the toilets.

It was agreed that no decision need be taken immediately, but that this agenda item should be taken as a timely reminder of the problems associated therewith.

**85 Local Highways Improvement Application 2018 / 2019**

Following the Clerk’s e-mail to all Councillors on 14th August 2017, the following suggestions were put forward:

1. The footpath behind Eastwood Cemetery, and adjacent to Suffolk Way and The Sconce, to be provided with “kissing gates” / bollards to prevent quad bikes from using it.
2. The Wisbech Road / Bypass junction to be widened to two lanes by bringing the current grass verge into highway usage.
3. The Upwell Road 30mph speed limit to be moved in an easterly direction to the end of the housing line.
4. Staggered double-yellow lines to be provided in Cavalry Drive in the vicinity of Cavalry School.
5. Research to be undertaken to investigate the views of the electorate in regards to the introduction of 20mph speed limits.
6. Double-yellow lines to be provided in the Henford Gardens area of Station Road and the Dagless Way area of Elm Road.

Councillor J French suggested that the final three items in the list relating to research and yellow lining either did not meet the LHI criteria or were too small jobs to be considered as suitable projects. As such, she volunteered that Councillor Count and her, our two March County Councillors, would undertake the following:

1. Investigate methods of funding research.
2. Investigate whether the double-yellow lining could be undertaken as part of normal Cambridgeshire County Council maintenance and road safety budgets.

Thereafter, it was agreed that a vote should be taken on the remaining three proposals, and these were recorded as follows:

1. Eastwood Cemetery footpath scheme: 8 in favour and 1 against.
2. Wisbech Road scheme: 8 in favour and 1 against.
3. Upwell Road scheme: 1 in favour with 8 against.

Taking into account the above votes, it was agreed to proceed with LHI applications for both the Eastwood Cemetery and Wisbech Road projects.

**86 Photocopier Upgrade**

The Clerk reported that he had obtained quotes to upgrade the current photocopier to one

capable of printing up to A3 size.

Details are as follows:

1. Current machine: Overall cost of £74.37p per month. Costs stated include all parts, all labour, all consumables (excluding paper), all toner and all call-outs.
2. Upgrade to a higher specification demonstration model (Konica Minolta):

Overall cost of £97.90p per month (increase of £23.53p).

1. Upgrade to a higher specification brand new model (Ricoh):

Overall cost of £120.87p per month (increase of £46.50p).

Following discussions, it was agreed that the Clerk be authorised to order the demonstration model as detailed under point b) above.

**87** **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.

Councillor J French also reported the following:

1. An update regarding possible junction improvements for March – this funding has still got to be applied for and the commencement of any works is not likely to be imminent.
2. Marylebone bridge – the new bollards that have been installed will remain, but the gates that had been removed will now be replaced to stop speeding bicycles etc.

**88 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen stated that there was nothing to report.

**89 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

Before the meeting closed, Councillor George and Jennifer Lawler were officially thanked by the Mayor for showing the Japanese visitors around town. In turn, Councillor George thanked Councillor Field for preparatory work he had undertaken prior to their arrival.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Councillor K French ……………………………………….. 2nd October 2017.

Mayor of March.