

March Town Council.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of March Town Council held on 9th May 2022 in the Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	K French	Town Mayor
	Councillors	DW Connor J French MW Purser G Tustin	SR Court RM Johnson RF Skoulding RW White
	Cambs County Councillor		J Gowing
	Town Clerk		C Lemmon
	Town Clerk Elect		SL Lemmon
	Assistant Town Clerk		SA Taylor
	Public		Nil

24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Donnelly, Elkin and Jack.

25 Declaration of Town Mayor

As unanimously agreed at the Main Council Meeting of 7th March 2022, Councillor Kim French would remain as Mayor for a third term.

She formally accepted the post, gave a brief introductory speech of her aspirations and signed her “Declaration of Office”. She stated that she would do everything in her power to carry out her duties for the benefit of the people of March.

26 Declaration of Deputy Town Mayor

Also, as unanimously agreed at the Main Council Meeting of 7th March 2022, Councillor Kim French then declared Councillor Purser as Deputy Mayor of March.

Councillor Purser formally accepted the post, stated he would do all he could to assist the Mayor and signed his “Declaration of Office”.

27 Agreement of Mayor's Allowance

Councillor Kim French declared a prejudicial interest, left the debating table and took no part in discussions whilst the Mayor's allowances were being discussed.

Councillor Purser took the Chair for this agenda item only.

It was unanimously agreed that the following allowances would apply for 2022 / 2023:

£3,050.00 Basic Mayors allowance.

£ 400.00 Travelling allowance.

These amounts coincided with the amounts provided within this year's budget.

28 Dates of Council Meetings for 2022 / 2023

The dates for the 2022 / 2023 meetings were agreed as presented (See Appendix 1).

29 Appointment of Committee Members & Council Representatives

It was agreed to appoint Committee Members and Council Representatives in accordance with Appendix 2 (2 pages).

30 Public Participation

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

31 Minutes of Meetings

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

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Sub-Committee Meeting of 4th April 2022.

Main Council Meeting of 4th April 2022.

Annual Assembly of 25th April 2022.

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 25th April 2022.

32 Matters Arising

Re Platinum Jubilee Meeting of 4th April 2022:

The tree trunks situated round the edge of the Suffolk Way / Breton Avenue grass area have been deliberately moved. In consequence, Councillor Skoulding agreed to arrange to have them fixed more firmly and concreted into position.

Re Main Council Meeting of 4th April 2022:

Minute 8:

The Clerk reported that he had emailed Paul Medd (and others) on 5th April 2022 regarding March Town Council's concerns regarding the regeneration of Broad Street and the Market Place.

In consequence, FDC Officers attended the 25th April 2022 Annual Assembly in an attempt to alleviate concerns.

Re Annual Assembly of 25th April 2022:

Minute 12: Since Councillors had not been impressed with the FDC presentation at the Annual Assembly, the Clerk reported that he had emailed Paul Medd and others on 26th April 2022 regarding March Town Council's continuing concerns regarding the proposed redevelopment of Broad Street and the Market Place. Councillors were circulated with a copy of the email on that same date.

Minute 12(o): Phil Hughes responded to the above-mentioned concerns by emailing the Town Clerk on 6th May 2022 but had still not provided the information requested.
In consequence, the Clerk was requested to forward a letter of complaint on 10th May 2022. A lengthy discussion ensued whereby the contents thereof were debated in detail and unanimously agreed.

33 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 left the debating table for the entire time that planning applications were discussed.

It was agreed that one additional planning application would be discussed.

*Application
Number*

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

F/YR21/0855/F

Mr Lee Russell, Cedarwoods, 72 Barton Road, Wisbech.
Erect 18 x dwellings with associated garages, parking and landscaping, and the formation of an access, involving the demolition of existing outbuildings at 7 Wisbech Road, March.

Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

The revision is: Revised Site Plan and further plans and details about FRA and Drainage Strategy and Plan, Highways works including access, tracking and bus stop relocation.

Received: 28 April 2022

Reply by: 12 May 2022

Recommend approval.

F/YR22/0234/F

Mr J Chandler & Miss S Yorke, 4 St Peters Road, March.
Erect 1 x dwelling (3-storey, 4-bed) and associated garden structures at Land North of 4 Causeway Close, March.

Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

The revision is: Revised site plan, elevations and floor plans.

Received: 3 May 2022

Reply by: 17 May 2022

Recommend approval.

F/YR22/0410/F

Mr & Mrs Harper, 4 Ingoldsby Close, March.
Erect first-floor side extension and insertion of dormer to rear elevation of existing dwelling at 4 Ingoldsby Close, March.

Received: 27 April 2022

Reply by: 18 May 2022

Recommend approval.

