

# MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of March Town Council held on 11 May 2026 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

<b>Present</b>	Councillor	A Woollard N Spencer	Town Mayor Deputy Mayor
	Councillors	G Christy M Field J Lawler R Skoulding	S Court J French M Purser
	Cambridgeshire County Councillor	C Thornill	
	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk		S Lemmon S Farmer
	Press Public		0 13

## **25 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs K French, Orbell and Taylor.

## **26 Mayor's Charity Presentations**

The Mayor distributed "cheques" to representatives from 1<sup>st</sup> March Scouts (£1,348.86), March Girl Guides (£500), March Town United Football Club (Youth Section) (£500) and Burrowmoor School (Ferry Meadows Trip) (£500).

## **27 Outgoing Mayor's Cadet Presentation**

Cllr Woollard presented Sergeant Jamie Taylor with a Mayor's Cadet jewel by way of thanks for his service to the Mayor during 2025 - 2026.

## **28 Declaration of Town Mayor 2026 / 2027**

As agreed at the Main Council Meeting on 13 April 2026, Cllr A Woollard had been nominated as Mayor of March for a second term and formally accepted the post.

Already donned in his Mayoral robe, Cllr Woollard expressed his honour and gratitude at having been re-elected and expressed his continued passion for the town of March and his deep commitment to the residents of March.

### **29 Declaration of Mayor's Cadet 2026 / 2027**

It was agreed that Cpl Oliver Arrowsmith would serve as the Mayor's Cadet for the 2026/2027 term and Cpl Arrowsmith was officially installed and presented with his badge by the Mayor, Cllr Woollard.

### **30 Declaration of Deputy Town Mayor 2026 / 2027**

As agreed at the Main Council Meeting on 13 April 2026, Cllr N Spencer had been nominated as Deputy Mayor of March and formally accepted the post.

Cllr Spencer pledged his continued commitment to the town of March and office.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor both signed their respective Declarations of Office.

### **31 Appointments – Town Council Representatives and Appointments to Outside Bodies**

Since there had been no change in Mayor or Deputy Mayor, Town Council representatives and appointments to outside bodies would not require revision.

Cllr Christy made reference to a 'point of order' in relation to the Annual meeting and "Schedule 12" but had not shared this information prior to the meeting as is necessary to enable meaningful discussion.

Cllr Field said he would like to be on the Personnel and Admin Committee. However, the majority of councillors voted in favour of retaining the current structure.

The Clerk would draft Terms of Reference.

The 2026 / 2027 list would be published on the Council's website.

No new Model Standing Orders or Financial Regulations have been published.

### **32 Agreement of Mayor's Allowance**

Councillor Woollard declared a prejudicial interest and left the room whilst the Mayor's allowance was discussed.

Councillor Spencer took the Chair for this agenda item only.

It was agreed that the following allowance would apply for 2026 /2027:

£3,450.00p.

This amount coincides with that provided within this year's budget. It was suggested that this figure be reviewed next year to reflect increased travel costs etc.

### **33 Dates of Council Meetings for 2026/2027**

The dates for the 2026/2027 meetings were agreed (Appendix 1).

### **34 Public Participation**

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

### **35 Minutes of Meetings**

The minutes of the following meetings were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Meeting – 27 April 2026

### **36 Matters Arising**

Cllr Field took issue with the wording of the "Matters Arising" regarding Christmas Lights, but the minutes were not inaccurate.

Cllr Christy stated he had abstained from voting in relation to the Accounting Statements.

### **37 Office Expenditure**

The Clerk updated Councillors on the office move and, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, sought authorisation from members to accept quotes for the installation of air conditioning and an alarm at the new accommodation.

There would naturally be other costs involved (eg IT, BT etc) and a new desk, additional filing cabinets and shelving would need to be purchased. All existing furniture will be utilised.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the relatively small costs of the move would be wholly covered by the annual saving to the Town Council of roughly [net] £15,000 (which represents the financial support the Town Council has given the Civic Trust annually, prior to the sale of The Town Hall).

Cllr Purser proposed that the Clerk be duly authorised to make necessary purchases and accept the estimates for air conditioning and an alarm so that the work can commence soonest. Councillors voted in favour.\*

\*Cllr Skoulding declared an interest in this item and took no part in discussion or voting.

### 38 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 M Purser declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to planning matters.

*Application  
Number*

*Name & Address of Applicant, Details of Application,  
and Recommendation of March Town Council.*

F/YR26/0295/F

Fishponds Trading Ltd  
Installation of an automated prescription collection  
machine at 23 Marylebone Road.  
Received: 28 April 2026  
Reply by: 19 May 2026  
**Recommendation; Approval**

F/YR26/0298/F

Mr Josh Joyce  
Erect a part single-storey and part two-storey rear extension  
involving the demolition of existing conservatory, erect a  
storm porch to front and widen vehicle access gate to  
existing dwelling at 47 Westwood Avenue.  
Received: 27 April 2026  
Reply by: 18 May 2026  
**Recommendation; Approval**

F/YR26/0300/F

Mr Mark Cottingham, CCC  
Change of use from community centre with café to mixed  
use of community centre with café, office space and  
meeting rooms at 34 Station Road.  
Received: 27 April 2026  
Reply by: 18 May 2026  
**Recommendation: Approval**

### 38 Payments List

The Payments List, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:55pm.

Councillor A Woollard ..... 1 June 2026  
Mayor of March.

APPENDIX 1

<b><u>Dates of March Town Council Meetings for 2026/2027 to be held in the Skoulding Suite, March Town Hall at 19:15 (unless otherwise stated)</u></b>			
	<b>2026</b>	<b>1 &amp; 15 June</b>	
		<b>6 &amp; 20 July</b>	
		<b>3 &amp; 17 August</b>	
		<b>7 &amp; 21 September</b>	
		<b>5 &amp; 19 October</b>	
		<b>2 &amp; 16 November</b>	
		<b>7 &amp; 21 December</b>	
	<b>2027</b>	<b>4 &amp; 18 January</b>	
		<b>1 &amp; 15 February</b>	
		<b>1 &amp; 15 March</b>	
		<b>12. April</b>	
		<b>26 April *</b>	<b>Main Meeting (formerly "Annual Assembly")</b>
		<b>10 May *</b>	<b>Annual Meeting (incl Planning)</b>
<b>Please note that, in general, the first Monday of the month is a Main Council Meeting and the third Monday of the month is a <a href="#">Planning Committee Meeting</a>.</b>			
<b>As an advance notice, the Annual Museum Liaison Meeting will be held on Monday 30 November 2026 at 19:30 at March Museum.</b>			