

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 6th September 2021 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	K French R Jack	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	DW Connor AR Donnelly J French MW Purser G Tustin	SR Court CK Elkin R Johnson RF Skoulding RW White
	Town Clerk		C Lemmon
	Public		One

72 Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor John Gowing.

73 Police Update

No police were in attendance and no written report had been circulated. It was noted, however, that this was because the next meeting between the Police and Town & Parish Council Chairmen was not due to be held until Tuesday 7th September 2021.

74 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 Connor, J French and Purser declare a permanent personal interest and take no part in discussions relating to planning matters.

It is also noted that, due to his involvement in the building industry, Councillor Skoulding does not take part in any discussions relating to planning issues.

The afore-mentioned Councillors always leave the debating table for the duration of this agenda item.

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

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR21/0747/F	<p>Mr Ian Tabor, 164 Elm Road, March. Erect a single-storey 2-bed dwelling and detached outbuilding involving demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings at 164 Elm Road, March. Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above. The revision is: Amended windows to front elevation and amended outbuilding design. Received: 26 August 2021. Reply by: 9 September 2021. Recommend approval.</p>
F/YR21/0850/F	<p>Mr G Smith, Radnor Farm, Goosetree Road, Rings End. Erect a single-storey rear extension and porch to side of existing dwelling at Radnor Farm, Goosetree Road, Rings End, Wisbech. Received: 18 August 2021. Reply by: 8 September 2021. Recommend approval.</p>
F/YR21/0855/F	<p>Mr Lee Russell, Cedarwoods, 72 Barton Road, Wisbech. Erect 25 x dwellings (2-storey 3-bed) with associated garages, parking and landscaping, and the formation of an access, involving the demolition of existing outbuilding at 7 Wisbech Road, March. Received: 17 August 2021. Reply by: 7 September 2021. Recommend refusal due to massive over-development.</p>
F/YR21/0883/F	<p>March Sports Association, Elm Road Sports Field, Elm Road, March. Erect a changing room and toilet facilities building, and insertion of 1.2m high entrance gates, at Elm Road Sports Association, Elm Road, March. Received: 26 August 2021. Reply by: 16 September 2021. Recommend approval.</p>
F/YR21/0886/F	<p>Mrs T King, All Saints Inter-Church Academy, County Road, March. Siting of a mobile classroom for use by playgroup/out of school club (retrospective) at All Saints Inter-Church VA Primary School, County Road, March. Received: 24 August 2021. Reply by: 14 September 2021. Since she is employed by the school, Councillor Johnson declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application. Recommend approval.</p>

F/YR21/0887/F Mr P Burke, Force One Ltd, Unit 8, Arthur Park, 20 Thorby Avenue, March.
Erect 1 x office/workshop, 1 x vehicle workshop and 1 x training centre, 2.4m high (approx.) fence and formation of car park and associated infrastructure at Land North West of Middle Level Commissioners, Whittlesey Road, March.
Received: 31 August 2021.
Reply by: 21 September 2021.
Recommend approval.

F/YR21/0974/VOC Mr Garry Harradine, 23 Wisbech Road, March.
Variation of Condition 2 (occupant) of planning permission F/YR13/0452/F (Erection of 2 x light industrial units, 2 x 5-bed 2-storey dwellings and 2 x detached double garages, involving the demolition of existing buildings) to read “the commercial unit and associated dwelling will be retained by a sole owner/landlord and managed as such, properties shall not be sold separately under any circumstance” at The Old Dairy Buildings, Grange Road, March.
Received: 3 September 2021.
Reply by: 24 September 2021.
Recommend approval.

75 Public Participation

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

76 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:
Main Council Meeting of 2nd August 2021.
Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 16th August 2021.
Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 16th August 2021.

77 Matters Arising

Re Main Council Meeting of 2nd August 2021:

Minute 66: The two bids under the Local Highway Improvement Scheme 2022/23 were forwarded to Cambridgeshire County Council on 13th August 2021.

Minute 68: Councillor J French reported that the Broad Street disabled toilet is eventually due to be repaired and put back into service this week.

Re Allotments: Councillor Connor highlighted concerns raised by one of the tenants of Wimblington Road allotments. Discussions ensued, after which the following conclusions were agreed:

- a) In future, the following clause should be added to all tenancy agreements – “Allotments are purely for the use of persons residing within the parish of March. Any allotment tenant who moves away from the parish of March will relinquish their tenancy immediately”
- b) In the case of the disputed tenancy, it was agreed that, on this one occasion only, the tenant should be given twelve months’ notice to vacate the allotment in question (vacate by 4th October 2022 latest).
- c) It was agreed that the person in question should also be provided with Councillor Connor’s mobile telephone number so that the possibility of a replacement allotment in Benwick could be discussed.

78 Grants and Donations

Prior to discussions commencing, the Clerk advised Councillors that £2,000 of funding had been provided under this heading within the current year’s budget.

This could be regarded as £500 per quarter or split on whatever other basis that Councillors decreed.

No grants have yet been awarded in this financial year.

Five applications for funding have been received as follows:

Name: Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue (CamSAR).
 Amount requested: £350.
 Purpose of grant: Replacement kit for one of their Search Technicians.

Name: Magpas Air Ambulance.
 Amount requested: £1,000.
 Purpose of grant: Provision of fuel for their AW-169 helicopter.

Name: March Library (Cambridgeshire County Council).
 Amount requested: £250.
 Purpose of grant: Family activities in lieu of the Summer Reading Challenge.

Name: 1st March Scout Group.
 Amount requested: £500.
 Purpose of grant: Provision of improved technology for record-keeping and fund-raising activities.

Name: Rowan.
 Amount requested: £105.
 Purpose of grant: Provision of arts training for adults with learning disability.

It was noted that all applicants met the necessary criteria and the total of the above applications amounted to £2,205.

Prior to discussions commencing, Councillors Elkin and Skoulding declared personal interests and took no part in such discussions.

Councillor Elkin is an officer within 1st March Scout Group and Councillor Skoulding is currently fund-raising for MAGPAS in a personal capacity.

Following lengthy discussions, it was unanimously agreed that all applications should be awarded in full as follows:

Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue (CamSAR)	£ 350.
Magpas Air Ambulance	£1,000.
March Library (Cambridgeshire County Council)	£ 250.
1 st March Scout Group	£ 500.
Rowan	£ 105.

79 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

The Clerk reported that all email updates are being circulated on a daily basis.

Councillor J French then reported as follows:

- a) Under the new administration, CCC monthly meetings have been cancelled and replaced with quarterly ones.
- b) Parking enforcement is due to be discussed at a Highways meeting on 7th September 2021. If approved, it could still take over two years to fully implement.

80 Fenland District Council Update

Councillor J French reported that:

- a) A cycling / walking strategy is currently being discussed to encourage motorists to use alternative modes of transport within town.

81 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm

Councillor K French4th October 2021.
Mayor of March.