**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 6th November 2017 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 CC Owen

 MW Purser RF Skoulding

 Brendan Arnold FDC Corporate Director

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Asst Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public One

**103 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Harris and Pugh.

**104**  **Police Update**

No police were in attendance but a written report from PCSO Thomas Horwood had been circulated to all Councillors on 30th October 2017.

**105 Presentation by Brendan Arnold, Fenland District Council Corporate Director**

Brendan Arnold introduced himself to March Town Councillors and stated that he was their

newly-appointed liaison officer at Fenland District Council should the need arise.

He also stated the following:

1. He lived locally and was happy to attend any meeting as and when requested.
2. The March Neighbourhood Plan had now been fully approved by Fenland District Council.

A short question and answer session ensued.

Following his presentation, Brendan Arnold was thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.22pm.

**106 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 also 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/YR17/0656/F Mr Watters, 69 West End, March.

 Erection of a machine and tack store and (retrospective) stable block at Willow Farm, Knights End Road, March.

 Received: 31 October 2017.

 Reply by: 14 November 2017.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0844/F Mrs L Hunter, 1 Hawthorne Grove, March.

 Erection of a 2-storey side extension with Juliet balcony to rear at 1 Hawthorne Grove, March.

 Application withdrawn.

Received: 23 October 2017.

 Withdrawal noted.

F/YR17/0969/F Mrs Simmons, 1 Regent Court, Darthill Road, March.

 Erection of a porch to front of existing flat involving the demolition of existing porch at 1 Regent Court, Darthill Road, March.

 Received: 18 October 2017.

 Reply by: 8 November 2017.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0972/F Mr J McGarry, Voyage Care Limited, Wall Island, Birmingham Road, Litchfield.

 Change of use from C2 (Residential Institution) to C3(B) (6-bed dwelling with care) at Chatting Independantly, 42A Wimblington Road, March.

 Received: 19 October 2017.

 Reply by: 9 November 2017.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0977/F Mr T Bedford, 6 Jobs Lane, March.

 Erection of a single-storey 2-bed dwelling and widening of existing vehicular access at land East of 6 Jobs Lane, March.

 Received: 19 October 2017.

 Reply by: 9 November 2017.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0995/F Mr T Gilks, 60 Upwell Road, March.

 Erection of a garage involving demolition of existing garage for existing dwelling at 60 Upwell Road, March.

 Received: 23 October 2017.

 Reply by: 13 November 2017.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR17/1003/A Prakash Mistry, Nottingham House, 3 Fulforth Street, Nottingham.

 Display of 5 x externally illuminated fascia signs and 2 x externally illuminated double-sided hanging signs at 41 Broad Street, March.

 Received: 25 October 2017.

 Reply by: 15 November 2017.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR17/1008/F Mr & Mrs Richmond, 105 Dartford Road, March.

Erection of a single-storey side / rear extension to existing dwelling at 105 Dartford Road, March.

 Received: 25 October 2017.

 Reply by: 15 November 2017.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR17/1019/F Mr McGarvie, JMC Construction, Halfpenny Toll Stables, Hook Road, March.

 Erection of 2 x 2-storey 2-bed dwellings at Land South of March Rifle Club, Upwell Road, March.

 Received: 30 October 2017.

 Reply by: 20 November 2017.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR17/1034/F Mr T Brook & Ms L Thomas, 117 Upwell Road, March.

Erection of a single-storey extension to the front and rear of the existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing conservatory at 117 Upwell Road, March.

Received: 2 November 2017.

Reply by: 23 November 2017.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR17/1035/CERTLU Mr Lewis Jackson, Mill Hill Farm, Land off Mill Hill Lane, March.

Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing); Change of use of land for the siting of a caravan for residential purposes at Caravan Jackson, Mill Hill Lane, March.

Received: 3 November 2017.

Reply by: 24 November 2017.

 Recommend approval.

F/YR17/1036/F Mr A Smith & Ms SM Allgood, 17 Jobs Lane, March.

Erection of 2 x single-storey 2-bed dwellings involving demolition of existing mobile home at 17 Jobs Lane, March.

Received: 2 November 2017.

Reply by: 23 November 2017.

 Recommend approval.

**107 Public Participation**

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

**108 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 2nd October 2017.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 16th October 2017.

Christmas Lights working Party Meeting of 16th October 2017.

**109 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 2nd October 2017:

Minute 97 / 83: The Premises Licenses required by March Town Council have now been applied for.

**110 City Road Toilets**

It was reported that the City Road toilets had closed for the winter on 30th September 2017

and would not re-open again, subject to decisions taken, until 1st April 2018.

The budgets for 2018 / 2019 were due to be discussed, and possibly agreed, on 4th December

2017 and, as such, it was necessary to discuss the future of this facility.

On occasions, complaints had been circulated on social media about the condition and

cleanliness of these toilets, although no direct complaints had been received in the Town Council

offices. It was noted that similar complaints had been made about the modern toilets in Broad

Street.

As such, either immediately or at some time in the very close future, it will be necessary for

Councillors to decide on one of the following options:

1. Maintain the toilets in their current condition and accept that complaints will, from time to time, be received.
2. Upgrade the toilets to a modern specification. This, however, will be very expensive and not necessarily improve the behaviour of certain users.
3. Close the toilets.

Following discussions, it was agreed that:

1. There was a general consensus that the toilets should remain open.
2. A new contract would be drawn up for the operatives stipulating the requirements of March Town Council.
3. If the contract was not acceptable to the current operatives, it should be put out to tender.
4. If such tenders came back at a prohibitive price, it would be necessary for the Clerk to revert to March Town Council for further guidance.

**111 Eastern Bypass**

Councillor J French stated that an eastern bypass had long been an aspiration for March to

alleviate the traffic problems within the town centre.

As such, she requested that Councillors backed her proposition for the Clerk to write to the

Elected Mayor (James Palmer) of the Combined Authority to request that a March eastern bypass

be included in any future area traffic management plans.

This proposition was unanimously supported, and the Clerk confirmed that a communication

would be made within the following two days.

**112** **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.

1. Councillor Gowing updated Councillors on two seminars he had attended.
2. Councillor J French confirmed that:
3. A considerable number of potholes within the town would be repaired in the near future and
4. Drain inspections were on-going, but now utilising more modern equipment.

**113 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen reported that:

1. The March Neighbourhood Plan has now been approved by Fenland District Council and was, in fact, commended by District Councillor Will Sutton.
2. Boundary changes within Fenland had now been agreed.

**114 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.22pm

Councillor K French ……………………………………….. 4th December 2017.

Mayor of March.