**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 7th August 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

ML George MEC Field

JW Gowing NJ Harris

CC Owen A Pugh

MW Purser

Town Clerk C Lemmon

Asst Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

Public One

**60 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Skoulding.

**61 Presentation by Brendan Arnold – Fenland District Council Chief Finance Officer and Corporate Director**

Unfortunately, Brendan Arnold was unable to attend this evenings meeting of March Town

Council and had forwarded his apologies to the Town Clerk earlier in the day.

He had been on leave last week and, although arrangements had been made with Jo Blackmore

in late June 2017, he had not been notified until todays date of his supposed attendance.

He would, however, be happy to attend any other meeting at a re-arranged date.

It was agreed that, due to the heavy schedules in September and October, he should be invited to

attend the 6th November 2017 Main Council Meeting.

**62 Police Update**

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

**63 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 his involvement in the building industry, Councillor Purser declared a personal interest and stated that he would not take part in any discussions relating to planning issues.

Councillors Court and Purser both 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/YR17/0407/F Mr & Mrs R Brown, 8 Knights End Road, March.

Erection of 2-storey 3-bed dwelling involving demolition of existing garage at Land North of 8 Knights End Road, March.

Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

The revision is: Access arrangements altered.

Received: 25 July 2017.

Reply by: 1 August 2017.

The Town Clerk advised Councillors that his wife had raised written objections to Fenland District Council regarding this application so, although he could detail the application, could not provide recommendations relating thereto.

Recommend refusal due to over-development of the site.

F/YR17/0452/F Mr & Mrs Dhillon, 2 Orchard Road, March.

Erection of a 2-storey side; single storey rear and side elevations and installation of a bay to front of existing dwelling and formation of new access with closure of existing access at 2 Orchard Road, March.

Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

The revision is: Revisions to bedroom 4 window on south and west elevations, hipped roof design to 2-storey side element.

Received: 17 July 2017.

Reply by: 31 July 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0491/F Mr & Mrs F Robertson, Oak House, 36 Station Road, March.

Erection of a first-storey side extension to existing dwelling at Oak House, 36 Station Road, March.

Application withdrawn.

Received: 20 July 2017.

Withdrawal noted.

F/YR17/0541/F Mr T Hussey, 38 Burrowmoor Road, March.

Erection of a part 2-storey, part single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling and insertion of window to existing first-floor side extension at 43 Upwell Road, March.

Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

The revision is: Additional information provided in respect of neighbouring extension / conservatory and boundary treatment.

Received: 20 July 2017.

Reply by: 3 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0587/F Mr S Gould, 18 Clare Road, Hartford, Huntingdon.

Erection of a single-storey 2-bed dwelling at Land North of 11 Noble Gardens, March.

Received: 18 July 2017.

Reply by: 8 August 2017.

Recommend refusal due to over-development of the site.

F/YR17/0598/F Mr G Litchfield, Charbel Properties Ltd, 55 Thorby Avenue, March.

Formation of hardstanding, works to access and demolition of existing outbuildings at Land South West of 386 Wisbech Road, March.

Received: 20 July 2017.

Reply by: 10 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0603/F Mr O Kirk, c/o Agent (Mr Andrew Hodgson).

Erection of a 2.4 metre high timber hoarding to site perimeter involving demolition of existing indoor market structures and buildings within a Conservation Area at Indoor Market, Acre Road, March.

Received: 20 July 2017.

Reply by: 10 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0607/F Mr & Mrs A Spendelow, 9 Shaftesbury Avenue, March.

Erection of a 2-storey side and rear extension to existing dwelling at 9 Shaftesbury Avenue, March.

Received: 24 July 2017.

Reply by: 14 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0621/VOC Mr & Mrs D McFadden, MHG Developments, Cedar Close, March.

Variation of Condition 10 to enable amendment to approved plans of planning permission F/YR14/0942/F (Erection of a 3 / 4 bed 2-storey dwelling) to alter doors and windows at Site of The Laurels, Elliott Road, March.

Received: 18 July 2017.

Reply by: 8 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0623/TRTPO Mr M Orbell, 1 Aldeby Close, March.

Works to 1 x Ash Tree covered by TPO 7/1972 at 1 Aldeby Close, March.

Received: 18 July 2017.

Reply by: 8 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0631/F March Educational Foundation, 2a Dartford Road, March.

Change of use of existing Powerhouse Church to 2 x 2-storey 2-bed dwellings involving the erection of a first-floor extension at Powerhouse Church, City Road, March.

Received: 25 July 2017.

Reply by: 15 August 2017.

Since they both sit on March Educational Foundation, Councillors Owen and Field declared prejudicial interests and left the room whilst this application was being discussed.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0638/O Mr & Mrs S Allen, 1 Orchard Road South, March.

Erection of a dwelling (Outline application with all matters reserved) at Land West of 10 St Peters Road, March.

Received: 24 July 2017.

Reply by: 14 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0648/F Mr N Ebbage, 65 Robingoodfellows Lane, March.

Installation of external wall insulation (render) to front, rear and side elevations of 65 Robingoodfellows Lane, March.

Received: 25 July 2017.

Reply by: 15 August 2017.

