

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of March Town Council held on 12 May 2025 in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	A Woollard N Spencer	Town Mayor Deputy Mayor
	Councillors	G Christy M Field K French H Orbell R Skoulding	S Court J French J Lawler M Purser T Taylor
	Town Clerk		S Lemmon
	Assistant Town Clerk		S Farmer
	Press		1
	Public		15

26 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

27 Outgoing Mayors Cadet Presentation

Cllr Christy presented Sergeant Lucy Thompson with a Mayor's Cadet jewel by way of thanks for her service to the Mayor during 2024 - 2025.

28 Declaration of Town Mayor 2025 / 2026

As agreed at the Main Council Meeting on 28 April 2025, Cllr A Woollard had been nominated as Mayor of March and formally accepted the post.

Having changed into his Mayoral robe, Cllr Woollard expressed his honour and gratitude at having been elected and expressed his passion for the town of March and his deep commitment to the residents of March.

29 Declaration of Mayor's Cadet 2025 / 2026

It was agreed that Sergeant Jamie Taylor would serve as the Mayor's Cadet for the 2025/2026 term and Jamie was officially installed and presented with his badge by the new Mayor, Cllr Woollard.

30 Declaration of Deputy Town Mayor 2025 / 2026

As agreed at the Main Council Meeting on 28 April 2025, Cllr N Spencer had been nominated as Deputy Mayor of March and formally accepted the post.

Having donned the Deputy Mayor's robe, Cllr Spencer pledged his commitment to the town of March where he has resided for the past 18 years. He expressed his gratitude for the town's support for the armed forces.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor both signed their respective declarations of office.

The Mayor then presented the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Christy with his former Mayor's jewel.

31 Appointments – Town Council Representatives and Appointments to Outside Bodies

Given the change of Mayor (and resignation of S Harris) Town Council representatives and appointments to outside bodies would be revised and the council's website would be updated accordingly.

32 Agreement of Mayor's Allowance

Councillor Woollard declared a prejudicial interest and left the room whilst the Mayor's allowance was discussed.

Councillor Spencer took the Chair for this agenda item only.

It was unanimously agreed that the following allowance would apply for 2025/2026:

£3,450.00p.

This amount coincides with that provided within this year's budget.

33 Dates of Council Meetings for 2025/2026

The dates for the 2025/2026 meetings were agreed (Appendix 1).

34 Public Participation

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

35 Minutes of Meetings

The minutes of the following meetings were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Meeting - 28 April 2025

36 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

37 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 declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to planning matters.

As a substitute member of the Planning Committee, Cllr Purser declared an interest and took no part in discussions relating to planning matters.

Councillor J French left the debating table for the entirety of this agenda item.

*Application
Number*

*Name & Address of Applicant, Details of Application,
and Recommendation of March Town Council.*

F/YR25/0328/F

Mr John Clark, 108 High Street
Erect 1 x dwelling involving demolition of shed within a
Conservation Area at 108 High Street, March.
Received: 29 April 2025
Reply by: 20 May 2025
Recommendation: Approval

F/YR25/0336/F

Mr K Burke, Suction Excavation UK Ltd
Erect an Office/Workshop (B2 use) and 3 x Portacabins
(temporary use up to 3 years), boundary fence 2.4m high
(max) and associated yard area (part retrospective) at Land
North of Unit 2 Corner Lodge Industrial Estate Knights
End Road March
Received: 6 May 2025
Reply by: 27 May 2025
Recommendation: Approval

F/YR25/0347/F

Mr Chris White, 20 Nene Parade.
Erect 2x self-build/custom build dwellings involving
demolition of existing dwelling and garage within a
Conservation Area at 20 Nene Parade March
Received: 2 May 2025
Reply by: 23 May 2025

*Cllr Lawler declared an interest in this application
Recommendation: Approval although the council has serious concerns about ongoing issues with the structural integrity of the bank, issues with road and bank collapses and the risk of further traffic - including construction traffic - exacerbating these problems.

F/YR25/0353/A

Miss Hanh Thi, London Nails Bar Ltd
Display 1 x non-illuminated fascia sign and 1 x non-illuminated hanging sign at 35 High Street March.
Received: 8 May 2025
Reply by: 29 May 2025
Recommendation: Approval

38 **Payments List**

The Payments List, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:40pm.

Councillor A Woollard 2 June 2025
Mayor of March.

Appendix 1

Dates of March Town Council Meetings for 2025/2026 to be held in the Skoulding Suite, March Town Hall at 19:15 (unless otherwise stated)

2025	2nd & 16th June	
	7th & 21st July	
	4th & 18th August	
	1st & 15th September	
	6th & 20th October	
	3rd & 17th November	
	1st & 15th December	
2026	5th & 19th January	
	2nd & 16th February	
	2nd & 16th March	
	13th April	
	27th April *	Main Meeting (formerly "Annual Assembly")
	11th May *	Annual Meeting (incl Planning)

Please note that, in general, the first Monday of the month is a Main Council Meeting and the third Monday of the month is a **Planning Committee Meeting**.

As an advance notice, the Annual Museum Liaison Meeting will be held on Monday 8 December 2025 at 19:30 at March Museum.

Town Council Representatives - 2025/2026

Museum Liaison Committee	Councillors M Purser, J French, H Orbell, J Lawler
Christmas Lighting Committee	Councillors M Purser, M Field, S Court, G Christy (plus non-Councillors)
Personnel & Admin Committee	Councillors K French, A Woollard, J French, N Spencer
Planning Committee (min 6)	Councillors A Woollard (Chairman), M Purser, M Field, S Court, G Christy, J Lawler, N Spencer, T Taylor
Town Centre Management & Environmental Enhancement Working Party	Councillors J French, A Woollard, J Lawler, M Field
Band Concert Supervisor	Done on weekly basis per draw held in June each year
Allotment Overseers:	
Peyton Avenue	Councillor K French
Wimblington Road	Councillor G Christy
West End / West End Yard	Councillor A Woollard, T Taylor
Grandford	Councillor J French
Robingoodfellows Lane	Councillor J Lawler
MVAS (mobile vehicle activated signs)	Councillors M Field, H Orbell, G Christy
March Events	Councillor J French

Council Representation to Outside Organisations

March Almshouses & Pensions Charities (3 year term of office)	Mrs Linda Peckett & Mr John Orbell (Re-appointed May 2023)
Cambs & P'boro Association of Local Councils (CAPALC)	Councillor A Woollard (although ALL Councillors are invited to attend meetings)
CAPALC Liaison Sub-Committee	Councillor A Woollard
CAPALC Assembly Representative	Councillor A Woollard
March Educational Foundation (4 year term of office) (3)	Councillor Field (May 2023) Councillor H Orbell (May 2023) Councillor M Purser (May 2023) Councillor C Elkin (May 2020) Councillor A Woollard (July 2024)
Middle Level Commissioners	Councillor J French
Fenland CCTV Liaison Group	Councillors K French and A Woollard
Young People March	Councillors A Woollard, M Field
Community Rail Partnership March Station Project Board	Councillor G Christy Councillor G Christy
Police Liaison	Councillor A Woollard