**MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

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

 CC Owen A Pugh

 MW Purser

 Police Insp Will Davis

 Sgt Richard Lugg

Emily Gutteridge (Outreach Worker – Office of Police and Crime Commissioner)

 Town Clerk C Lemmon

 Assistant Town Clerk GSD Wilkinson

 Public Two

**82 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Harris.

**83 Police Update**

Insp Will Davis, who has been in post since May 2015, outlined the manner in which the police service is currently operating and the further changes that may be expected.

With a further £20,000,000 budget cuts imposed, further back-room staff reductions are expected. He confirmed that no front-line staff would be made redundant, but anticipated that recruitment would be curtailed. Additionally, greater emphasis is now being placed on partnership working in an attempt to dissuade people away from a life of crime.

The main priority for police resources is now the protection of the vulnerable so, as a consequence, community policing will be reduced. This is likely to mean less availability of staff to enforce such issues as parking, speeding and other perceived minor nuisances.

In future, the police will not attend all Council meetings but, instead, will forward the Clerk a monthly summary of local crime statistics to circulate to all Councillors. Additionally, the Clerk can liaise directly with Sgt Lugg to raise any concerns or resolve any problems that Councillors may have. If any major issues arise, the police would then attend a meeting in person to address that particular area of concern.

Emily Gutteridge, the newly-appointed Outreach Worker (Peterborough & Fenland) to the Police and Crime Commissioners Office, introduced herself and stated that she would be attending another meeting in the future to fully detail her role.

Following their presentation, Insp Will Davis, Sgt Richard Lugg and Emily Gutteridge were thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 7.48pm.

**84 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 two 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/YR15/0034/F Withdrawn.

Erection of 2 x 47.5m (tip height) wind turbines at Whitemoor Sidings, Hundred Road, March.

Received: 28 August 2015.

 Withdrawal noted.

F/YR15/0389/F Withdrawn.

Installation of external wall insulation to existing dwelling at 9 Acacia Grove, March.

Received: 18 August 2015.

Withdrawal noted.

F/YR15/0516/F Withdrawn.

Erection of part 2-storey/single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of detached garage at 6 Gordon Avenue, March.

Received: 18 August 2015.

Withdrawal noted.

F/YR15/0569/F Withdrawn.

Erection of a first-floor side and single-storey rear extensions to existing dwelling at 7 Maple Grove, March.

Received: 20 August 2015.

 Withdrawal noted.

F/YR15/0668/O St Johns College, Cambridge.

Outline with one matter committed detailed as access in relation to 95no dwellings (max) with associated landscaping, drainage and open spaces.

Land North Of 75 – 127 Estover Road, March.

Received: 19 August 2015.

Reply By: 7 September 2015.

 Strongly recommend refusal for the following reasons:

1. Strong local opposition.
2. The FDC Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2013 highlights problems within this area which have not yet been addressed. These include those relating to foul waste disposal.
3. There are already severe road congestion problems in this area without the imposition of yet more traffic. Again, this is a major infrastructure problem.
4. March is already struggling with doctors, dentists and schooling shortages.
5. Development in this area is completely contrary to the requirements specified in the emerging March Neighbourhood Plan.

F/YR15/0677/F Mr Raymond Grint, 16 Wisbech Road, March

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

S/a.

Received: 21 August 2015.

Reply By: 7 September 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0678/F Mr P Smith, 35 Robingoodfellows Lane, March

Installation of external wall insulation to front of existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 21 August 2015.

Reply By: 7 September 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0691/F Mr Dennis Jordan, 17 Deerfield Road, March.

Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission F/YR13/0141/F relating to the continuation of the use of the site as a Christian Centre.

March Evangelical Fellowship Christian Centre, Upwell Road, March.

Received: 24 August 2015.

Reply By: 10 September 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0692/F Mr M Millinson, County Road, March.

Erection of a single-storey building for use as a pre-school nursery.

All Saints Interchurch VA Primary School, County Road, March.

Received: 24 August 2015.

Reply By: 10 September 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0696/O Mr & Mrs Smith Limited, 3 Meadowlands, Burwell,

Erection of 45 x 2/3-storey dwellings with garages or parking comprising of 9 x 4-bed, 15 x 3-bed, 8 x 2-bed and 13 x 1-bed (Outline with matters in respect of access, appearance, layout and scale) involving demolition of former depot building.

Former Highways Depot, Queens Street, March.

Received: 1 September 2015.

Reply By: 17 September 2015.

Recommend refusal due to over-development and the problems associated with access, egress and drainage.

F/YR15/0705/F Mr M Hayden, Old School House, Dartford Road, March.

Erection of a 2-storey building for use as offices.

Land North Of Mill Hill Garage, Wimblington Road, March.

Received: 28 August 2015.

Reply By: 14 September 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0715/F St Lawrence Halls Farms Limited, Ilketshall Hall, Ilketshall St Lawrence, Beccles.

 Erection of a single-storey front extension; installation of external wall insulation and replacement roof involving removal of chimney to existing dwelling, involving demolition of existing outbuilding.

 Hook Drove Bungalow, Hook Drove, Wimblington.

Received: 1 September 2015.

Reply By: 17 September 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0724/F Mr & Mrs N Pooley, Holmefields, Binnimoor Road, March.

 Erection of a single-storey side extension and front porch to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing sunroom and installation of a new foul drainage disposal system.

 S/a.

Received: 1 September 2015.

Reply By: 18 September 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0720/F Mr R Lawrence, 57 Robingoodfellows Lane, March.

Installation of external wall insulation to existing dwelling.

