

## MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 held via “Zoom” commencing at 7.15pm.

<b>Present</b>	Councillor	K French R Jack	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	SR Court CK Elkin R Johnson RF Skoulding RW White	AR Donnelly J French MW Purser G Tustin
	County Councillor		J Gowing
	Town Clerk Asst. Town Clerk		C Lemmon GSD Wilkinson

Public / Press No members of the public or press (although it was offered within the agenda notice) had requested permission to access the MTC “Zoom” group to witness proceedings.

To allow the meeting to take place via “Zoom”, and as agreed at the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 Main Council Meeting, Standing Orders are suspended until such time as the coronavirus epidemic abates.

### **141 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Connor.

### **142 Police Update**

No police were in attendance but a written report had been circulated on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### **143 Planning Applications**

Because of their positions on the Fenland District Council Planning and Development Committee and their commitment to Paragraph 28 of the Fenland District Council Code of Conduct, Councillors Connor and J French declare a permanent personal interest and take no part in 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.

The afore-mentioned Councillors remained visible during this agenda item but all other members observed that their microphones were muted for the entire time.

It was agreed that no additional planning applications would be discussed.

*Application  
Number*

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

F/YR21/0035/F

Mr Jason Walker, 161A Creek Road, March.  
Erect a dwelling (2-storey, 4-bed) with integral garage at Land  
South East of 161B Creek Road, March.  
Received: 19 January 2021.  
Reply by: 9 February 2021.  
Recommend approval.

F/YR21/0045/F

Mr Barber, 17 Grange Road, Woodlands, Doncaster.  
Erect a dwelling (2-storey, 3-bed) involving demolition of  
existing dwelling at Sedgville, 17 Shaftesbury Avenue, March.  
Received: 20 January 2021.  
Reply by: 10 February 2021.  
Recommend approval.

#### **144 Public Participation**

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

#### **145 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed:

Main Council Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Unlike the procedure normally adopted whereby the Mayor immediately endorses the minutes, it was agreed that the Clerk should sign the minutes on her behalf.

#### **146 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021:

Minute 134: The Clerk reported that he had forwarded the Precept Form to Fenland District Council (by email and hard copy) on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Minute 135: Flooding updates:

- a) To date 1,000 sand bags have been purchased by March Town Council, and enough sand to fill them has been donated by a local business.
- b) 50 filled and 100 unfilled sand bags remain in stock, with 850 having been distributed.
- c) Councillor Purser informed the meeting that he had storage space available if needed to hold the unused stock.
- d) All persons who helped during the recent flooding crisis were thanked for their efforts.
- e) It was reiterated that some of the reasons for the recent flooding issues were caused by Anglian Water turning off drainage pumps,

some farmers not maintaining their dykes, and rivers & drains not being adequately dredged.

- f) In due course, it was intimated that a Floodwatch Team (mainly manned by volunteer members of the community) could be established.

Minute 136: Cambridgeshire County Council is not now providing sand bags at strategic locations within the town as previously promised.

#### **147 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

The Clerk reported that all email updates are being circulated on a daily basis.

Councillors J French and Gowing then reported as follows:

- a) Several roads within town are due for re-surfacing in the near future.
- b) A Tree and Woodlands Strategy is being developed and further details will be advised in due course.

#### **148 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor J French reported as follows:

- a) Additional Grant Funding has been received from Central Government to support local businesses affected by the latest Covid lockdown. This is being distributed as quickly as possible in accordance with the stipulated criteria.
- b) An assistance package has been designed for local taxi firms to enable them to operate in the safest possible way.
- c) The proposed Broad Street / High Street Scheme has been reviewed and £2,000,000 funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has been confirmed.

It was reiterated that due regard must be paid to the concerns of March Town Council's Christmas Lighting Committee within this locality and the adverse financial impact the scheme could have thereon if not adequately addressed.

#### **149 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Councillor K French .....  
Mayor of March.

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.