**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 5th October 2015 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

**Present** Councillor RF Skoulding Town Mayor

AR Donnelly Deputy Town Mayor

 Councillors S Court MEC Field

 J French K French

 ML George JW Gowing

 NJ Harris CC Owen

 A Pugh MW Purser

 Assistant Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Inspector Andy Sullivan (from 7.35pm)

 Public Nil

**101 Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**102 Police Update**

No police were in attendance. A report had been circulated to all Councillors earlier in the day.

Standing Orders were suspended and Inspector Sullivan invited to comment on the problems at the Auction Rooms site. Progress was difficult as the Conservation Officer felt that some buildings were worth retaining. A response was awaited from Canon Kirk. Cllr Owen had been in contact with Bruce Smith who will again make an effort to secure the area. Inspector Sullivan advised that the Council could support a Police Closure Order which would apply for 24 hours and could be extended to close it totally, this would give the Police powers to ask people to leave the premises. Cllr J French commented that the building was already redundant and awaiting demolition. It was agreed that the mayor would speak with Bruce Smith and Canon Kirk.

**103 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 Owen 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 Owen, Purser and Skoulding left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item.

It was agreed that 8 additional planning applications would be discussed.

Councillor J French took the Chair for this one agenda item only.

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

*Number and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR15/0807/F Mr & Mrs A Parker, 7 Maple Grove, March.

 Erection of a first-floor side and single-storey rear extensions to existing dwelling.

 S/a.

Received: 23 September 2015.

Reply By: 12 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0813/F Mr S Brown, 6 County Road, March.

Installation of external wall insulation to existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 25 September 2015.

Reply By: 12 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0815/F Mrs A Way, 1 Belmont Road, March.

Installation of external wall insulation to existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 25 September 2015.

Reply By: 13 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0816/F Mr L Giles, 60 Robingoodfellows Lane, March.

Installation of external wall insulation to front, rear and north side elevations

S/a.

Received: 25 September 2015.

Reply By: 13 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0821/F Mrs F Porter, 15 Peas Hill Road, March.

Installation of external wall insulation to front, rear and side of existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 25 September 2015.

Reply By: 13 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0822/F Mr Oscar Canitrot, Groundworks House, Devils Lane, Egham, Surrey.

 Erection of a single-storey 2-bed dwelling involving demolition of existing dwelling.

 7 Creek Fen, March.

Received: 25 September 2015.

Reply By: 13 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0826/F Mrs P Young, c/o agent.

 Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling and a 2-storey 2-bed dwelling with detached garage involving the demolition of existing buildings.

 7 Gas Road, March.

Received: 25 September 2015.

Reply By: 13 October 2015.

The Assistant Town Clerk read an objection that had been received.

 Recommend Refusal due to overlooking, lack of amenity/parking and not in keeping with surrounding area.

F/YR15/0827/F Miss Lisa Randall, Hampton House, Middle Road, March.

 Erection of a 14no kennel boarding block and store room.

 S/a.

Received: 25 September 2015.

Reply By: 13 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0839/F Mr S Gay, 10 Burrowmoor Road, March.

Installation of external wall insulation to front, rear and side elevation of existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 1 October 2015.

Reply By: 20 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0858/TRCA Miss A Parker, Old Bank House, 2 West End, March.

Felling of 1 Cherry tree, 7 Cypress trees and 1 Ash tree within a conservation area.

S/a.

Received: 2 October 2015.

Reply By: 21 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0849/F Mr & Mrs D Wilson, 6 Gordon Avenue, March.

Erection of part 2-storey/single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of detached garage.

S/a.

Received: 5 October 2015.

Reply By: 21 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0854/F Miss T Doncaster, 102 Robingoodfellows Lane, March.

Installation of external wall insulation to front, rear and side of existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 5 October 2015.

Reply By: 22 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0855/PNC04 Change of use from agricultural building to a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling (Class Q (a) and (b) ) at Agricultural Building East Of 723 Whittlesey Road March.

S/a.

Received: 5 October 2015.

Reply By: 22 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/00857/RM Mr L Russell, 3 Causeway Gardens, March.

Erection of a 3-storey 4-bed dwelling with integral garage involving formation of a new access – Reserved Matters application relating to the detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR15/00278/O (Erection of a dwelling).

Land East Of 110 Knights End Road.

Received: 5 October 2015.

Reply By: 22 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0862/F Mr Clive Wilcox, 16 Church Lane, Doddington.

Erection of a 3-storey 4-bed dwelling with detached garage involving demolition of existing dwelling.

9 Deerfield Road, March.

Received: 5 October 2015.

Reply By: 23 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

F/YR15/0866/F Mrs T Busshan, 108 Robingoodfellows Lane, March.

Installation of external wall insulation to front and rear of existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 5 October 2015.

Reply By: 23 October 2015.

Recommend Approval

**104 Public Participation**

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

**105 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 7th September 2015.

Extraordinary Council Meeting of 18th September 2015.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 21st September 2015.

Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 21st September 2015.

**106 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 7th September 2015:

Minute 87 / 73 / 59 / 43 / 35: The Assistant Town Clerk reported that:

1. The lease from Cambs County Council is still not signed.
2. A public meeting will be called for as soon as this happens.

Cllr J French drew attention to the email from County Councillor and District Councillor S Count in which he accused The Town Council of ‘dragging its heels’. Which is not true and quite the opposite to the reality of the situation as it is Cambridgeshire County Council that are insisting on a formal legal document, rather than relying on minutes, before the lease can be agreed and signed. As the lease is the key to funding it is impossible and would be irresponsible to move forward before CCC have completed their work. It was noted that Cllr Owen and The Clerk had devoted many hours outside of normal working hours to move this forward as swiftly as possible.

Minute 87 / 73 / 59 / General: The illumination of Britannia is still awaited. A further reminder was forwarded on 29th September 2015.

Minute 87 / 73 / 64: We are still awaiting budget figures from Matt Pickering in respect of the Wimblington Road replacement streetlights. A further reminder was forwarded on 29th September 2015.

Minute 87 / General: On 8th September 2015 the Clerk notified the Local Projects Team that March Town Council had agreed to drop the proposed 2015 / 2016 LHI Initiative. Councillor Count criticised the manner in which this had been done in an e-mail that same day.

Subsequently, an Extraordinary Meeting was held on 18th September 2015 to ensure that all legal procedures had been complied with.

Cllr Field put on record that he was unhappy with the way the matter had been handled.

Minute 90: The views of March Town Council concerning the Community Rail Partnership and paint colours for March Railway Station were forwarded to the relevant personnel on 8th September 2015.

Minute 91: Councillor J French attempted to meet with Cambs County Council Highways Department representatives on 15th September 2015 to discuss the finally approved LHI Initiative for 2016 / 2017. Unfortunately, no-one was available to speak to and the necessary application forms were forwarded on 16th September 2015.

Minute 92: March Twinning Association was provided with the contact details for Councillors Gowing and Skoulding on 8th September 2015.

General: The Assistant Town Clerk reported that the Clerk’s complaint to Cambs County Council, supported by ten March Town Councillors, regarding Councillor Steve Count had been disallowed “due to insufficient evidence to substantiate the allegations”. Since the Decision Notice is not confidential, anyone so interested is allowed to view it, but it would be preferable to wait until the Clerk returned from holiday.

 It was noted that County Councillor S Count had effectively called the March Town Council Clerk a liar with no reason to do so. This could have been simply resolved had he said sorry and that would have been the end of it.

Re Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 21st September 2015:

General: It was noted that the dates for the Planning Training for Town and Parish Councils which had been promised by Fenland District Council had still not been finalised. The Clerk had forwarded a reminder to them on 22nd September 2015, but definitive dates were still awaited.

**107 Zawiercie, Poland – Potential Twinning Request**

Geoff Wilkinson informed Councillors that a letter had been received from Inspector Andy

Sullivan in which the Mayor of the town of Zawiercie, which is situated in southern Poland,

requested that March Town Council consider twinning. Standing Orders were suspended and

Inspector Sullivan invited to comment.

Inspector Sullivan explained the background to the request and enquired as to the best way

forward. Following discussions, it was agreed that The Assistant Clerk would provide inspector

Sullivan with details of the Secretary of the March Twinning Association so that his experience

could be shared. Cllr French suggested that if a committee could be formed of interested

individuals then progress may be made. It would be up to the Committee to pursue the idea of

twinning. Inspector Sullivan will discuss with March Twinning Association and further with Cllr

Owen.

**108 Citizens Advice Rural Cambs – Request for Funding**

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Citizens Advice Rural

Cambs highlighting their financial plight.

March Town Council was thanked for the specific funding of £250 donated in April 2015 but

that, unless additional funding could be raised, services for the people of March would have to be

reduced.

It was noted that there had been a £250 underspend on the current years “specific donations” budget heading, so there was an availability of £250 if so required.

Following discussion all were in favour that the £250 requested should be awarded. It was agreed that The Assistant Clerk request more detail regarding the figures and timescale so that they could be taken into account prior to the forthcoming budget round.

It was agreed that payment would be made as part of the 2nd November 2015 cheque run.

**109 Flooding Update**

Trevor Watson’s update was circulated to Councillors at the end of last week, and its contents were noted. It was also noted that following recent heavy rainfall some problems had returned and the Assistant Clerk was asked to write expressing concern that problems had clearly not been solved.

**110 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.

**111 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen provided the following information:

1. A consultation had been launched which gives the public a opportunity to say where they think £1.8m savings should be made. Cllr Owen said that as there was no data provided with the questionnaires it would be very difficult for the public to measure the effects of their choices.
2. The Council may consider charging for planning pre-application consultations.

**112 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Councillor RF Skoulding ……………………………………….. 2nd November 2015.

Mayor of March.