Recommend approval subject to adequate disability access being maintained between properties.

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

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

Received: 26 July 2017.

Reply by: 16 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0661/F Mr A Eddington, 1 Foxs Bungalow, Elliott Road, March.

Erection of a single-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling at 1 Foxs Bungalow, Elliott Road, March.

Received: 27 July 2017.

Reply by: 17 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0663/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: 27 July 2017.

Reply by: 17 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/YR17/0673/F Mr & Mrs Bayes, Clevely Farm, Burrowmoor Road, March.

Erection of a cattle shed (retrospective) at Clevely Farm, Burrowmoor Road, March,

Received: 1 August 2017.

Reply by: 22 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

F/2009/17/CC Cambridgeshire County Council.

Development to extend school to increase capacity from a 3 to a 4 form entry school including five extensions to provide in total four classrooms together with group rooms, toilets, corridors, kitchen and entrance lobbies with office and associated facilities including parking provision and covered cycle provision and new vehicle and pedestrian access point to facilitate in and out access at Weswood Junior School, Maple Grove, March.

Received: 19 July 2017.

Reply by: 9 August 2017.

Since they are both County Councillors, Councillors J French and Gowing declared personal interests and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

Similarly, since he is a governor of the school, Councillor Field declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.

Recommend approval.

SNN/17/0073 Street Naming re Land East of Davern Workwear, Elliott Road, March.

The following street name has been put forward: Osprey Place.

Following discussions, it was agreed that March Town Council preferred the following name: Combine Place.

F/YR17/0566/F Miss M Cox, 10 Robingoodfellows Lane, March.

Erection of single garage to side of existing dwelling at 10 Robingoodfellows Lane March.

Application Withdrawn.

Received: 7 August 2017.

Withdrawal noted.

F/YR17/0694/F Mr P Burke, Force One Ltd, 24 Longhill Road, March.

Change of use of 4-bed dwelling (C3) to office in association with existing B1, B2, B8 and haulage use and erection of a front extension link to existing office at 24 Longhill Road, March.

Received: 4 August 2017.

Reply by: 25 August 2017.

Recommend approval.

**64 Public Participation**

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

**65 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 3rd July 2017.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 17th July 2017.

Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 17th July 2017.

**66 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 3rd July 2017:

Minute 52: Fenland District Council were advised on 4th July 2017 that March Town Council wished to renew the lease relating to City Road Toilets on the terms stated.

**67 Paperless Planning Notifications**

The Clerk informed Councillors that this system had now been operating for over five weeks. The downside of the system was that March Town Council currently only had printing facilities for A4 size and, if Councillors required bigger copies, a larger photocopier / printer would have to be acquired. If they were content with the current scenario, no additional expenditure would need to be incurred.

Following lengthy discussions, it was agreed that:

1. The Clerk should ascertain the costs of providing improved printing facilities.
2. Councillor Pugh would bring a lap-top (and associated connections) to the next meeting to demonstrate how plans could be projected onto a screen.

**68 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) Consultation**

It was noted that this consultation document had been circulated to all Councillors on 18th July

2017.

Councillor Owen highlighted concerns relating to excessive public drinking in the following

locations:

1. The bus shelter adjacent to the Broad Street public toilets.
2. East of March Library in the area known as “The Hump”.
3. The bandstand located in West End Park.

Following discussions, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Fenland District Council to request that Public Space Protection Orders be introduced in the above three areas.

**69 External Audit Report re Year Ending 31st March 2017**

The Clerk informed Councillors that the External Auditors Report stated the following:

“In our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met”.

**70 Proposed Japanese Visit of 4th September 2017**

Councillor Field detailed the proposed visit planned by a group of six Japanese academics to

coincide with the 4th September 2017 Main Council Meeting.

Since Councillor Field was unable to accompany the group on a tour of March during the day

of 4th September 2017, Councillor George, with the possible assistance of Jennifer Lawler

(Chairperson of The March Society), agreed to undertake the task. Suggested places to visit

included the following:

Fire Station, Drainage Board Offices, Allotment Sites, Churches, Golf Club, Town Hall,

Museum, Public Toilets, Old Peoples Homes, Leisure Centre and Library.

It was agreed that Councillor George and Jennifer Lawler would confirm the most suitable

programme and Councillor Field would be notified accordingly.

The following tasks were also allocated:

1. Councillors Field, George and Court to accept the invitation of the Japanese visitors to join them for an evening meal.
2. Councillor J French to organize the purchase of a gift with a budget of £100.00p. This would possibly be a night-time picture of the Town Hall.
3. Councillor Field to contact the visitors to confirm arrangements.

**71** **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.

Councillor J French also reported the following:  
 A. An update regarding possible funding for junction improvements in March – only 30% of the application relates to the March schemes.

B. Creek Road, St Johns Road and Wigstones Road are due to be re-surfaced in the next few weeks. Considerable disruption will be encountered due to the necessary road closures that will be utilised during such works.

Discussions also took place regarding previously-investigated Norwood Road traffic-calming schemes and County Councillor allowances.

**72 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen stated that there was nothing to report other than the problems being encountered in Eastwood Cemetery.

**73 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 ……………………………………….. 4th September 2017.

Mayor of March.