

# MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 2 March 2026 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

<b>Present</b>	Councillors	A Woollard N Spencer	Mayor of March Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	S Court J French M Purser T Taylor R Skoulding	M Field K French J Lawler H Orbell G Christy
	Cambridgeshire County Councillors	C Galbraith & S Fisher	
	Assistant Town Clerk	S Farmer	
	Public	3	
	Press	1	

## 174 Apologies

None – all present

## 175 Police Update

Cllr Woollard had made contact with Sgt Pete Moulton and PC Zoe Pell from the March Neighbourhood Policing Team. PC Pell would be the main liaison for March issues. Main issues raised at the meeting were Anti-Social Behaviour and parking. ASB was being dealt with; parking issues were dealt with within resources but not a priority (however Cllr Woollard did note that increased patrols had been visible in town).

Cllr Woollard had reported the vandalized memorial plaques on the Town Bridge and this has been issued a Crime Reference Number.

Cllr Woollard advised Council that the police had urged councillors and the public to report any issues via 101 – not just as comments on social media - to ensure they get dealt with appropriately.

Cllr Lawler raised the question of police attendance at Town Council meetings.

It was noted that if attendance was required on either side (police request to attend or Council request for attendance, this would be welcomed).



F/YR26/0116/PIP

Mr Love

Permission in principle for 4 x dwellings at Land East of Enfield,  
Burrowmoor Road

Received: 17 February 2026

Reply by: 3 March 2026

**Recommendation; Refusal unless two major concerns are addressed:**

**An adequate drainage scheme for increased surface water is in place for any development.**

**The addition of a vehicle entrance here for multiple dwellings is unsuitable for the proximity to the busy junction.**

F/YR26/0120/F

Mr N Bell

Conversion of garage to form additional living accommodation and erect an attached double garage to existing dwelling at 19 Silver Street

Received: 18 February 2026

Reply by: 11 March 2026

**Recommendation; Approval**

F/YR26/0122/VOC

Mr N Bell

Variation of condition 3 (list of approved drawings) of planning approval F/YR24/0587/RM (Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR22/1268/O to erect 2 x dwellings (3-storey, 3-bed) involving demolition of existing garage) - addition of a dormer window to rear elevation at Land East of 19 Silver Street

Received: 18 February 2026

Reply by: 11 March 2026

**Recommendation; Approval**

F/YR26/0123/F

Mr L Granger

Erect 1 x self-build/custom build dwelling involving the demolition of existing dwelling at Willow View, The Chase

Received: 23 February 2026

Reply by: 16 March 2026

**Recommendation; Approval – this development was welcomed**

F/YR26/0127/TRTPO Mr A Kimber  
Fell 4 x Sycamore trees covered by TPO 3/1967 at 98 Foxglove Way  
Received: 24 February 2026  
Reply by: 17 March 2026  
**Recommendation; refusal unless a more detailed report can be given on the condition of the trees and reasons why they cannot be trimmed or pollarded instead of felled. The input of the Arboricultural Officer is required for confirmation.**

F/YR26/0132/F InPostUK  
Installation of an InPost Locker (retrospective) at Tesco Stores PLC 10 Hostmoor Avenue  
Received: 23 February 2026  
Reply by: 16 March 2026  
**Recommendation; Approval**

F/YR26/0135/F Mr & Mrs Stuart Mills  
Erect a single-storey rear extension and conversion of garage to form additional living accommodation to existing dwelling at 11 Daisy Avenue  
Received: 24 February 2026  
Reply by: 17 March 2026  
**Recommendation; Approval**

### **Additional Planning Applications**

F/YR26/0147/O Mr P Holliday  
Erect up to 2 x dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) at Land South Of 85 - 95 Knights End Road  
Received: 27 February 2026  
Reply by: 20 March 2026  
**Recommendation; Approval as long as an appropriate draining scheme is in place for additional surface water.**

F/YR26/0148/F Ms E-M Foreman  
Erect 1 x self-build/custom build dwelling at Land South Of Silverback Kennels Silverback Cottage Whitemoor Road  
Received: 2 March 2026  
Reply by: 23 March 2026  
**Recommendation; Approval**

### **177 Public Participation**

Mr Clive Lemmon had requested to speak to councillors on a confidential matter after the meeting was closed – this was agreed.

## **178 Minutes of Meetings**

Personnel & Admin – 13 January 2026

Cllr Field complained that he was not able to attend this meeting. Cllr Woollard reminded members that the constitution of the Committee was agreed by Council, and it was used to discuss confidential matters and thus not open to the public.

In respect of items to be ratified; Cllr Woollard would check with the Clerk and the Minutes would be brought back to the following Town Council meeting to be noted.

