**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 5th February 2018 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 AR Donnelly

MEC Field ML George

JW Gowing NJ Harris

CC Owen A Pugh

MW Purser RF Skoulding

Police PCSOs Tom Horwood & Glen Macleod

Town Clerk C Lemmon

Asst Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

Public None

**144 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cambridgeshire County Councillor Steve Tierney.

**145 Presentation by Cambridgeshire County Councillor Steve Tierney – Fenland Area Champion**

This presentation did not take place because Councillor Tierney had been taken ill and had

forwarded his apologies.

**146**  **Police Update**

PCSOs Tom Horwood and Glen Macleod were in attendance and provided the following update:

1. Anti-social behavior has improved dramatically since last summer.
2. Efforts are being made to address the problems caused by a nuisance motorcyclist in the Dartford Road area.
3. Several warrants were issued during the last month to bring known felons into custody.
4. Minor shop-lifting has increased since Christmas, and appears to be the work of three separate groups.
5. Several cases of criminal damage have recently been reported in Norwood Road and Station Road.
6. Hare-coursing has been a major issue over the last four months.
7. Crime prevention engagements with local schools are on-going.

A question and answer session ensued, during which parking issues were highlighted as a major concern.

Following their presentation, PCSOs Tom Horwood and Glen Macleod were thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.33pm.

**147 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 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/YR17/1238/VOC Mr James Dean, Fair Meadows, Creek Fen, March.

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission F/YR15/0771/F (Change of use of land to showman’s yard including the siting of a mobile home and the siting of a residential touring caravan) to “No more than the mobile home (Park Home) hereby permitted and a static caravan shall be on the land and both shall be occupied solely in accordance with condition 1 of F/YR15/0771/F. These together with a touring caravan to be occupied by an elderly/retired member of the occupant’s showman family. Any further touring caravans at the site are to be stored unoccupied; these being the own personal tourer of the occupier of the mobile home (Park Home) and those in connection with the occupant’s business as a showman at Fair Meadows, Creek Fen, March.

Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

The variation is: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission F/YR15/0771/F (Change of use of land to showman’s yard including the siting of a mobile home and the siting of a residential touring caravan) to “No more than the mobile home (Park Home) hereby permitted and a static caravan shall be on the land and both shall be occupied solely in accordance with condition 1 of F/YR15/0771/F. These together with a touring caravan to be occupied by an elderly/retired member of the occupant’s showman family. Any further touring caravans at the site are to be stored unoccupied; these being the own personal tourer of the occupier of the mobile home (Park Home) and those in connection with the occupant’s business as a showman.

Received: 23 January 2018.

Reply by: 6 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

Pre-Planning Consultation RH & RW Clutton, 92 High Street, East Grinstead.

Proposal for Biomethane Plant at West Fen Farm, March.

Received: Letter dated 25 January 2018.

At this point in time, no objections were raised.

F/YR18/0003/F Ms Christine Dean, Phoenix House, Church Gardens, Westry, March.

Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with detached double garage at Land South of Phoenix House, Church Gardens, Westry, March.

Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

The revision is: Revised siting of proposed garage. Submission of accurate survey and location of trees.

Received: 29 January 2018.

Reply by: 8 February 2018.

Because they live in the vicinity of the application site, Councillors J & K French declared personal interests and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

Councillor Owen took the chair for this application only.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0028/FDL Mr S Green, PO Box 47539, Southgate, London.

Erection of 1 x retail unit and up to 34 x flats involving demolition of existing building (Outline application with all matters reserved) at 15 Station Road, March.

Received: 22 January 2018.

Reply by: 12 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0038/O Messrs. S & N Morton, 384 Wisbech Road, Westry, March.

Erection of up to 2 x dwellings (outline with matters committed in respect of access) at Land South West of The Paddocks, 384 Wisbech Road, Westry, March.

Received: 24 January 2018.

Reply by: 14 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0040/F Mr Peter Edcombe, PT Motors, 49 The Causeway, March.

The siting of a mobile catering van for A5 use on existing car sales forecourt at 49 The Causeway, March.

Received: 24 January 2018.

Reply by: 14 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0048/O Charbel Properties Ltd, Unit 5, 55 Thorby Avenue, March.

Erection of up to 2 x dwellings (Outline with matters committed in respect of access) at Land South West of 386 Wisbech Road, March.

Received: 22 January 2018.

Reply by: 12 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0053/TRCA St Peters Church, 54 High Street, March.

Works to 1 x Oak and 1 x Beech within a Conservation Area at St Peters Church, High Street, March.

Received: 22 January 2018.

Reply by: 12 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0068/F Mr Peter Setchfield, 8 Beck Close, March.

Erection of a single-storey side extension to garage of existing dwelling at 8 Beck Close, March.