S/a.

Received: 3 September 2015.

Reply By: 22 September 2015.

Recommend approval.

F/YR15/0726/F Mr D Rimmer, James Hall, Parsons Green, St Ives.

Erection of 9 dwellings comprising 2 x 1-bed flats, 2 x 3-storey 3-bed, 3 x 2-storey 3-bed and 2 x 2-storey 3-bed and 2 x 2-storey 2-bed dwellings.

Land South Of Creek Road, Fronting Lambs Place, March.

Received: 3 September 2015.

Reply By: 22 September 2015.

Recommend approval subject to adequate access and egress.

**85 Public Participation**

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

**86 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Council Meeting of 3rd August 2015.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 17th August 2015.

Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 17th August 2015.

**87 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 3rd August 2015:

Minute 69: It was noted that a Police report had, in fact, been forwarded to the office prior to the last meeting. However, it had been forwarded to Geoff’s e-mail address after the office had closed.

Minute 73 / 59 / 43 / 35: The Clerk reported that:

1. The lease from Cambs County Council has still not been signed due to their intransigence and previous ambiguous requests. However, completion is anticipated imminently subject to the Mayor signing a legal sealed document, on behalf of March Town Council, confirming that March Town Council will provide £100K funding to Estover Playing Field 2015 CIC. This document has been approved by Fraser Dawbarns. Permission was duly granted for the Mayor to undertake such task.

Also, Fenland District Council has to sign a similar document confirming its commitment to the Trust.

1. A public meeting will be called as soon as this has taken place.

Minute 73 / 59 / General: The illumination of Britannia is still awaited, but the correct materials are now on order.

Minute 73 / 64: We are still awaiting budget figures from Matt Pickering in respect of the Wimblington Road replacement streetlights.

Minute 74: An appointment has been arranged for Councillor J French on 15th September 2015 to discuss the finally approved LHI Initiative for 2016 / 2017.

General: Councillor Owen reported that the previously agreed 2015 / 2016 Local Highway Improvement Scheme project for traffic calming in Norwood Road and Hundred Road was now being queried. Traffic data compiled in July 2015 did not support the application and, as such, March Town Council was being requested to consider its position. It was agreed that the Clerk should notify the Local Projects Team that the proposal be dropped.

Re Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 17th August 2015:

It was noted that the bag-packing at Sainsbury’s on 5th September 2015 had raised £630.00p.

**88 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11**

Councillor Purser reported that Queen Elizabeth 11 will become this country’s longest serving

Monarch on 9th September 2015.

The Palace is not holding any official celebrations to mark this event but will, instead, be

marking the occasion of her 90th birthday on 21st April 2016.

It was agreed that March Town Council should become involved, if possible, with any

recognized national planned events at that time.

Councillor Purser agreed to investigate further.

**89 Grants and Donations**

Before discussions commenced, the Clerk highlighted the current financial situation within this

budget heading as follows:

2015 / 2016 sundry donations budget £2,000

Add in (if required) underspend on specific donations budget £ 250

Revised budget £2,250

It was noted that all or part of the above figure could be expended but, in the event that the total

amount was spent, there would be no further availability for the remainder of this financial year.

The four applications were as follows:

Applicant EACH.

Amount Requested Unspecified (say £500).

Purpose of Application To support the important work undertaken by this local hospice.

Applicant Fenland Sparta Amateur Boxing Club.

Amount Requested £500 to £1,000.

Purpose of Application To provide equipment for this high-achieving local club.

Applicant The National Service (RAF) Association, Fenland Branch.

Amount Requested £250.

Purpose of Application To pay for expenses incurred in operating this association.

Applicant March Lions.

Amount Requested £250.

Purpose of Application To replace the batteries on their fund-raising “Father Christmas” sleigh.

It was noted that all applicants met the necessary criteria and each one could be supported at a

total cost of £1,500 provided we only granted £500 to Fenland Sparta Amateur Boxing Club.

It was proposed by Councillor Owen and seconded by Councillor J French, with all in favour,

that awards be made as follows:

EACH £500.

Fenland Sparta ABA £500.

The National Service (RAF) Association, Fenland Branch £250.

March Lions £250.

**90 Community Rail Partnership**

Following a short presentation by Councillor Owen, two points were unanimously agreed:

1. March Town Council supports the proposals outlined in the July 2015 Consultation Document entitled “Community Rail Service Designation: Hereward Line (Peterborough – Ely)”.
2. March Town Council supports the recommendations of The Friends of March Railway Station in relation to the repainting of March Railway Station. That is, that the colour scheme should be green and yellow.

**91 Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2016 / 17**

The suggestions previously discussed were discarded and, in their place, it was agreed to propose that two flashing “Children Crossing” warning signs be installed in Station Road in the vicinity of the “pinch-point” adjacent to St John’s Church.

It was agreed that the Clerk should complete the application forms accordingly and that March Town Council would offer a £2,000 contribution towards such scheme.

**92 March Twinning Association**

A letter received from Andrew Clarke requested that a member of March Town Council be appointed to the March Twinning Association Committee. In addition, it was suggested that the Mayor of March should also become an ex-officio member of such Committee.

It was agreed that Councillor Gowing should be appointed as the Council’s Committee member and that the Mayor of each year should be an ex-officio member.

**93 Flooding Update**

Trevor Watson’s update was circulated to Councillors on 1st September 2015, and its contents were noted.

It was agreed that this document had become a very useful source of information.

**94 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.

**95 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor Owen had no update to provide.

**96 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Councillor RF Skoulding ……………………………………….. 5th October 2015.

Mayor of March.