

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 7 April 2025 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	G Christy	Town Mayor
	Councillors	S Court	M Field
		J French	K French
		J Lawler	H Orbell
		M Purser	R Skoulding
		N Spencer	T Taylor
		Cambridgeshire County Councillor	J Gowing
		Town Clerk	S Lemmon
		Assistant Town Clerk	S Farmer
		Public	0
		Press	0

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr AWoollard and County Councillor J Gowing.

The Mayor stated to councillors that there would be no discussion in relation to item number 7 on the Agenda (“Non-payment of invoice by Mayor of March”).

He stated he had taken some advice and would defer the discussion under Standing Order 10 (a) (iii) and sections 28 (6) and (7) for the Localism Act 2011.

There was no consultation, discussion or debate on the matter.

No evidence was provided of any advice taken.

The Mayor gave no indication of when or whether the invoice would be paid (as agreed and minuted), or when it was proposed that the item could be discussed (following deferral).

The Mayor refused to answer any questions or enter into any discussions whatsoever.

2 Police Update

No further meeting has taken place and no stats have been provided. A local youth is facing various charges and the police have increased their parking patrols.

Cllr J French advised that there had been many recent complaints and concerns about parking and speeding (notably Station Road and Elm Road). The Clerk updated councillors in relation

to the MVAS, having contacted CCC earlier today and advised councillors that all operatives would need to be qualified (G39 and NRSWA “signing, lighting and guarding”) going forward. A discussion ensued as to whether it was worth continuing to invest time and money into MVAS when the data collection demonstrated that speeding was well below the national average and very little seemed to be done with the data supplied to the police. A discussion ensued as to the merits of purchasing/installing cameras.

3 Planning Applications

Because of her position on the Fenland District Council Planning and Development Committee and her commitment to Paragraph 28 of the Fenland District Council Code of Conduct, Councillor J French declares a permanent personal interest and takes no part in discussions relating to planning matters.

<i>Application</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, Number and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
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No additional planning applications would be discussed at tonight’s meeting.

F/YR24/0893/RM	Balfour Beatty Homes Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR22/1032/O to erect up to 125 dwellings with associated infrastructure, drainage and landscaping (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land West of Princess Avenue, March. Revised Proposals; amended and additional plans. Received: 26 March 2025 Reply by: 9 April 2025 Recommendation: Approval
F/YR25/0165/F	Elaine Cooper Erect a single-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling, involving removal of existing conservatory at 11 Elwyndene Road, March. Received: 17 March 2025 Reply by: 7 April 2025 Recommendation: Approval
F/YR25/0195/F	Mr Barry Chapman Erect a 2-storey rear extension involving demolition of existing conservatory and insertion of first-floor side window to existing dwelling at 3 Bittern Way, March. Received: 17 March 2025 Reply by: 7 April 2025 Recommendation: Approval

F/YR25/0199/TRCA	<p>Gemma Newell, FDC</p> <p>Fell 6 x Elm trees, 3 x Ash trees and 1 x Sycamore tree within a Conservation Area at FDC-owned land, Broad Street, March.</p> <p>Revised Proposals: Amended description of proposal</p> <p>Received: 24 March 2025</p> <p>Reply by: 7 April 2025</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR25/0206/F	<p>Mr M Graham, 18 Gold Street, March.</p> <p>Erect 1 x self-build/custom build dwelling and detached garage at Land West of Cross Road, Knights End Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 18 March 2025</p> <p>Reply by: 8 April 2025</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR25/0209/F	<p>Storelogs Holdings Ltd, 20-24 Marwick Road</p> <p>Boston Renewables</p> <p>Installation of a 622.16kWp ground-mounted solar PV array at Land East of 20-24 Marwick Road.</p> <p>Received: 21 March 2025</p> <p>Reply by: 11 April 2025</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR25/0210/F	<p>Mr M Haydon, 46 Elwyndene Road.</p> <p>Erect a 2-storey extension to existing garage and conversion to form an annexe at 46 Elwyndene Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 19 March 2025</p> <p>Reply by: 9 April 2025</p> <p>Cllr Skoulding declared an interest in this application and took no part in discussions or voting.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR25/0225/F	<p>Miss Joanne Kupyn, 8 Bramble Walk.</p> <p>Erect first-floor extension to side and single-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling at 8 Bramble Walk, March.</p> <p>Received: 24 March 2025</p> <p>Reply by: 14 April 2025</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>

4 Public Participation

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

5 Minutes of Meetings

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

Main Meeting – 3 March 2025

Planning Meeting – 17 March 2025

6 Matters Arising

Main Meeting 3 March 2025 Minute 163: A letter of condolences (as well as an email) had been received from the President of the Association ‘Amitiés Abraysiennes Sans Frontières’ (A.A.S.F.) of the twin town Saint Jean de Braye in France in connection with the death of Bernard Keane. Email to be sent to Sylvia Keane.

7 Non-Payment of Invoice by Mayor or March

As above at Minute 1.

8 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

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

Work on the March BMX Pump Track on West End Park has started, along with the improvements to the area of public realm outside Iceland.

9 Fenland District Council Update

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

Cllr J French advised that 10 new parking spaces had been created in City Road carpark. The signage would be re-done to comply with legislation.

White-lining remained to be completed, and there was outstanding white-lining outside the Fire Station.

Cllr J French advised that she had put a motion to CCC requesting that CCC funded the missing lines and updated signage, but this was flatly refused.

Cllr Skoulding enquired whether the kerbs in Broad Street could be painted to increase their visibility for elderly residents, in particular given that the new lighting in town was appreciably dimmer.

The Clerk reported that she had received a few concerns about the illuminated trees and the possibility of the string lighting inhibiting the growth of the sapling trees in Broad Street. Cllr J French confirmed that the lighting was designed so that the trees would not be damaged by the lighting as they mature.

It was also confirmed that the bollards for Broad Street had been ordered to combat illegal and nuisance parking in Broad Street. Most were permanent, but there would be a few removable bollards to help accommodate events held in town.

10 Payments List

The Payments List, as circulated, was agreed.

It was questioned whether the Volunteer Centre Fenland should continue to receive a specific (annual) grant/donation in future if the Wisbech-based service provided little benefit to March. It was noted that the VCF website was also “undergoing maintenance”.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:05pm.

Councillor G Christy28 April 2025
Mayor of March.