

## MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

<b>Present</b>	Councillor	R Skoulding K French	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	S Court J French R Johnson G Tustin	AR Donnelly R Jack MW Purser R White
	FDC Portfolio Holder for Planning		Cllr. D Laws
	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk		C Lemmon GSD Wilkinson
	Public		One

### **96 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Connor and Goundry.

### **97 Fenland Local Plan - Presentation by Councillor Dee Laws, Fenland District Council Portfolio Holder for Planning**

Councillor Dee Laws introduced herself to March Town Councillors and provided the following information relating to the Fenland Local Plan:

- a) We are at the first stage in a lengthy process.
- b) No decisions have yet been taken.
- c) The consultation process is now underway and all views will be welcomed.
- d) All opportunities for growth will be explored, as will all areas such as green spaces needing to be protected.
- e) All development land will be investigated as well as the methods needed to achieve viable proposals.
- f) Fenland needs to build 550 homes per annum on average to achieve the required national targets. This equates to 11,000 homes by 2040.
- g) It will be essential to provide the necessary infrastructure throughout the area to support this development.
- h) Extensively advertising the consultation process is highly recommended to ensure that the community at large becomes fully involved.
- i) It is anticipated that the Fenland Local Plan will be fully adopted by March 2022.

A question and answer session then ensued to allow all Councillors the opportunity to raise any relevant queries.

During this time, it was established that the Fenland Local Plan would take the March Neighbourhood Plan fully into consideration.

Following the completion of her presentation at 8.00pm, Councillor Dee Laws was thanked by the Mayor but remained to witness the remainder of the meeting.

## 98 Police Update

No police were in attendance, but a written update had been circulated on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

## 99 Planning Applications

Because she is the Fenland District Council Portfolio Holder for Planning and because of her commitment to Paragraph 28 of the Fenland District Council Code of Conduct, Councillor Dee Laws declared a personal interest and stated that she would listen to all discussions relating to planning but would take no part in such discussions.

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 Purser and Skoulding left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item. Councillor J French declared that she had been appointed as a substitute to Fenland District Council (FDC) Planning Committee. However, to ensure the Town Council has an appropriate level of expertise and experience she will not take up the FDC post until Town Councillors have had planning training.

It was agreed that one additional planning application would be discussed.

Councillor K French took the chair for this one agenda item only.

*Application  
Number*

*Name and address of applicant, details of application,  
and recommendation of March Town Council*

F/YR19/0650/F

Mr J Scott, c/o 56 Oakleigh Drive, Orton Longueville,  
Peterborough.  
Erection of 2 x dwellings (2 x 2-storey 3-bed) involving  
demolition of garage at Land North West of 117 Norwood  
Road, March.  
Application withdrawn.  
Received: 16 September 2019.  
Withdrawal noted.

F/YR19/0798/F

Mrs Lette Bower, Winston Place, Coleseed Road, March.  
Change of use of land to gypsy and traveller residential use  
including the siting of 1 x static caravan and storage of 1 x  
touring caravan, creation of a utility room and wash room to  
existing barn and widening of the access (part retrospective) at  
Land South of Railway Line, Coleseed Road, March.  
Received: 18 September 2019.  
Reply by: 9 October 2019.  
Recommend refusal. Site situated in flood zone 3.

- F/YR19/0800/F Mr & Mrs Lewis, 31 Acacia Grove, March.  
Erection of a single-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling involving demolition of existing conservatory at 31 Acacia Grove, March.  
Received: 20 September 2019.  
Reply by: 11 October 2019.  
Recommend approval.
- F/YR19/0801/F Mrs K Hubbard, 67A Elwyn Road, March.  
Erect 1 x dwelling (single-storey, 2-bed) at Land East of 67A Elwyn Road, March.  
Received: 23 September 2019.  
Reply by: 14 October 2019.  
Recommend approval.
- F/YR19/0820/F Mr Rowbotham, 11a Badgeney Road, March.  
Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey, 3-bed) and 1.8m high close boarded fence at Land North of 68 Upwell Road, March.  
Received: 1 October 2019.  
Reply by: 22 October 2019.  
Recommend approval.
- F/YR19/0832/F Mr Horwood & Ms Cleere, The Bungalow, 340 Wisbech Road, March.  
Erect 1 x dwelling (single-storey, 4-bed and detached garage) involving demolition of existing dwelling and widening of existing access and the temporary siting of a caravan (during construction)(part retrospective) at The Bungalow, 340 Wisbech Road, Westry, March.  
Received: 4 October 2019.  
Reply by: 25 October 2019.  
Recommend approval.

## **100 Public Participation**

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

## **101 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:  
Main Council Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019.  
Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.  
Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

## **102                   Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019:

Minute 83:               It was agreed that Phil Clark should not be invited to any future meetings.

Minute 90:               Copies of the Revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have now been produced and were circulated at the meeting.

Re Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019:

Since Councillor Johnson is unable to fill the position, Councillor Tustin agreed to become a member of this Sub-Committee.

## **103                   Growing Fenland Report**

Councillor J French provided details of the Growing Fenland Report as circulated to all Councillors earlier in the day.

Following a short discussion relating thereto, all Councillors were requested to read the documents carefully and forward any concerns to Councillor J French by the end of the week.

## **104                   Climate Emergency Action**

Councillor Johnson gave a brief introduction to climate change and the problems associated therewith.

In particular, she raised points concerning the following:

- a) Planting trees.
- b) Litter picking.
- c) Recycling.
- d) Pollution.

It was agreed that all Councillors should be encouraged to do all they could to advance awareness within the community.

## **105                   Community Speedwatch Update**

Councillor Jack informed Councillors that today was the beginning of Community Speedwatch Week.

He agreed to liaise with other Councillors and third parties to establish Speedwatch rotas within town to cover certain days later in the week.

## **106                   Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

Councillor J French stated that she had nothing to report.

However, Councillor Skoulding thanked her for ensuring that all the gullies in town had been cleared by Cambridgeshire County Council staff following the recent bad weather.

**107 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Purser reported that works in West End Park had now been completed and progress was being made with the Growing Fenland Report.

**108 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Councillor RF Skoulding ..... 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.  
Mayor of March.