

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 7th November 2022 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	K French MW Purser	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	DW Connor C Elkin R Johnson R White	SR Court J French RF Skoulding
	Town Clerk		S Lemmon
	Assistant Town Clerk		S Taylor

106 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Donnelly, Jack, Tustin and County Councillor Gowing.

107 Police Update

All written reports to date have been circulated. The date of the next meeting had not been determined.

Cllr Skoulding asked that at the next police liaison meeting the recent spate of window breakages in High Street be raised. 3 shops/businesses had suffered broken windows over the weekend. The perpetrators are supposedly known to the police.

108 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.

It was agreed that 4 (four) additional planning applications would be considered.

*Application
Number*

*Name and address of applicant, details of application,
and recommendation of March Town Council*

- F/YR22/0859/F Mr Michael Stocker, 5 Whittlesey Road, March.
Erect a 2-storey rear and side extension to existing dwelling, involving partial demolition of existing rear dwelling and demolition of porch at 5 Whittlesey Road, March.
Revised proposals; Revised design – flat roof amended to a pitched roof style.
Received: 26 October 2022
Reply by 9 November 2022
Recommendation: Approval
- F/YR22/1139/F Mr Joseph Minutolo, Clarion Housing Group, Beacon House, 23 Hostmoor Avenue, March.
Erect a single storey front extension to existing dwelling at 40 Mallard Way, March.
Received: 17 October 2022
Reply by 7 November 2022
Recommendation: Approval
- F/YR22/1148/F Mr M Durant, Lodge House Ltd c/o 2 Tolmers Gardens, Cuffley, Herts.
Erect 7 x dwellings (2-storey 2-bed) with bin and cycle stores at Land East of 36 High Street, March.
Received: 18 October 2022
Reply by: 8 November 2022
Recommendation: Refusal – lack of parking and unsatisfactory access/egress
- F/YR22/1159/LB Mrs Catherine Blake, 125 West End, March.
Installation of 2 replacement windows (timber sliding sash) at 125 West Ed, March.
Received: 24 October 2022
Reply by: 14 November 2022
Recommendation: Approval
- F/YR22/1171/F Mr Ashley Welland, 32 Riverbank Close, March.
Erect a single-storey extension to rear and side of existing dwelling at 12 Ellingham Avenue, March.
Received: 21 October 2022
Reply by: 11 November 2022
Recommendation: Approval
- F/YR22/1182/F Mr Gary Harradine, 17 The Avenue, March.
Erect a detached double garage involving the demolition of existing garage to existing dwelling at 19 The Avenue, March.
Received: 28 October 2022
Reply by 18 November 2022
Recommendation: Approval

F/YR22/1185/F

Ms Tamara Thompson, 129 Elliot Road, March.

Erect a dwelling (single-storey, 3-bed) involving demolition of existing outbuildings at Land West of 132 Elm Road Access via Marwick Road, March.

Received: 4 November 2022

Reply by: 25 November 2022

Recommendation: Approval subject to concerns about access/egress to and from Marwick Road. Busy road used by heavy traffic.

F/YR22/1190/FDC

Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March
Erect a dwelling (1 x residential bungalow and all ancillary works) (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land North of 84 Upwell Road, Access from Smiths Drive, March.

Received: 3 November 2022

Reply by: 24 November 2022

Recommendation: Approval

F/YR22/1198/VOC

Mr M Durrant, Lodge House Ltd c/o 2 Tolmers Garden, Cuffley, Herts.

Variation of conditions 4 (brick and roof tiles), 5 (external details), 7 (tree protection method statement) 8 (surface water drainage), 10 (construction method statement), 11 (floor slab levels) and 12 (list of approved drawings) of planning permission F/YR15/0176/O (erection of 7 x 2-storey 2-bed dwellings with bin and cycle stores (outline application with matters committed in respect of access, appearance, layout and scale)) amendments to materials and rewording of conditions to include in accordance with submitted details at land east of 36 High Street March.

Received: 1 November 2022

Reply by: 22 November 2022

Recommendation: Refusal – lack of parking and unsatisfactory access/egress

F/YR22/1221/TRCA

Ms Amie Cameron, Sanctuary Housing, Chamber Court, Castle Street, Worcester. Agent Mr C Cant, East Cambridge Trading Co, Ely.

Works to 1 x oak tree within a conservation area at Elwyn House, 18 Market Place, March

Received: 3 November 2022

Reply by: 24 November 2022

Recommendation; Approval

109 Broad Street Project Update

The Clerk advised that there had been no meetings since the last Steering Group meeting on 6 October. The meetings scheduled for 27 October and 24 November had been cancelled by Fenland District Council.

