

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee of March Town Council held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall on 19 December 2022 commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	SR Court	Acting Chairman
	Councillors	C Elkin R White	G Tustin
		Town Clerk	S Lemmon
		Public	91

140 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Donnelly and Jack.

Prior to the commencement of the main meeting, the Clerk read out a statement to members of the public explaining that, since nobody had given the requisite notice to the Clerk to enable them to address the meeting, no public participation could take place.

The Clerk reminded the public that March Town Council is merely a planning consultee and not the Planning Authority; March Town Council, when considering applications can make comments and recommendations only.

As a consultee, March Town Council does not grant or refuse applications. Fenland District Council is the planning authority. Any decision by March Town Council to recommend a refusal in relation to any planning application has to be based on legitimate planning reasons, prescribed by law.

The Clerk stressed to members of the public that, for their voice to be heard, they must observe the correct processes and procedures and exercise their right to make comments on the applications as individuals and register their comments on the Fenland District Council website. This was the necessary process.

The Clerk continued to advise members of the public that they could view minutes of the March Town Council meetings on our website and these would demonstrate how hard March Town Council and its elected members have been working to represent the views of residents and businesses and achieve the best outcome for March.

The Clerk advised that there were a number of separate projects affecting the town and that the changes in relation to the highway were County Council funded and led. These would commence in 2023.

Notwithstanding the advice that there could be no public participation, this was largely ignored. In the interests of trying to raise awareness about the process and correct way to make representations, the Clerk permitted some participation, essentially to clarify for those uneducated in the workings of the respective Councils how to best help themselves.

141 Planning Applications

It was noted that 1 (one) additional planning application would be discussed at this meeting.

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council.</i>
F/YR22/1318/LB	<p>Mr Matt Wright, Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March. Works to a listed structure involving relocation of the Coronation Fountain canopy at The Broad Street Project, Broad Street, March. Received: 2 December 2022 Reply by: 23 December 2022 Councillors Court, Tustin and White declared an interest in this application. In light of facebook/social media activity and comments creating predetermination issues there was not the requisite quorum to discuss this item.</p>
F/YR22/1319/FDC	<p>Mr Matt Wright, Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March. Demolition of the public toilets and shelter within a conservation area at The Broad Street Project, Broad Street, March. Received: 2 December 2022 Reply by: 23 December 2022 Councillors Court, Tustin and White declared an interest in this application. In light of facebook/social media activity and comments creating predetermination issues there was not the requisite quorum to discuss this item.</p>
F/YR22/1332/FDC	<p>Mr Matt Wright, Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March. Relocation of the Coronation Fountain canopy at The Broad Street Project, Broad Street, March. (A Reg 3 application for planning permission where FDC are the applicant). Received: 2 December 2022 Reply by: 23 December 2022 Councillors Court, Tustin and White declared an interest in this application. In light of facebook/social media activity and comments creating predetermination issues there was not the requisite quorum to discuss this item.</p>

F/YR22/1385/F

Smurfit Kappa, 35 Hostmoor Avenue, March.
Erect an extension to existing warehouse building and the
formation of hardstanding at Smurfit Kappa, Hostmoor
Avenue, March.

Received: 16 December 2022

Reply by: 6 January 2023

Recommendation: Approval

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:50pm.

Councillor K French 9 January 2023
Mayor of March.