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Town Mayor:

Main Meeting – 2 February 2026

Planning – 16 February 2026

## **179 Matters Arising**

**Main meeting Minute 154:** Cllr Christy requested that his full memo to the Clerk be included.

## **180 Christmas Lights Terms of Reference**

Cllr Woollard read a statement:

At our full council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January it was agreed that the March Christmas Lights Committee should become a separate body and no longer a constituent part of March Town Council.

No further discussion on that point is appropriate.

The Constitution for the new Christmas Lights Committee is not the concern of March Town Council and will be up to the new committee to agree upon.

The Town Council has agreed in its budget for 2026/27 to continue its support of the Christmas Lights in March with a grant of £20,000 for this year's display and I can see no reason for the council not to continue its support in future years subject to the normal grant conditions.

No formal agreement is required between March Town Council and the new Christmas Lights Committee, we do not have one with any other groups or organisations who receive grants from us.

The Council will be arranging for the ownership of the existing Christmas Lights to be transferred to the Christmas Lights Committee.

All future administration, financial and otherwise, for the Christmas Lights will be the responsibility of the new Christmas Lights Committee.

This item is now closed and we will move on to our next Agenda item.

Cllr Field complained that there was no discussion on the matter, but, Cllr Woollard referred him to the decision of Council of 1<sup>st</sup> December where Councillors voted in favour of the proposal to establish a separately constituted Christmas Lights body.

## **181 Westwood School Crossing**

Cllr French reported that parents and Steve Barclay, MP had been campaigning for a LHI scheme but had been advised this would be difficult to obtain.

Steve Barclay, MP had therefore set up a campaign to

Cllr Galbraith confirmed that Cambridgeshire County Council had responded to the issue by stating that there had not been sufficient incidents of a serious nature to make it a priority for a crossing to be installed (referring to the correspondence to Steve Barclay, MP).

Councillors responded unanimously with their support for the campaign as, although it had not had any major incidents, the layout of the school sites and need to cross between them was seen to raise concerns for children's safety.

Cllr Field and Cllr Lawler raised particular concerns over the increased movement of children between sites during the day, and the stress on children and parents

It was felt that the even though the actual criteria for a road safety scheme had not been met it was unthinkable to wait until serious incidents took place before action was taken.

Councillors would respond direct with their support.

## **182 Burnt House Grant**

Cllr Jan French reported on a new fund from Burnt House to be administered by March Town Council as a small grants scheme.

The Deputy Clerk was asked to compile an application form and publicity using the current scheme at Whittlesey as a template.

The funding would commence in the new financial year.

Councillors were asked to promote the scheme.

## **183 Grants and Donations**

Two applications had been received and were considered:

March Lions - £500 for a new PA system

March Library - £500 for activities around the Summer Reading Challenge

Councillors Purser and Christy declared a non-pecuniary interest as members of the March Lions.

Councillor Lawler declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Friends of March Library.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed there were funds for both grants to be agreed if required.

Councillors agreed that both organisations were of great benefit to the Town. The Lions supply PA equipment for town events such as Remembrance amongst many other events. Cllr Woollard reported on the success of the Summer Reading Scheme and the benefit it gives to children and reading.

Both grants were approved unanimously.

#### **184 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

All email updates are being circulated by the Clerk as and when received.

Cllr Galbraith reported that the major of current issues were around the state of the roads, especially potholes.

Councillors raised concerns that repaired potholes were not checked and some repairs were sub-standard.

Cllr Galbraith noted that significant repairs were checked, but minor repairs only had random checks. However, if the contractor was felt not to have completed the work correctly they were required to return and make good.

It was noted that Upwell Road closure had run over, but there had been leeway for an extension of the closure.

Cllr Skoulding raised concerns over the use of Hook Road as a detour whilst Upwell Road was closed causing significant damage to the road surface.

Cllr Galbraith also reported on works to Mill View, and Nene Parade bank collapse works.

A schedule for micro-asphalting works due to be carried out may stretch to the end of the year.

#### **185 Fenland District Council Update**

All email updates are being circulated by the Clerk as and when received.

Cllr J French reported that the scheme for Civil Parking Enforcement was still ongoing with a paper due to go to Cabinet soon.

Cllr Field asked about the overrun for the demolition works on Broad Street and the new toilets. Cllr French responded that there were still issues to be resolved.

#### **Fenland Inspire**

Councillors were requested to identify any play equipment for installation or updating that could be supplied through the Inspire funding to Cllr Woollard or Cllr J French.

Cllr Taylor advised councillors that he had recently joined Ofwat; reporting on foul water and sewage discharge into waterways.

**184 Payments List**

An error was noted on the salary payment (VAT incorrectly added).

After amendment, the Payments List, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Councillor A Woollard..... 13 April 2026  
Mayor of March.