F/YR22/0418/RM	<p>Mr C Grey, Grandford Homes Ltd, 137 Upwell Road, March</p> <p>Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (Plots 7 & 8 only) pursuant to outline planning permission F/YR19/0931/O, to erect 2 x dwellings (2-storey 4-bed) and associated works at Land South of 137 Upwell Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 3 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 24 May 2022</p> <p>Recommend approval.</p>
F/YR22/0431/F	<p>Mr Thompson, 18 Cromwell Road, March</p> <p>Erect 2-storey, part single-storey rear extension and insertion of first-floor side window to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing extension at 18 Cromwell Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 27 April 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 18 May 2022</p> <p>Recommend approval.</p>
F/YR22/0478/F	<p>Mr John Tufts, Snowmountain Enterprises, Oliver Cromwell Hotel, High Street March.</p> <p>Erect 6 x residential units (1 x 3-storey block of flats – 6 x 2-bed) with associated parking on Land South of 88-90 High Street, March.</p> <p>Received: 3 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 24 May 2022</p> <p>Recommend approval.</p>
F/YR22/0463/A	<p>Mr A Brook, C&J Clark International Limited, 40 High Street, Somerset.</p> <p>Display of 2 internally illuminated fascia signs and 1 non-illuminated double sided hanging sign at Clarks Shoes, White Hart Buildings, 1 Broad Street, March.</p> <p>Received: 5 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 26 May 2022</p> <p>Recommend approval.</p>

34 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Councillor K French..... 6th June 2022.
Mayor of March.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 6th June 2022 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	K French	Town Mayor
	Councillors	SR Court CK Elkin R Johnson RF Skoulding	AR Donnelly J French MW Purser RW White
	Town Clerk		C Lemmon
	Town Clerk Elect		SL Lemmon
	Asst. Town Clerk		SA Taylor
	Public		None

35 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Connor and Tustin and County Councillor Gowing.

36 Police Update

A police update was circulated on 11th May 2022 and a further liaison meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 8th June 2022.

37 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.

(Councillor Connor was not in attendance at this meeting).

It was agreed that one additional planning application would be discussed.

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR21/0855/F	<p>Mr Lee Russell, Cedarwoods, 72 Barton Road, Wisbech. Erect 18 x dwellings with associated garages, parking and landscaping, and the formation of an access, involving the demolition of existing outbuilding at 7 Wisbech Road, March. Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above. The revision is: Revised site plan and further plans and details about the flood risk assessment and drainage strategy and plan, highways works including tracking, access and bus stop relocation. Received: 17 May 2022 Reply by: 27 May 2022 Since she is a friend of the applicant, Councillor Johnson declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application. Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0431/F	<p>Mr Thompson, 18 Cromwell Road, March. Erect part 2-storey, part single-storey rear extension and insertion of first-floor side window to existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing extension at 18 Cromwell Road, March. Received: 11 May 2022 Reply by: 25 May 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0461/F	<p>Mrs Anne Dew, Persimmon Homes East Midlands, Persimmon House, 19 Commerce Road, Lynch Road, Peterborough. Enhancement works to a section of Public Right of Way FP156/13 at Footpath FP156/13 North of Steeple View, March. Received: 9 May 2022 Reply by: 30 May 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0464/LB	<p>March Civic Trust, March Town Hall, Market Place, March Works to a Listed Building comprising the replacement of front access door at March Town Hall, Market Place, March. Received: 11 May 2022 Reply by: 1 June 2022 Since he is Chairman of March Civic Trust, Clive Lemmon declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application. Similarly, since she is a trustee of March Civic Trust, Sarah Lemmon declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application. Recommendation: Approval</p>

F/YR22/0473/F	<p>Mr and Mrs Robinson, 36 Station Road, March. Erect first-floor side extension to existing dwelling at Oak House, 36 Station Road, March. Received: 10 May 2022 Reply by: 31 May 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0491/F	<p>Mrs L Lea, 39 Newlands Avenue, March. Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 39 Newlands Avenue, March. Received: 12 May 2022 Reply by: 2 June 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
FY/YR22/0496/F	<p>Mrs S J Fox, Clarion Housing c/o Mr Christopher Back (agent), The Design Partnership (Ely) Limited, Claremont House, 12 Station Road, Chatteris. Erection of 40 dwellings comprising 28no 2-storey, 2-bed and 12no 2-storey, 3 bed); formation of a surface water lagoon and pumping station and new access to Cricket Club at land south west of 1 – 23 Springfield Avenue, March. Received: 13 May 2022 Reply by: 3 June 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0505/VOC	<p>Mr P Hussey, Millfield Developments Ltd, 38 Burrowmoor Road, March. Variation of condition 23 (list of approved drawings) of planning permission F/YR18/0947/F (Erection of 7 x dwellings comprising of 1 x 2-storey 4-bed; 4 x 2-storey 3-bed and 2 x single-storey 3-bed dwellings) with garages [Plots 3, 6 & 7 only] involving demolition of existing dwelling, outbuildings and boundary wall) to remove turning head and cherry trees at 33 Gaul Road, March. Received: 13 May 2022 Reply by: 3 June 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0506/A	<p>Mark Allen, Cooperative Food Store, Badgeney Road, March. Display 2 x signs (1 x internally illuminated fascia sign and 1 x non-illuminated double-sided totem sign) at Cooperative Food Store, Badgeney Road, March. Received: 13 May 2022 Reply by: 3 June 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>

