

## **MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 held via “Zoom” commencing at 7.15pm.

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

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.

### **36 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Connor and Court.

### **37 Police Update**

No police were in attendance and no written report had been received.

### **38 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 Connor declares a permanent personal interest and takes 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 two 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 one additional planning application would be discussed.

*Application  
Number*

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

F/YR20/0204/F

Mr R Munden, 15A Richmond Avenue, March.  
Erection of a dwelling (2-storey 2-bed) involving demolition of existing commercial buildings within a Conservation Area at Land West of 81 to 83 High Street, Fronting Chapel Street, March.  
Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above. The revision is: Scheme revised following site survey, amended brick / mortar, amended block paving and parking area, details of boundary walls provided.  
Received: 20 May 2020.  
Reply by: 3 June 2020.  
Recommend approval.

F/YR20/0217/F

Mr A Vawser, 161 Creek Road, March.  
Change of use of site of former coal yard (sui generis) to a log storage yard including the formation of bunds, installation of 2 x lighting / CCTV masts, erection of 2.4m high steel mesh fencing and the siting of 3 x containers (retrospective) at Land at Vawsers Coal Yard, Creek Road, March.  
Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above. The revision is: 2 x additional containers to be sited (and details provided), statement submitted regarding traffic movements, details of CCTV / lighting provided and response to Network Rail consultation comments submitted.  
Received: 20 May 2020.  
Reply by: 3 June 2020.  
Recommend approval.

F/YR20/0390/F

Mr Ben Saxby, MJS Investments (March) Ltd., MJS House, 425 Wisbech Road, Westry, March.  
Erect a storage / workshop building at MJS House, 425 Wisbech Road, Westry, March.  
Received: 12 May 2020.  
Reply by: 2 June 2020.  
Because she is the Chairman of NECCA and NECCA has its offices based in MJS House, Councillor J French declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.  
Recommend approval.

- F/YR20/0400/F Mr Marc Welcher, 11 Stonecross Way, March.  
Erect a fence and gate (1.2m max) to front boundary and re-surface driveway of existing dwelling at 11 Stonecross Way, March.  
Received: 13 May 2020.  
Reply by: 3 June 2020.  
Because she is a friend of the applicant, Councillor Johnson declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.  
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0404/VOC Mr Michael Durant, Lodge House Limited, 2 Clifton House, March.  
Variation of condition 2 (materials), removal of condition 3 (timber windows), and variation of condition 7 (driveway scheme) condition 9 (external lighting) and condition 10 (list of approved plans) of planning permission F/YR19/0251/F (Erection of 2 x 3-storey 5-bed and 1 x 4-bed 2-storey [with basement] dwellings with garages) to enable changes to the house designs (including removal of basement for Plot 3) and undertake the pre-commencement conditions at Land West of 9 Church Street, March.  
Received: 14 May 2020.  
Reply by: 4 June 2020.  
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0418/O Mr John Cookson, Bottom Hakes Farmhouse, Hakes Drove, West Fen, March.  
Erect 1 x dwelling (outline application with all matters reserved) involving demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings at Bottom Hakes Farmhouse, Hakes Drove, West Fen, March.  
Received: 19 May 2020.  
Reply by: 9 June 2020.  
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0425/F Mr Wales, 24 Hunters Chase, March.  
Erect a single-storey side extension to existing dwelling at 24 Hunters Chase, March.  
Received: 20 May 2020.  
Reply by: 10 June 2020.  
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0434/F Mr Monger, 296 Creek Road, March.  
Erect a single-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling involving demolition of existing conservatory at 296 Creek Road, March.  
Received: 29 May 2020.  
Reply by: 19 June 2020.  
Recommend approval.

### **39 Public Participation**

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

### **40 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed:  
Annual Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

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.

### **41 Matters Arising**

Re Annual Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020:

Minute 30: It was reported that a letter had been forwarded to Lloyds Bank on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 requesting the necessary paperwork to amend signatures on the various accounts. Subsequently, such paperwork has been completed and the bulk of it returned to Lloyds Bank on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

General: The Mayor reported that discussions are ongoing regarding the replacement of the Deputy Mayors Chain. Once prices are received, a suitable purchase will be made.

### **42 Memorial – Past Councillor Owen**

Councillors discussed a suitable memorial in honour of past Councillor Christopher Charles (Kit) Owen. He had been Mayor of March on six separate occasions and a Councillor for over forty years.

A memorial service had been mooted with his family for July 2020, at which time they would have returned to this country for a holiday from their home in the USA. Doubts were expressed as to whether there would be a sufficient reduction in lockdown measures to enable a reasonably large gathering to take place at that time. However, due to various travel plans having being changed, it now appears likely that the earliest possible date that the family could be present would be September or October 2020.

Tentative plans could be discussed, but it was felt that too long a period of time may have elapsed at that stage to retain the relevance of the event. In this respect, it was agreed that the Town Council would support any event organised by the family but would not take on the task of fully organising a memorial service itself.

However, it was agreed that a memorial bench should be purchased and located at the Estover sports field with the approval of the current Directors of Estover Playing Field 2015 CIC. To this end, it was agreed that the Clerk should be provided with a budget of £1,000 to make the necessary purchase and provide for the installation thereof.

#### **43 Grants and Donations**

The Town Clerk advised Councillors that £2,000 had been included in the 2020 / 2021 budget for this agenda item.

Councillors could determine whether this amount should be viewed as £500 per quarter or a lump sum to be spent as and when required.

Three applications for funding had been received as follows:

Name: Cambs County Council.  
Amount requested: £250 - £500  
Details of project: To support the Summer Reading Challenge at March Library.

Name: Magpas Air Ambulance.  
Amount requested: £500  
Details of project: To support the running costs of this life-saving organization.

Name: Relate Cambridge.  
Amount requested: £500  
Details of project: To support the provision of specialist counselling support for local residents.

It was agreed that all the applications met the necessary criteria and, following discussions, it was unanimously agreed to award the following amounts:

Cambs County Council	£500
Magpas Air Ambulance	£500
Relate Cambridge	£500

#### **44 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

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

Councillor Steve Count, the Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, then reported as follows:

- a) He thanked all who had volunteered and helped during the coronavirus epidemic.
- b) Recycling centres across Cambridgeshire had reopened recently with socially-distanced safeguarding measures in place.
- c) Future initiatives were detailed including the opening of outdoor markets, schools and car showrooms. Further unlocking would take place over the course of the next few weeks, although it was essential for everyone to observe all precautions and recommendations.
- d) Contrary to press reports, coronavirus is decreasing in Fenland.
- e) There were currently 18,000 shielded people within Cambridgeshire requiring varying levels of support.
- f) The March Area Transport Strategy consultation is now underway.

March Town Councillors thanked Steve Count for his attendance during this extremely busy period.

**45 Fenland District Council Update**

Councillor J French reported that:

- a) Officers had been busy processing and distributing the various Government business grants.
- b) There were currently many tasks and initiatives in process, and these will be reported in detail as and when they reach fruition.

**46 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Councillor K French ..... 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020.  
Mayor of March.