**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 5th December 2016 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

**Present** Councillor AR Donnelly Town Mayor

K French Deputy Town Mayor

 Councillors SR Court MEC Field

 J French ML George

 JW Gowing CC Owen

 A Pugh MW Purser

 RF Skoulding

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Asst. Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public Nil

**121 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Harris.

**122 Police Update**

No police were in attendance, but a written update from PCSO Beverley Snell had been circulated to all Councillors earlier in the day.

**123 Planning Applications**

It was 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 Purser and Skoulding both left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item.

It was agreed that no additional planning applications would be discussed.

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

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR16/1011/F Mrs Rosie Veitch, 54A The Causeway, March.

 Conversion of garage to living accommodation and erection of single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling.

 S/a.

Received: 23 November 2016.

 Reply by: 8 December 2016.

 Since he was well known to the applicant, Councillor Field declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR16/1015/F Mr & Mrs J Clark, The Maze, 108 High Street, March.

 Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling with 2.0m side boundary fence involving the demolition of existing commercial building.

 Land South Of 88 Station Road, Accessed Off Alpha Street, March.

Received: 23 November 2016.

 Reply by: 12 December 2016.

 Since they were fellow District Councillors with the applicant, Councillors J French, Owen and Pugh declared personal interests and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

 Recommend approval subject to adequate drainage.

F/YR16/1021/RM Mr Schofield, Westry Hall, 351 Wisbech Road, March.

 Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of landscaping pursuant to outline permission F/YR13/0384/O (Erection of 2 x 3-storey 7-bed and 2 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings with detached double garages.)

 Land South Of Westry Hall, 351 Wisbech Road, March.

Received: 23 November 2016.

 Reply by: 12 December 2016.

 Since he was well known to the applicant, Councillor Owen declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR16/1025/F Mr A Talbot, 150 West Fen Road, Ely.

 Alterations to existing building involving the erection of a single-storey rear extension to form a 1-bed flat and refurbishment of existing first/second floor 3-bed maisonette.

 26 Market Place, March.

Received: 28 November 2016.

 Reply by: 13 December 2016.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR16/1026/LB Mr A Talbot, 150 West Fen Road, Ely.

 Internal and external works to a listed building involving the erection of a single-storey rear extension to form a 1-bed flat and refurbishment of existing first/second floor 3-bed maisonette.

 26 Market Place, March.

Received: 28 November 2016.

 Reply by: 13 December 2016.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR16/1040/F Mr J Clark, 23 Wimblington Road, March.

 Erection of a side extension to existing domestic garage (part retrospective).

 S/a.

Received: 28 November 2016.

 Reply by: 15 December 2016.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR16/1043/F Mrs Lynda Hills, 32 Mallard Way, March.

 Erection of a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling.

 S/a.

Received: 28 November 2016.

 Reply by: 14 December 2016.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR16/1047/F Mr CM Sharma, 78 County Road, March.

 Change of use from mixed use shop and residential (A1 and C3) to residential only (C3) forming additional living accommodation.

 S/a.

Received: 30 November 2016.

 Reply by: 19 December 2016.

 Since they were well known to the applicant, Councillors Owen and Pugh declared personal interests and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

 Recommend approval.

**124 Public Participation**

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

**125 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 7th November 2016.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 21st November 2016.

Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 21st November 2016.

**126 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 7th November 2016:

Minute 114: The Clerk reported that he had received an e-mail from Jordan Mason of the Neale-Wade Junior Leadership Team after the meeting on 7th November 2016. This e-mail and the Town Clerk’s response were circulated to all Councillors on 8th November 2016.

**127 Grants & Donations**

The Clerk informed Councillors that £1,300.00p had already been expended from this year’s budget, leaving a further £700.00p available for distribution during the remainder of the year.

Two applications for funding had been received as follows:

1. Name March Community Car Scheme.

Amount requested £168.00p.

Purpose To purchase four handy bars and swivel cushion sets to enable clients with mobility problems to enter and leave their vehicles with greater ease.

1. Name March Lions.

Amount requested £200.00p.

Purpose To replace the existing lighting on the “Christmas Sleigh” with low voltage LEDs.

It was agreed that both applications satisfied the necessary criteria.

Following a proposition by Councillor K French which was seconded by Councillor Gowing, it was unanimously agreed that the following grants be awarded:

March Community Car Scheme £168.00p.

March Lions £200.00p.

**128 Budget 2017 / 2018**

The Clerk presented the proposals for the 2017 / 2018 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 estimates 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 9th January 2017 meeting.

Following discussions, it was agreed by a majority decision that the budget and precept be accepted without amendment (Proposer Councillor Owen, Seconder Councillor Skoulding).

The one abstention was Councillor Field who wanted the price per property to remain unchanged from 2016 / 2017 thus increasing the precept by £3,930.

The figures accepted equated to a budget of £267,470 and a “total precept” requirement of £276,791.

It was agreed that these figures would be ratified (following amendment if necessary) at the 9th January 2017 meeting.

Full details relating to the budget and precept will be included as an appendix to the 9th January 2017 minutes, at which time all outstanding items will have been finalised.

**129 Flooding Update**

An update from Trevor Watson was e-mailed to all Councillors earlier in the day.

**130 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.

**131 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen reported as follows:

1. All authorities within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have now confirmed that they are accepting the devolution agreement

**132 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm

Councillor AR Donnelly…………………………………………….. 9th January 2017.

Mayor of March.