**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 6th March 2017 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 NJ Harris

 CC Owen A Pugh

 MW Purser RF Skoulding

 Colonel NG Spencer MBE RE

 March British Legion

 Rebecca Roberts CCC Flood & Water Team

 Julia Beeden CCC Flood & Water Team

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Asst. Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public Nil

**162 Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**163 Presentation by Colonel NG Spencer MBE RE, March Town Remembrance Day Parade Marshall**

Colonel Spencer provided an update of the possible amended arrangements for March’s Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 12th November 2017.

In essence, it was proposed that the parade should start earlier (9.30am), followed by a shorter Church Service and then a full Service (including the two minutes silence) at the War Memorial at 11am.

Councillors unanimously agreed to support and approve these changes.

It was also agreed that hymn sheets should be provided for members of the public in a simple A4 format. These would be produced by the March Town Council office and distributed in a manner to be decided at a later date.

Following his presentation, Colonel Spencer was thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.30pm.

**164 Presentation by Rebecca Roberts and Julia Beeden, Senior Officers Sustainable Drainage, Flood and Water Team, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)**

Julia Beeden and Rebecca Roberts provided the details for setting up a Community Flood Action

Group within the town, and detailed the actions that would be needed to be taken to achieve that

goal.

The basic premise of their proposals required clear points of contact at a local level based around

a volunteer support group in the event of any flooding emergency.

A question and answer session ensued whereby Councillors were provided with greater

information as to the need for such a scheme.

It was stressed by the presenters that the minimum requirement of March Town Council was to

approve the idea in principle and provide them with the opportunity to utilise the MTC website

to advertise the scheme and put out a request for volunteers. In no way would it cost the Council

money, and the input of Councillors was discretionary.

Following this session, it was agreed that these matters would be discussed further following

Julia and Rebecca’s departure.

Following their presentation, Julia Beeden and Rebecca Roberts were thanked by the Mayor and

left the meeting at 8.15pm.

Following their departure, and considerable further discussion, the following was proposed by

Councillor Field:

“March Town Council supports the scheme in principle thus allowing the CCC Flood Team to

commence promoting a Volunteer Group within March”.

The Clerk repeated the above wording to ensure that everyone was content that the

proposition had been accurately recorded.

With the above having been confirmed, the proposal was seconded by Councillor George and

passed by a majority decision.

**166 Police Update**

No police were in attendance, but a written update from PCSO Thomas Horwood had been circulated to all Councillors on 28th February 2017.

**167 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/YR17/0127/F Mr Read & Mrs Hannen, 73 Knights End Road, March.

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

S/a.

Received: 23 February 2017.

Reply by: 14 March 2017.

Since he is a friend of the applicants, Councillor Field declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0139/F Mr David Mason, 42 Elwyndene Road, March.

Erection of 1no 2-storey 3-bed dwelling and 2no 1-storey 3-bed dwellings.

346 – 348 Creek Road, March.

Received: 24 February 2017.

Reply by: 14 February 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR16/1083/F **Revised Proposals**

 Revision is: Removal of the second floor and roof lights along with the reduction of the ridge height to measure 7.2 metres.

 Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling involving demolition of existing dwelling and formation of existing access and kerb at 29 Darthill Road, March..

Received: 24 February 2017.

Reply by: 6 March 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0143/F Mr C Spies, 98 Upwell Road, March.

Change of use of land to domestic garden (to extend the curtilage of the existing dwelling) involving the erection of a 1.95m high (max height) wall and a timber shed (retrospective).

S/a.

Received: 27 February 2017.

 Reply by: 15 March 2017.

Recommend approval.

**168 Public Participation**

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

**169 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 6th February 2017.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 20th February 2017.

**170 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 6th February 2017:

Minute 155: The Clerk informed Councillors that he had notified Cambridgeshire County Council of their agreement to the Gaul Road Proposed 40mph Speed Limit Order on 7th February 2017.

Minute 156: Dr Batul Dungarwalla was notified by e-mail on 7th February 2017 of the Council’s decision relating to Citizens Advice Bureau funding.

 It was noted that, to date, no feedback had been received.

**171 Nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2017 / 18**

It was proposed by Councillor Skoulding and seconded by Councillor Pugh that Councillor K French be nominated for the post of Mayor for 2017 / 18.

Councillor K French indicated her willingness to stand and such nomination was unanimously approved.

It was then proposed by Councillor K French and seconded by Councillor Pugh that Councillor J French be nominated for the post of Deputy Mayor for 2017 / 18.

Councillor J French indicated her willingness to stand and such nomination was unanimously approved.

**172 Grants and Donations**

The Clerk informed Councillors that £1,668.00p had already been expended from this year’s budget, leaving a further £332.00p available for distribution at this meeting.

Two applications for funding had been received as follows:

1. Name March Library (CCC).

Amount requested £200.00p.

Purpose To support the Summer Reading Challenge at March Library for children aged between 4 and 12 years.

1. Name Relate Cambridge.

Amount requested £500.00p.

Purpose To develop and support healthy relationships by helping couples, families, children and individuals to make relationships work better.

It was agreed that both applications satisfied the necessary criteria.

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

Cambs County Council £200.00p.

Relate Cambridge £132.00p.

**173 CCC (Various Streets, March) (Street Parking Places) (Variation No 1) Order 2000**

Councillors raised no objections to the introduction of a 10 metre stretch of “No Parking” on New Road to facilitate access to the land to the rear of 59 Elwyn Road, March.

**174 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.

**175 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen provided the following update:

1. A previous Selective Licensing Policy was withdrawn by Cabinet prior to going to Full Council. Possible amended ideas are being investigated.
2. Housing problems are being encountered with Circle Anglia.
3. Since the merger with Peterborough, problems are being encountered within the Planning Department.

**176 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

Councillor J French requested that thanks be officially recorded to the Clerk and Councillor Owen for all their efforts in progressing the development of Estover Playing Field.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.53pm

Councillor AR Donnelly…………………………………………….. 3rd April 2017.

Mayor of March.