

# MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

|                |                                |                                      |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Present</b> | Councillor                     | K French<br>MW Purser                | Town Mayor<br>Deputy Town Mayor      |
|                | Councillors                    | SR Court<br>J French<br>RF Skoulding | AR Donnelly<br>R Johnson<br>RW White |
|                | FDC Acting Assistant Director  |                                      | Phil Hughes                          |
|                | Town Clerk<br>Town Clerk Elect |                                      | C Lemmon<br>SL Lemmon                |
|                | Public                         |                                      | 3 (three)                            |

## **63 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Connor, Elkin, Jack & Tustin and County Cllr Gowing.

## **64 FDC Presentation and Broad Street Update**

Phil Hughes updated Councillors as follows;

Mr Hughes once again reminded those present about the history of the Broad Street proposals and the background to the competitive bid for Government funding; the funding was awarded for very specific purposes and could not be used for general improvements.

The last of the public “*consultations*” had now taken place on the Market Place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and the public comments box at the library has been removed.

It was noted that consultation that had taken place in April 2020 (83 responses) was overwhelmingly positive. However, the more recent consultations in July 2022, along with social media comments, were overwhelmingly negative. Mr Hughes, however, tried to assert that the current responses were not necessarily representative of the general population. This suggestion was widely contested.

Following questioning, Mr Hughes told Councillors that requisite planning applications would be submitted in approximately 2 (two) weeks but that no such application was necessary in respect of the highways and infrastructure changes which fell within the remit of the County Council as Highways Authority.

Mr Hughes confirmed that the location of the public toilets would now be changed but that a location had not yet been determined. This would be a matter for discussion at the Broad

Steet Steering Group meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August to which the Town Clerk and Town Clerk Elect had been invited to attend.

Mr Hughes stated that the siting of the War Memorial and the Fountain had still not been established. The kerb line of the proposed new road layout, was, however, confirmed.

Mr Hughes was thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 8.22pm.

Following his departure, Councillors continued their discussions concerning the Broad Street proposals and agreed that a “statement of concerns” should be drafted and presented to the Steering Group meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022.  
Discussions in this matter concluded at 8.37pm.

## **65 Police Update**

No police updates have been circulated since the date of the last meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The date of the next liaison meeting is 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022.

## **66 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 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 discussed.

*Application  
Number*

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

F/YR22/0550/F

Mr Barrett, 108 Doddington Road, Chatteris.  
Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey, 3-bed) and formation of a public layby at Land North of 98-101 West End, March.  
Received: 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
Application **Withdrawn**  
**Withdrawal Noted**

F/YR22/0805/TRTPO

Mr J Stevens, 2 Old Bank House, West End, March.  
Fell 2 x Yew Trees covered by TPO 01/2019 at TPO Land South of 2 West End, March.  
Received: 22 July 2022  
Reply by: 12 August 2022  
Recommend **Approval subject to satisfactory inspection by Fenland District Council's Tree Officer.**

22/0473/LAPAVE

Mrs Nicola Hemsley, The Exchange Tearooms, Market Place, March.

The area to the front and left of the building (facing the front door of The Exchange) for the outside consumption of food and drink in connection with the relevant use of the Premises.

Received: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Reply by: 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Recommend **Approval**

## **67 Public Participation**

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

## **68 Minutes of Meetings**

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Main Council Meeting

18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee

18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – Christmas Lights

## **69 Matters Arising**

Re Main Council Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022:

Minute 54

The Clerk reported that he had emailed Whittings LLP on 5<sup>th</sup> July requesting that they continue to act as the Council's internal auditors for the next financial year. A response dated the same day confirmed their acceptance.

Minute 55

The Clerk reported that he had emailed Paul Medd et al on 5<sup>th</sup> July with the relevant minute from the meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> July, which detailed the Council's ongoing concerns regarding the proposals, lack of consultation and lack of progress or momentum with the project. A copy of this email was circulated to Councillors on 5<sup>th</sup> July and all subsequent correspondence was forwarded as and when sent or received. It has now been agreed that the Town Clerk should be represented on the Broad Street Steering Group.

Minute 60 CONFIDENTIAL

A Freedom of the Town Certificate was commissioned on the 5<sup>th</sup> July with a view to being presented on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**70                    Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

The Clerk reported that all email updates are being circulated on a daily basis. Councillor J French reported that the Norwood Road Traffic Calming Scheme had been completed and Civil Parking Enforcement remains an ongoing matter.

**71                    Fenland District Council Update**

No update was provided.

**72                    Schedule of Accounts**

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Councillor K French .....5<sup>th</sup> September 2022.  
Mayor of March.