Received: 26 January 2018.

Reply by: 16 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0070/F Mr Marcel Cooper, James Development Co Ltd, 123 Victoria Road, Romford.

Erection of 4 x 2-storey 1-bed dwellings involving the demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings at 20 Deerfield Road, March.

Received: 26 January 2018.

Reply by: 16 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0071/F Mr T Brooks & Ms L Thomas, 117 Upwell Road, March.

Erection of single-storey side and rear extensions to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing conservatory at 117 Upwell Road, March.

Received: 24 January 2018.

Reply by: 14 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0094/F Mr Carlo Marenghi, 190 Station Road, March.

Formation of a dropped kerb to existing dwelling at 190 Station Road, March.

Received: 30 January 2018.

Reply by: 20 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0082/O Mr Morton, The Paddocks, 384 Wisbech Road, Westry, March.

Erection of up to 2 x dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land South of The Paddocks, 384 Wisbech Road, Westry, March.

Received: 1 February 2018.

Reply by: 22 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0097/F Mr & Mrs Steve Cornell, 92 West End, March.

Erection of a 2-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 92 West End, March.

Received: 1 February 2018.

Reply by: 22 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0114/F Mr & Mrs Boyden, 12 Orchard Road, March.

Erection of a detached double garage involving conversion of existing garage to living accommodation, and erection of 2 x single-storey extensions to rear and a porch to front of existing dwelling at 12 Orchard Road, March.

Received: 2 February 2018.

Reply by: 23 February 2018.

Recommend approval.

**148 Public Participation**

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

**149 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 8th January 2018.

Personnel and Administrative Sub-Committee Meeting of 22nd January 2018.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 22nd January 2018.

Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 22nd January 2018.

**150 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 8th January 2018:

Minute 136 / 124: It was noted that Councillor J French had attended the 2018 / 2019 Local Highway Improvement Panel Meeting on 15th January 2018 to promote March Town Council’s chosen scheme.

Minute 138: The Clerk reported that he had forwarded March Town Council’s Precept Form to Fenland District Council on 9th January 2018.

Re Personnel and Administrative Sub-Committee Meeting of 22nd January 2018:

The findings and recommendations of this Committee were ratified by Full Council.

**151 March Moorings**

Councillors discussed the e-mail received from Phil Hughes (FDC Head of Leisure Services) on 29th January 2018 regarding the March moorings and possible enforcement against overstaying boats.

Following discussions, it was agreed that:

1. Free visitor mooring should be increased from 36 hours to 48 hours.
2. Overstaying boats should be fined. It was agreed that such fine must be a sufficient penalty and rigidly enforced.
3. It was also agreed that the Environmental Department needed advising about the storage of petrol under the bridge by a current overstaying boat.

**152 Grants and Donations**

Prior to discussions commencing, the Clerk advised Councillors that up to £1,800 was available to distribute if so required.

Two applications for funding had been received as follows:

1. Name: 1220 (March) Squadron ATC.

Amount requested: £189.

Purpose of grant: Trumpet and sundry musical items for band.

1. Name: Association of Mindfulness Art CIC.

Amount requested: Maximum appropriate.

Purpose of grant: To develop a culture of mindfulness within Cambridgeshire’s prisons specifically focusing on HMP Whitemoor.

1. Name: Cambridgeshire County Council.

Amount requested: Maximum appropriate.

Purpose of grant: Financial support towards the children’s Summer Reading Challenge and associated activities in March Library.

Following discussions the following amounts were approved:

1220 (March) Squadron ATC £200.00p.

Association of Mindfulness Arts CIC £Nil.

Cambridgeshire County Council £250.00p.

An e-mail from Batul Dungarwalla of Citizens Advice Rural Cambs was also discussed.

He maintains that although there is not a permanent office in March, the organization holds a Money Advice Service at March Library on Monday mornings and, as such, requests that their “Specific Grant” is reinstated at an amount of £1,500.

For the current financial year, this Council actually funded a “Specific Grant” of £500 plus an additional £1,000 to ensure that an office was maintained in March. It is claimed that their attendance at the Library provides an adequate presence, and has delivered 45 debt specialist appointments since April 2017.

Because of the “6 month rule” it was agreed that this request could not be reconsidered until June 2018. Also, Councillors requested more information.

**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:

1. Councillors J French & Gowing provided an update regarding the issues relating to the provision of traffic lights at the A141 / Gaul Road junction.
2. It was also noted that “The Dragon” machine would commence work filling in potholes on 19th February 2018.

**154 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen advised Councillors of the following matters:

1. Following the resignation of John Clerk and the de-selection of Mike Cornwell, a new Leader and Whip were due to be appointed on 8th February 2018.

**155 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Councillor K French ……………………………………………….. 5th March 2018.

Mayor of March.