

# March Town Council

Minutes of the Main Meeting (formerly “Annual Assembly”) of March Town Council that took place at 7.15pm in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall on Monday 27 April 2026

<b>Present</b>	Councillor	A Woollard N Spencer	Town Mayor Deputy Mayor
	Councillors	S Court J French J Lawler R Skoulding H Orbell	T Taylor K French M Purser G Christy M Field
	Town Clerk Asst Town Clerk		S Lemmon S Farmer
	Public Press		0 0

## 12 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

## 13 Police Update

Cllr Lawler attended the public meeting at the library, along with 2 other members of the public. Parking, cycling and vandalism were discussed. Cllr Christy advised that FACT had been advised about various scams doing the rounds, everyone was to be vigilant and report as necessary. Cllr Taylor advised that some drivers had continued to ignore the road closure at Floods Ferry. These instances need to be reported to the police as the offence carries an automatic 6 points and a £2,000 fine. The Mayor encouraged all incidents/concerns to be reported via the appropriate channels (not social media!).

## 14 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 permanent personal interest and take no part in discussions relating to planning matters.



Received: 22 April 2026  
Reply by: 13 May 2026  
**Recommendation; Approval**

## **15 Minutes of Meetings**

The following minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor;

Main Meeting – 13 April 2026

## **16 Matters Arising from the above Minutes**

Cllr Christy mentioned the annotated minutes [of 5 January] were still on the website. The Clerk confirmed that she had deleted them on 14 April. However, it transpired that the Assistant Clerk had put duplicate minutes in a secondary location on the website. These would be removed.

Cllr Field did not like the words “resigned” although this makes no material difference to the practical outcome. He believed the minutes should specifically state that the monies from Persimmon homes be returned to March Town Council. This [£3,000] was confirmed as having been received by the Clerk.

## **17 Report of the Town Mayor for 2025 / 2026 and the Mayor’s Charity Donations**

The Mayors Report was accepted by the meeting and is attached to these minutes as Appendix A (2 pages).

The Mayor has elected to distribute donations from the Mayors Charity Account totalling £2,848.00 to causes of his choice.

The Mayor’s Charity Account is attached (Appendix B – 1 page).

## **18 Written Report of the Town Clerk for 2025 / 2026**

The written report of the Town Clerk, as previously circulated, was accepted by the meeting (see Appendix C –3 pages).

## **19 Affirmation re Mayor’s Allowances**

The Mayor affirmed that the Mayoral expenses received during this year of office and totalling £3,450.00p per annum had been fully expended in the execution of his Mayoral duties.

## **20 Resolution to Approve the Annual Governance Statement**

It was noted that the Personnel and Administrative Sub-Committee had undertaken a full review of the effectiveness of our systems of internal control on 13 January 2026. It had also fully

reviewed all general risks likely to be faced by March Town Council and all procedures included within the MTC risk assessment document.

All the findings were ratified by Full Council on 13 April 2026.

Members re-affirmed their approval of the procedures adopted to satisfy themselves of the effectiveness of the systems of internal control currently in place.

The Annual Governance Statement was then discussed as follows:

- a) Its contents were reviewed and completed as appropriate.
- b) It was proposed by Councillor Skoulding and seconded by Councillor Purser, with all in favour, that its contents were approved.
- c) The resolution to accept the Annual Governance Statement was, therefore, approved by all apart from Cllr Christy who abstained from a vote.
- d) The Clerk and Chairman duly signed and dated the Statement.

## **21 Resolution to Approve the Accounting Statements for 2025 / 2026**

The Annual Accounting Statements for the financial year 2025 / 2026, as previously circulated, were presented to the meeting by the Responsible Financial Officer to allow full discussion by Councillors.

After such discussions, the following decisions were reached:

- a) It was proposed by Councillor Skoulding and seconded by Councillor Spencer, with all in favour, that such Accounting Statements be approved.
- b) The resolution to accept the Accounting Statements for 2025 / 2026 was, therefore, unanimously approved.
- c) The Mayor, Councillor Woollard duly signed and dated the document.
- d) The Clerk would prepare documentation for submission to the external auditors.

## **22 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

No County Councillors were in attendance.

Cllr Skoulding expressed continuing concern about the Westwood/Maple Grove Schools crossing. The Clerk had shared information with Councillors about this and CCC. Cllr Christy reported issues with potholes and collapsed sewers on Gaul Road and encouraged everyone to report issues.

## **23 Fenland District Council Update**

Toilets; Thanks to the intervention of Stephen Barclay, MP, Anglian Water has finally surveyed and the toilets could be completed within the next few weeks.

It is likely that Barclays can be completely demolished very soon too.

