

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 6th April 2020 held via “Skype” commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	RF Skoulding K French	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	SR Court J French R Johnson G Tustin	CK Elkin R Jack MW Purser RW White
	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 “Skype” group to witness proceedings.

Prior to the meeting commencing it was unanimously agreed to ratify the decision to hold all meetings remotely via skype until such time as the coronavirus problem abates. As such, it was also agreed that Standing Orders be suspended for the same period of time.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Connor and Donnelly.

2 Police Update

No police were in attendance but a written report had been circulated on 1st April 2020.

3 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.

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.

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR20/0221/F	<p>Mr & Mrs N Wallis, 4 Causeway Close, March. Revised window arrangement including insertion of dormer windows and roof lights, installation of cladding and replacement roof to garage / utility of existing dwelling including demolition of conservatory at 30A Elwyn Road, March. Received: 16 March 2020. Reply by: 6 April 2020. Recommend approval.</p>
F/YR20/0230/F	<p>Mr R Spies, Freedom Motorcycles Ltd, Mill View, March. Erect a 2-storey storage building involving the demolition of existing building within a Conservation Area at Freedom Motorcycles Ltd, Mill View, March. Received: 18 March 2020. Reply by: 8 April 2020. Recommend approval.</p>
F/YR20/0231/F	<p>Mr David Pearce, Wood Paddock, Flaggrass Hill Road, March. Change of use of dwelling, detached garage and outbuildings (C3) to Hotel and Boarding House (B & B) (C1) (retrospective) at Wood Paddock, Flaggrass Hill Road, March. Received: 19 March 2020. Reply by: 9 April 2020. Recommend approval.</p>
F/YR20/0233/F	<p>Messrs Jackson & Ellington, J & E Carpentry, 367 Eastfield Road, Peterborough. Erection of 1 x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) at Plot 3, Land North of Elm House, Elm Road, March. Received: 20 March 2020. Reply by: 10 April 2020. Recommend approval.</p>
F/YR20/0253/F	<p>Mr Stuart Harris (4Fitness), 116 Creek Road, March. Change of use of existing building unit (B1, B2 and B8) to a fitness and kick boxing facility (D2) at Unit C4, March Enterprise Park, 33 Thorby Avenue, March. Received: 27 March 2020. Reply by: 17 April 2020. Recommend approval.</p>

- F/YR20/0255/F Dr Amiras Chokshi, 167 Cambridge Road, Great Shelford.
Change of use of building to dental surgery (D1) including replacement roof to rear, replacement shop front and installation of air conditioning units involving partial demolition of existing building at 24 Broad Street, March.
Received: 30 March 2020.
Reply by: 20 April 2020.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0259/TRTPO Mr Love, Cherryholt, Lewis Close, March.
Fell 2 x Willow and works to 1 x Willow trees covered by TPO 10/1974 at Gates at Mill Hill Lane and Linwood Lane, March.
Received: 24 March 2020.
Reply by: 14 April 2020.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0281/O John Wallis, Meadow Cottage, 4 Causeway Close, March.
Erect 1 x dwelling (outline application with matters committed in respect of scale and access) at Land North of 4 Causeway Close, March.
Received: 1 April 2020.
Reply by: 22 April 2020.
Recommend approval.

4 Public Participation

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

5 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed:
Main Council Meeting of 2nd March 2020.
Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 16th March 2020.
Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 16th March 2020.
Unlike the procedure normally adopted whereby the Mayor immediately endorses the minutes, it was agreed that the Clerk should sign the minutes on his behalf.

6 Matters Arising

Re Main Council Meeting of 2nd March 2020:

- Minute 168 / 157: It was reported that Councillor K French was still attempting to obtain prices for replacing the Deputy Mayors chain since the coronavirus epidemic had forced the closure of all non-essential businesses.
- Minute 170: The MVAS has now been moved to a new position within town but questions remain regarding the number of “speed activities” recorded. Based on the latest information provided, there are between 4 and 7.5 times more speed values recorded than there are vehicle movements.

7 Local Highway Improvement (LHI) Applications for 2021/2022

These discussions have been brought forward from the 2nd March 2020 Main Council Meeting.

It was noted that decisions now had to be made at a much earlier date than in previous years. Following discussions, it was proposed by Councillor K French that traffic calming measures should be applied for at the junction of Estover Road and Creek Road.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Jack and unanimously approved. It was also agreed that March Town Council should offer £5,000 as its contribution to such scheme.

8 Coronavirus

It was noted that the March Town Council employees had adopted new working procedures since the advent of the Coronavirus outbreak.

The Town Clerk was working in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays, but working from home on Wednesdays.

The Assistant Town Clerk was working in the office on Wednesdays and Fridays, but working from home on Mondays.

This ensured that the office was manned at all normal times whilst ensuring that the staff were not coming into direct contact with each other.

9 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

Councillor J French reported that all updates are being circulated on a daily basis.

10 Fenland District Council Update

Councillor J French reported that:

- a) Local businesses are now being approached regarding the grants that may be available to them.
- b) Councillors were told that anyone in financial difficulty should be advised to contact FDC directly.

11 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

Prior to the meeting closing, everyone who was helping FACT to purchase and distribute food to the vulnerable was thanked for their efforts.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Councillor RF Skoulding 11th May 2020.
Mayor of March.