**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 5th March 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

 Mayor of the Cambridge and Peterborough

 Combined Authority James Palmer

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Asst Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public One

**159 Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**160 Presentation by James Palmer, Mayor of the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority**

James Palmer provided a general introduction prior to updating Councillors as follows:

1. This area has always been underfunded by successive governments. Conservative governments provided less funding because the area voted Conservative anyway. Labour governments provided less funding because it was a strong Conservative heartland.
2. Cambridgeshire produces £5 billion for central government, immediately following London and the South-East.
3. It is imperative to improve all infrastructure (particularly transport) so that industry can eventually move outwards and away from the central Cambridge business hub.
4. Utilizing a variety of methods, a “land value cap” should be introduced to improve the opportunity for social / affordable housing to be built.
5. In the foreseeable future, a University of Peterborough is essential in maximizing educational opportunities.

A question and answer session ensued during which an eastern bypass, a northern link road and the withdrawal of some Stagecoach bus services were discussed.

Following his presentation, Mr Palmer was thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at

7.55pm.

**161**  **Police Update**

No police were in attendance but a written report by PCSO Thomas Horwood had been circulated earlier in the day.

**162 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 two additional planning applications would be discussed.

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

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR18/0152/F Mr Lance Earwaker, 32 Gordon Avenue, March.

Removal of existing pebbledash and replacement with white render on all elevations.

S/a.

Received: 20 February 2018.

Reply by: 13 March 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0156/F Mr & Mrs Johnson, 114 Knights End Road, March.

Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with attached garage. Plot 1, Land South Of The Barn, Mill Hill Lane, March.

Received: 20 February 2018.

Reply by: 14 March 2018.

Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0160/RM Mr B Mason, Silverback Cottage, Whitemoor Road, March.

Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR16/0665/O for the erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling at Land East of 6 St Peters Road, March.

Received: 20 February 2018.

Reply by: 13 March 2018.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR18/0167/FMr A Holmes & Mrs D Hamilton, 30 Regent Avenue, March.

Erection of single-storey rear extensions, insertion of dormer windows (to enable loft conversion) to existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing conservatory and detached gym, and other alterations including re-roofing the detached studio to enable the conversion to a bedroom (ancillary to existing dwelling).

S/a.

Received: 22 February 2018.

Reply by: 15 March 2018.

 Recommend approval.

Pre-Application Consultation Mr B Harradine Proposed Residential Development of 181

 residential units off Upwell Road, March.

 Received 26 February 2017

No serious concerns expressed. However, MTC would request the following:

1. Footpath improvements along Upwell Road.
2. Contribution towards sport facilities at Estover Playing Field.

F/YR18/0185/F Mr Gary Waldock-Goude, AM Installations, 2 Commercial Road, March.

Erection of a 2.4 metre high galvanised steel palisade fence and gates (retrospective) at 2 Commercial Road, March.

 Received: 27 February 2018.

 Reply by: 20 March 2018.

 Since he is related to the applicant, Councillor Skoulding declared a prejudicial interest and left the room whilst this application was being discussed.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR17/1129/F Mr & Mrs Saulle, 19 Greenwood Way, Wimblington.

 Erection of a single-storey rear and side extension, porch to front of existing dwelling and formation of a vehicular access involving culverting of the ditch at 114 Upwell Road, March.

 Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

 The revision is: Revised scheme submitted, including formation of access.

 Received: 28 February 2018.

 Reply by: 21 March 2018.

 Recommend approval.

F/2001/18/CW Cambridgeshire County Council.

 Construction of a biomethane gas and electricity to grid and biofertiliser aerobic digestion plant including two 9.3 metres high digester tanks, combined heat and power biogas generator with 10 metres high exhaust pipe, 6 metres high flare stack, 3 separated digestate liquid storage lagoons, harvested water storage lagoon, workshop, associated infrastructure & landscaping and access from Whittlesey Road, March.

 West Fen Farm, Whittlesey Road, March.

 Received: 1 March 2018.

 Reply by: 22 March 2018.

 Recommend approval.

**163 Public Participation**

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

**164 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 5th February 2018.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 19th February 2018.

**165 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 5th February 2018:

Minute 151: The Clerk reported that he had forwarded a response concerning March Moorings to Phil Hughes and the Environmental Department at Fenland District Council.

Re Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 19th February 2018:

F/YR18/0165/F: Having asked Councillor Skoulding to leave the room, Councillor J French stated that she was disappointed the Planning Sub-Committee had recommended refusal for this application. She did not believe there was a flooding issue at this site, and hoped that FDC would overturn MTC’s objections.

**166 Grants and Donations**

Prior to discussions commencing, the Clerk advised Councillors that up to £1,350 was available to distribute if so required.

It was noted that part of Rings End Nature Reserve was sited within the March area and part within the Wisbech area.

One application for funding had been received as follows:

Name: Friends of Rings End Nature Reserve.

Amount requested: £850.

Purpose of grant: Contribution towards specific improvements at the site.

It was noted that normally a maximum grant of £500 would apply (although this has been exceeded twice in the past), but following discussions (proposer Councillor J French, seconder Councillor George) it was agreed that £300 should be approved.

**167** **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. Creek Fen Road, towards the sewerage farm, is due to have its potholes filled followed by resurfacing.
2. Gaul Road is to be resurfaced and traffic lights will be installed at the bypass junction commencing in July 2019.
3. General comments were made concerning the state of the potholes in Broad Street.

**168 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen advised Councillors of the following matters:

1. On 8th February 2018, Councillor Chris Seaton had been appointed the new Leader of Fenland District Council.
2. Council tax charges will rise by 1.9% for 2018 / 2019

**169 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 ……………………………………………….. 9th April 2018.

Mayor of March.