The St George's Day Fayre had been a huge success and the High Sherrif had enjoyed his visit

There had been a Cabinet meeting today at which CPE had been discussed. FDC will not be introducing parking charges in March unless compelled to do so.  
Cllr Taylor advised that Anglian Water had been caught dumping sewage into the River Nene at Thrapston, which flows our way.  
Cllr Christy mentioned a flytipping prosecution in Wisbech, The Clerk had circulated this update to all councillors. Please report all cases of fly-tipping to FDC to investigate.

**22     Payments List**

The Payments List, as circulated, was agreed.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8:00pm

Councillor Woollard ..... 13 May 2026  
Mayor of March

## APPENDIX A

It has been a privilege this past year to have been the Mayor of March, the town I was born in, educated in and lived in all of my life.

During that year I have been proud to represent the town all over the area, with the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, the Bishop of Ely, with fellow Mayors at St Ives, St Neots, Peterborough, Whittlesey, Godmanchester and Wisbech to name but a few.

As Mayor I have hosted the town's Carol Service, Civic Service and the Mayors Charity Ball and I have visited many similar events across The Fens.

I have had the honour of opening many of our local events including Estafest, the March Armed Forces Fair, March Summer Festival our wonderful Christmas Market and most recently our St Georges Fayre which saw thousands to out to enjoy the many stalls, rides, street food and sunshine.

Attending the official opening of our re-generated Broad Street by our local MP was the culmination of years of hard work, and sees a reformed vibrant town centre ready for the demands of the future. Our Remembrance Day Service and Parade was a sight to behold, and laying the wreath on behalf of the town is a memory that shall live with me.

In addition, I was able to visit the Normandy beaches and lay a wreath in memory of our local heroes who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

Visiting many of our sporting clubs - hockey, rugby, football, cricket and boxing has reminded me of the many opportunities available in the town for young and old alike.

There have been lots of visits across the Town and it has been a privilege to attend and support so many of our local organisations.

This year I decided that the Mayors Charity would support the youth of our town and I look forward next month to distributing those funds to the Scouts, Guides, March Town Youth Football Club and to the Burrowmoor School.

Proud memories of my year as the Mayor of March will forever remain with me.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Town Clerk, her assistant and my fellow councillors for their support throughout the year.

Andrew Woollard  
Mayor of March  
27 April 2026

<b>Mayor's Charity Account 2025 / 2026</b>	<b>APPENDIX B</b>		
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Net Profit</u>
	£	£	£
<b>Balance brought forward</b>			<b>400.00</b>
<b>Cricket Club Raffle Proceeds</b>			<b>378.00</b>
<b>Golf Day Proceeds (entries, sponsorship and raffle)</b>			<b>1,070.00</b>
<b>March Can't Sing Choir Donation</b>			<b>500.00</b>
<b>Mayor's Charity Ball net proceeds</b>			<b>685.00</b>
<b>Civic Service Collection</b>			<b>186.00</b>
<b>Collection Boxes @Cassanos &amp; Coachmakers</b>			<b>68.11</b>
<b>Monthly Bank Charges @£4.25/m</b>		<b>38.25</b>	
			<b>3,248.86</b>
<b>Leave £400 in the account to cover monthly interest charges etc</b>		<b>400.00</b>	
<b>Amount available for distribution</b>			<b>2,848.86</b>
<b>Donations to charities of Mayor's choice made in April/May 2026</b>			
<b>Burrowmoor School Ferry Meadows Trip</b>			<b>500.00</b>
<b>March Town United Football Club</b>			<b>500.00</b>
<b>March Girl Guides</b>			<b>500.00</b>
<b>1st March Scouts</b>			<b>1,348.86</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,848.86</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>			<b>400.00</b>
.....			
<b>S. Lemmon</b>			
<b>Town Clerk</b>			
<b>27.04.26</b>			

# ANNUAL REPORT of The Clerk to March Town Council (2025/2026)

## INTRODUCTION

This Report and the main meeting (formerly “Annual Assembly”) on Monday 27 April 2026 mark the end of the 3rd year in office for March Town Councillors.

Once again, it has been a very busy year for most Councillors working incredibly hard for and on behalf of the town and people of March.

The town is looking smart, with some new businesses welcomed and enhanced shopfronts. The former Barclays Bank has finally been demolished, although we continue to wait for the eventual completion of the town’s new toilet facilities.

March’s Remembrance Parade and geese continue to put March on the map, whilst the town has enjoyed a wonderful St George’s Fayre, Christmas Market and Christmas Lights once again. My thanks to everyone involved in delivering these much-loved events and celebrations of community.

With regard to Christmas Lights, it was resolved that the former March Town Council Committee would become fully autonomous. March Town Council will continue to provide generous funding to support a new, independent Christmas Lighting committee.

