

# MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 6th March 2023 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

<b>Present</b>	Councillor	K French MW Purser	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	DW Connor J French RF Skoulding	SR Court R Johnson
	Town Clerk		S Lemmon
	Public		1

## 171 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Donnelly, Elkin, Jack, Tustin and White and County Councillor Gowing.

## 172 CCC 20mph Speed Limit Applications

March Town Council was advised last week that CCC's new 20mph process scheme opened on 27 February 2023. The deadline for new applications is 30 April at 17:00. Cllr J French, who will be attending a CCC Transport Committee meeting on 7 March, advised that CCC were proposing to impose 20mph limits across the whole of March. Currently there were 20mph limits in place around schools. Following lengthy discussions about enforcement of *any* speeding restrictions, Cllr K French, seconded by Cllr Skoulding, proposed that 20mph limits be limited to schools only, and not March-wide. The motion was carried. Cllrs Court & Johnson voted against, preferring to see a town-wide 20mph speed limit.

## 173 Police Update

There have been no further Police Liaison meetings. A meeting with the new Sergeant, Chris Arnold, was hoped to be arranged for the end of the month.

## 174 Planning Applications

Because of their position 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, J French and Purser declare a permanent personal interest and take no part in discussions relating to planning matters.

It is also noted that, due to his involvement in the building industry, Councillor Skoulding does not take part in any discussions relating to planning issues.

It was agreed that 1 (one) additional planning application would be considered.

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR23/0118/F	Mr Ali Boyraz, 91 High Street, March. Erect a 3-storey building comprising of 2 x commercial units (Class E) and 7 x dwellings (4 x 1-bed flats and 3 x 2-bed flats) with associated waste and cycle storage involving demolition of existing 2-storey building at 91 High Street, March. Received: 15 February 2023 Reply by: 8 March 2023 <b>Recommendation: Approval</b>
F/YR23/0187/TRTPO	Mr T Gocke, 111 Knights End Road, March. Works to 1 x Ash Tree covered by TPO 8/1970 at 111 Knights End Road, March. Received: 3 March 2023 Reply by: 24 March 2023 <b>Recommendation: Approval</b>

## **175 Public Participation**

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

## **176 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

6 February 2023 – Main Council Meeting  
20 February 2023 – Planning Sub-Committee  
20 February 2023 – Christmas Lights

## **177 Matters Arising**

**Re; Main Council Meeting – 6 February 2023**

Minute 158

3 FDC Planning Applications relating to the Fountain and Toilets were approved by Planning Committee on 8 February 2023.

A Broad Street Steering Group meeting was held on Tuesday 21 February via Zoom. Works in town are progressing well and are ahead of schedule.

### **178 Grants and Donations**

The Clerk advised that £1,050 of the 2022/23 budget had been spent, leaving £1,450 available.

An application had been received from March Library for the Summer Reading Challenge to assist local children with their reading over the summer holidays. Councillors voted to donate the sum of £300 to this cause.

### **179 Budget – Revision**

The Council's 2023/2024 budget was approved and ratified in January 2023. However, a revision had become necessary owing to the move to the new online accounting system, Scribe. Essentially, the bottom-line figure has been uplifted by £900.00 (to take into account the annual Scribe subscription fee), but the main change is that the cleaner's wages are now included in Salaries/Wages budget rather than Cleaning Materials and Services budget for the purposes of the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return).

The new format budget will reflect the cost centres and cost codes now set up in Scribe.

The allotment account will be closed and merged with the main account going forward. The Clerk also sought the Council's approval to discontinue the use of petty cash once the new bank account is set up (which could take up to 10 weeks from now).

Cllr J French, seconded by Cllr Skoulding proposed that the banking and budgeting changes were approved. All Councillors voted in favour.

### **180 Allotments**

Currently, there are two billing periods for allotments; West End Yardy invoices are payable in April, whilst the remainder are paid in October. It is proposed to bring allotment invoicing in line with the financial year so that all are payable in April so long as Councillors are agreeable.

As such, the Clerk will be writing to allotment holders currently billed in October to advise that their next invoice will be for a period of 6 months only. From April 2024 therefore, all allotment invoicing will be invoiced annually in April and, as such, align with the financial year.

Cllr J French, seconded by Cllr Skoulding proposed that these proposals were approved. All Councillors voted in favour.

**181 New March Town Walking and Cycling Plan**

Cllr J French circulated copies of the Walking & Cycling Map for the town of March which had been prepared by FDC. It was considered expedient and best value-for-money for March Town Council to purchase extra copies of FDC’s map rather than to commission its own map. Our most recent plan is over 10 years old and considerably out-of-date. Given the Broad Street works and the proposed residential developments in the south of March, another new plan would likely be required within the next 2 years.

Councillors agreed (proposed by Cllr J French and seconded by Cllr Skoulding) that the Town Council would order 2500 copies of the above-mentioned plan at a cost of £742.00. More could be purchased in future if needed. It would, however, be necessary to liaise with FDC to see how they were planning on distributing their copies.

**182 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

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

Cllr J French advised that CCC had issued a letter of apology regarding a council tax billing error. Council tax letters would have to be reissued as a result of the error and CCC would absorb the cost of this.

**183 Fenland District Council Update**

Cllr J French advised that both the works on the Market Place and Cadent Gas works in Broad Street were 2 weeks ahead of schedule.

**184 Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:25 pm.

Councillor K French .....3 April 2023  
Mayor of March.