

March Town Council.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of March Town Council held on 11th May 2020 held via “Zoom” commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	RF Skoulding K French	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	DW Connor AR Donnelly J French RM Johnson G Tustin	SR Court CK Elkin RE Jack MW Purser RW White
	Cambs County Councillor		J Gowing
	Town Clerk		C Lemmon
	Public		Two

To allow the meeting to take place via “Zoom”, and as agreed at the 6th April 2020 Main Council Meeting, Standing Orders are suspended until such time as the coronavirus epidemic abates.

25 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

Prior to the meeting commencing, one minutes silence was observed in memory of Christopher Charles (Kit) Owen who had passed away in the early hours of Friday 1st May 2020. It was noted that Kit Owen had been Mayor of March on six separate occasions dating back to 1983.

26 Declaration of Town Mayor

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Skoulding, made his outgoing remarks and thanked Councillors for their assistance during his term of office. He then declared Councillor Kim French Mayor of March for the forthcoming year. Because of the current state of affairs, the robes and chain of office had been handed over prior to the meeting.

Councillor Kim French accepted the post, gave a brief introductory speech of her aspirations and stated that she had signed her “Declaration of Office” prior to the meeting. She thanked the outgoing Mayor for all his efforts, and stated that she would do everything in her power to carry out her duties for the benefit of the people of March.

27 Declaration of Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor Kim French then declared Councillor Jack as Deputy Mayor of March. The appropriate robes had been handed over prior to the meeting. Councillor Jack accepted the post, stated he would do all he could to assist the Mayor and agreed to sign his “Declaration of Office” at the MTC office on the following day.

28 Agreement of Mayor’s Allowance

Councillor Kim French declared a prejudicial interest and took no part in discussions whilst the Mayor’s allowances were being discussed. Councillor Jack took the Chair for this agenda item only. It was unanimously agreed that the following allowances would apply for 2020 / 2021:
£2,750.00 Basic Mayors allowance.
£ 400.00 Travelling allowance.
These amounts coincided with the amounts provided within this year’s budget.

29 Dates of Council Meetings for 2020 / 2021

The dates for the 2020 / 2021 meetings were agreed as presented (See Appendix 1).

30 Appointment of Committee Members & Council Representatives

It was agreed to appoint Committee Members and Council Representatives in accordance with Appendix 2 (2 pages).

31 Public Participation

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

32 Minutes of Meetings

The minutes of the following meetings were agreed:
Main Council Meeting of 6th April 2020.
Annual Assembly of 20th April 2020.
Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 20th April 2020.
Unlike the normal procedure adopted whereby the Mayor immediately endorses the minutes, it was agreed that the Clerk should sign the minutes on her behalf.

33 Matters Arising

Re Main Council Meeting of 6th April 2020:

Minute 7: It was noted that the Assistant Town Clerk had forwarded the completed 2021 / 2022 Local Highway Improvement application on 29th April 2020.

34 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.

Also, due to their involvement in the building industry, Councillors Purser and Skoulding did not take part in any discussions relating to planning issues.

The three afore-mentioned Councillors remained visible during this agenda item but all other members observed that their microphones were muted for the entire time.

It was agreed that two additional planning applications would be discussed.

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name & Address of Applicant, Details of Application, and Recommendation of March Town Council.</i>
F/YR20/0325/F	Mr Craig Shorter, 106A West End, March. Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing lean-to at 106A West End, March. Received: 21 April 2020. Reply by: 12 May 2020. Recommend approval.
F/YR20/0330/O	Mr Ben Saxby, MJS Acquisitions (March) Ltd., MJS House, 425 Wisbech Road, March. Erect up to 2,160 square metres of B1, B2 and B8 floorspace and the formation of a new access (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land North of 35 Whittlesey Road, March. Received: 22 April 2020. Reply by: 13 May 2020. Recommend approval.
F/YR20/0335/O	Mr Michael Topping, 7 Mill Hill Lane, March. Erect up to 2 x dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land South and West of 4-5 Mill Hill Lane, March. Received: 23 April 2020. Reply by: 14 May 2020. Recommend refusal due to over-development.

- F/YR20/0342/RM Mr Russell Wing, Land South of 7 Apple Tree Close, March.
Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to appeal decision APP/D0515/W/18/3195452 (F/YR17/0815/O) for the erection of a dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) at Land South of 7 Apple Tree Close, March.
Received: 23 April 2020.
Reply by: 14 May 2020.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0343/F Mr & Mrs Revell, 48 Henson Road, March.
Erect a first-floor side extension to existing dwelling at 48 Henson Road, March.
Received: 23 April 2020.
Reply by: 14 May 2020.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0346/F Miss Evelyn Little, 135 Knights End Road, March.
Erect a dwelling (2-storey 3-bed) and the formation of a new access involving the demolition of existing dwelling at 135 Knights End Road, March.
Received: 22 April 2020.
Reply by: 13 May 2020.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0348/F Mr R Watts, 3 Ireton Way, March.
Erect 2-storey front extension including first-floor extension over garage and single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 3 Ireton Way, March.
Received: 24 April 2020.
Reply by: 15 May 2020.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0349/F Mrs W Galloway, Highfield, Gaul Road, March.
Change of use of land to the storage of caravans and civil engineering pipes and the siting of 2 x storage containers (retrospective) at Land South of Highfield, Gaul Road, March.
Received: 27 April 2020.
Reply by: 18 May 2020.
Recommend approval subject to no occupation of the caravans and all trees being retained.

- F/YR20/0358/F Mr & Mrs Geary, 23 Queens Street, March.
Alterations to existing building to enable 2 x flats to be converted into 1 x dwelling including the insertion of a bay window, alterations to existing window arrangement, erection of a porch and a 1.8m high boundary fence, and render all external walls at 23 Queens Street, March.
Received: 28 April 2020.
Reply by: 19 May 2020.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0370/O Mr Ben Saxby, MJS Acquisitions (March) Ltd., MJS House, 425 Wisbech Road, March.
Erect 19 x 3-storey flats (8 x 1-bed and 11 x 2-bed) with part ground floor retail / office (outline application with matters committed in respect of access, appearance, layout and scale) involving demolition of existing building within a Conservation Area at 72-74 High Street, March.
Received: 4 May 2020.
Reply by: 25 May 2020.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0381/TRTPO Mrs Catherine Caliser, The Old Rectory, The Walnuts, March.
Works to 1 x Ash tree covered by TPO 5/1975 at The Old Rectory, The Walnuts, March.
Received: 6 May 2020.
Reply by: 27 May 2020.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/0382/TRTPO Mrs Catherine Caliser, The Old Rectory, The Walnuts, March.
Works to 1 x Lime tree covered by TPO 5/1975 at The Old Rectory, The Walnuts, March.
Received: 6 May 2020.
Reply by: 27 May 2020.
Recommend approval.

35 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Councillor K French..... 1st June 2020.
Mayor of March.