## COUNCIL

During May 2025, Councillor Andrew Woollard was elected as Mayor of March and Councillor Nigel Spencer as his Deputy.

At the time of this Report the political groups within the Council are as follows; Conservative 8, Independent 1, Liberal Democrat 1 and Labour 2.

The average attendance of Councillors at Main Council Meetings was 86.5%, calculated as follows:

S Court	13 attendances out of 13	100 %
G Christy	11 attendances out of 13	85 %
J French	12 attendances out of 13	92 %
K French	12 attendances out of 13	92 %
M Field	13 attendances out of 13	100 %
J Lawler	10 attendances out of 13	77 %
H Orbell	6 attendances out of 13	46 %*
M Purser	13 attendances out of 13	100 %
R Skoulding	11 attendances out of 13	85%
N Spencer	12 attendances out of 13	92 %
T Taylor	12 attendances out of 13	92 %
A Woollard	10 attendances out of 13	77 %

\*The low attendance on the part of Cllrs Orbell and Lawler has been due to ill health.

## ADMINISTRATION

March Town Council currently maintains an office within the Town Hall which is staffed by one full-time and one part-time employee – the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk.

However, new office accommodation has been sourced and is currently undergoing some modifications pending our move.

The office is manned (as a minimum) from 0830 to 1530 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and from 0830 to 1200 on Fridays, with the Clerk working remotely outside of these days/times.

The year has been challenging in many respects, and I extend my thanks to all those who have been supportive, something that demonstrates how much can be achieved with a team-oriented approach.

## PLANNING

A total of 167 Planning Applications received consideration during the year, an increase of 22 applications on the previous year's total.

Approval was recommended in respect of 133 applications, 15 were the subject of comments, more information was requested in respect of 4 applications.

Objections/recommendation for refusal were raised in respect of 15 applications.

## DONATIONS AND GRANTS

During 2025/2026 financial year, donations totalling £2,342.00 were made to the following organisations;

Magpas Air Ambulance	£ 500.00
Ely Food Bank	£ 500.00
March Friendship Group	£ 242.00
March Lions	£ 500.00
Friends of March Library Reading Challenge	£ 500.00
Golden Age Fayre	£ 100.00

Grants totalling £6,000.00 were made as follows;

Volunteer Centre Fenland	£ 750.00
Isle of Ely Society for the Blind	£ 250.00
East Anglian Air Ambulance	£1,000.00
FACT	£ 500.00
MAFF (March Armed Forces Fayre)	£2,500.00
Defibrillators for March	£1,000.00

In addition, generous financial support was also given to March & District Museum and Estover Playing Field 2015 CIC. Councillors will recall that in August 2024 it was resolved to continue to provide financial support to the CIC to help improve supporting sporting facilities within March. Specifically, the Town Council committed to pay the sum of £80,000 pa for another 3 years for the purposes of securing a 3G pitch at the venue. The payment of the £240,000 is conditional upon substantive delivery of the pitch by July 2027. The first tranche was paid in April 2025, with further payments due in April 2026 and April 2027. Contractors are due to be starting on site imminently which is thrilling news!

## ALLOTMENTS

Since relinquishing some of its allotment sites in October 2004, the remainder are now fully occupied and a waiting list of 53 exists at the time of writing. The current waiting time for an allotment is approximately 2 years from the date of application.

An Allotments “Working Group” was established in November 2023 comprising Councillor Allotment Overseers, a forum created to share information, good practise and enhance the efficient running of the allotments. Susanah has produced an informative handbook for all existing and new tenants.

The Council’s title to the allotment at Grandford has been upgraded from Possessory to Title Absolute.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

During the year March Town Council has supported the following organisations and events;

- A. March & District Museum.
- B. March in Bloom.
- C. MAFF – thank you to Spence for yet another wonderful event!
- D. Christmas Lights. Christmas 2025 again saw an excellent display of lights thanks to the continuing efforts of all the volunteers.
- E. March St. Georges Fayre and Christmas Market.
- F. Band Concerts on West End Park during July and August.
- G. March Town FC Estover CIC. The 99-year lease signed in November 2015 was assigned to March Town United Football Club and will continue to be operated for the benefit of the community in perpetuity.
- H. Remembrance Day service – the parade returned following completion of the Broad Street project and record numbers attended the event. Thank you to Spence and his incredible team.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, it has been a successful year, with many positive outcomes for the town and an excellent year for the Mayor and his Deputy.

I wish you all the very best going forward and hope that you will support each other and work collaboratively for the benefit of the Council and our hometown.

*Sarah Lemmon* – Town Clerk  
27 April 2026