A Steering Group meeting was expected to be held in December but a date had not yet been fixed.

Steering Group members had this evening received an email requesting availability for a meeting next week to specifically discuss the location of the public toilets.

The Clerk was asked to contact the District Council to schedule the December meeting as a matter of urgency since the Town Council has had no updates from the District Council whatsoever since 6 October.

Fenland District Council officers it had been agreed would attend March Town Council main meetings from December 2022 to provide regular updates to Town Councillors. As the end of the year approaches and time is of the essence with the project, Town Councillors were anxious to learn what progress is being made.

Cllr Skoulding advised that the County Council had been out in March lasering today near his business premises to ascertain ground levels.

110 Public Participation

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

111 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

- 3 October 2022 – Main Council Meeting
- 17 October 2022 – Extraordinary Meeting
- 17 October 2022 – Planning Sub-Committee
- 17 October 2022 – Christmas Lights Working Party

112 Matters Arising

Re Main Council Meeting of 3 October 2022:

Minute 101 Broad Street, March.

Further to a meeting held on 20 September 2022, a special motion proposed by Councillor Connor (pursuant to March Town Council Standing Orders 7 and 9) had been received by The Clerk following the Main Meeting on 3 October, duly signed by all Councillors thereby present.

The notice was accepted by The Clerk and an Extraordinary Meeting of the March Town Council was convened on Monday 17 October at 6:30pm and the motion was carried as drafted.

113 Community Events - Funding

March Town Council provides financial support to March Events (which includes the Christmas Market), the March Summer Festival and St George's Fayre. The Mayor proposed that the MAFF should receive funding on an annual basis from March Town Council as it is now going to be an annual event and was so successful with well over 10,000 people in attendance at the inaugural event.

The Mayor further proposed that the MAFF event should received £2,500 per annum. This was seconded by Cllr Skoulding.

Cllr Jan French proposed that March Events and March in Bloom should receive additional funding (£1,500 each) to help cover their ever-increasing costs. All Councillors were in agreement.

The Clerk would be working on the Council's budget next week.

114 King's Coronation

The Mayor proposed that a sub-committee be established to potentially organise an event to celebrate/commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May 2023.

The Committee would comprise of the Mayor, Cllr Kim French, Councillors Jan French, Skoulding and Elkin. Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Spencer and Katherine Nightingale of 20Twenty Productions would also be asked to join the sub-committee.

115 Mayor's Air Cadet – Policy & Guidelines

The "March Town Council Policy and Guidelines for the Mayor's Air Cadet" were fully considered and duly ratified.

The first Cadet would be installed at the next main meeting of the Town Council on 5 December.

Since the Cadet would be appointed part way through the Mayoral term, it was determined that the first Cadet would serve for 18 months. Notwithstanding that official installation would not take place until 5 December, the Cadet had been invited to attend the Remembrance parade on Sunday 13 November. Discussions were in progress to hopefully facilitate this.

116 LHI Application Process

The Local Highways Improvement funding scheme for 2023/2024 was now live (31.10.22). The relevant documents had been circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Jan French suggested that all Councillors consider the issues affecting their respective wards, for discussion at the December meeting.

Cushioning along Estover had still not been completed (from 2020) but Creek Road had been completed satisfactorily.

Cllr Jan French advised that proposals for double yellow lines had to be advertised (which could be very costly) as part of a lengthy legal process. The Clerk would research this.

117 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

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

Councillor J French updated Councillors as follows;

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) – the project was behind schedule. Milestone had requested a further £160,000 to check existing road signs; 83% of those in Fenland were illegal.

The money would be secured from either the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership or the Combined Authority. So, although the funding would be provided, the timing was uncertain. Cllr Connor advised that Milestone were also experiencing staffing issues which was further contributing to delays.

Cllr Connor also highlighted the appalling state of many of the Fenland roads – notably the Sixteen Foot and Forty Foot river stretches, the subject of an official complaint and motion.

Councillor J Gowing, unable to attend the meeting, had emailed the Mayor with an update regarding a recent Fire Authority meeting to discuss possible cost savings.

118 Fenland District Council Update

Councillor J French updated Councillors as follows;

In addition to the CPE matter under Minute 117 (above), Fenland District Council had launched a legal bid in the High Court to prevent asylum seekers/illegal refugees being housed at the Rose and Crown Public House in Wisbech. The press release had been circulated to Councillors by the Clerk earlier today.

119 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Councillor K French5 December 2022.
Mayor of March.