F/YR22/0510/O	<p>Cannon Kirk (UK) Ltd, c/o Andrew Hodgson, Pegasus Group, Vision Park, Histon.</p> <p>Erect up to 36 x dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land West of 12 Knights End Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 12 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 2 June 2022</p> <p>Since he lives close to the application site, Clive Lemmon declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussions relating to this application.</p> <p>Recommendation: Refusal – overdevelopment and proximity to existing junction and postbox, as previously stated.</p>
F/YR22/0517/F	<p>Mr Kevan Walker, Broadlands, Whitemoor Road, March.</p> <p>Installation of BioDisc and associated works at Broadlands, Whitemoor Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 16 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 6 June 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0538/TRCA	<p>Mr Matthew Carter, 38 West End, March.</p> <p>Works to 1 x yew tree and fell 1 x conifer tree within a Conservation Area at 38 West End, March.</p> <p>Received: 10 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 31 May 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0542/F	<p>Mr & Mrs Howlett, 3 The Walnuts, March.</p> <p>Erect a single-storey extension to front of existing dwelling at 3 The Walnuts, March.</p> <p>Received: 16 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 6 June 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0549/F	<p>Priory Group c/o James Tarpy, Alder King Planning Consultants, Pembroke House, 15 Pembroke Road, Bristol.</p> <p>Erect a single-storey extension to side of existing building and replacement of side window with an escape door and associated works at Conquest Lodge, Dagless Way, March.</p> <p>Received: 23 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 13 June 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0550/F	<p>Mr B Barrett, 108 Doddington Road, Chatteris.</p> <p>Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey, 3-bed) and formation of a public layby at Land North of 98-101 West End, March.</p> <p>Received: 23 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 13 June 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>

F/YR22/0565/O	<p>Mrs L Fountain, 31 Gaul Road, March.</p> <p>Erect up to 2 dwellings (outline with matters committed in respect of access) at Land to the West of 167 Gaul Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 19 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 9 June 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0569/F	<p>Mrs C Mair, Linwood Farm, Linwood Lane, March.</p> <p>Erect a single storey rear extension to existing dwelling, involving the demolition of existing conservatory at Linwood Farm, Linwood Lane, March.</p> <p>Received: 20 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 10 June 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0571/O	<p>Mr J Fowler, G's Group Holdings Ltd, Barway Road, Barway, Cambs.</p> <p>Erect a linked industrial building (Class B2/B8) with accompanying parking, in association with existing business (outline application with matters committed in respect of access, layout and scale) at 50 Hostmoor Avenue, March.</p> <p>Received: 23 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 13 June 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0577/F	<p>Cannon Kirk Ltd, c/o Agent (Andrew Hodgson, Pegasus Group, Cambridge).</p> <p>Formation of a car park at Land North of Sharman Fabrications, Gaul Farm, Gaul Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 24 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 14 June 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0582/F	<p>Mr Purnell, 17 Maple Grove, March.</p> <p>Erect a 2-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 17 Maple Grove, March.</p> <p>Received: 20 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 10 June 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0590/F	<p>Mr and Mrs M Cable, 9 Cedar Close, March.</p> <p>Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 9 Cedar Close, March</p> <p>Received: 25 May 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 15 May 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>

F/YR22/0593/F	<p>Mr D Watson, 20 Ellingham Avenue, March. Erect a 2-storey side extension and front porch to existing dwelling at 20 Ellingham Avenue, March. Received: 27 May 2022 Reply by: 17 June 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0606/TRTPO	<p>Mr John Tufts, March Physiotherapy, 93 High Street, March. Works to 2 x Yew trees covered by TPO 04/2012 at 93 High Street, March Received: 30 May 2022 Reply by: 20 June 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0611/TRCA	<p>Mr John Tufts, March Physiotherapy, 93 High Street, March. Works to 1 x Sycamore tree within a conservation area at 93 High Street, March. Received: 26 May 2022 Reply by: 16 June 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0618/F	<p>Mr S Macer, Newlands, Wimblington Road, March. Erect a 2-storey rear extension, first floor front extension, alterations to roof including raising the height, to existing dwelling, involving the demolition of existing rear extension at Newlands, Wimblington Road, March. Received: 30 May 2022 Reply by: 20 June 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0620/F	<p>Miss Hannah Carver, 235 Norwood Road, March. Formation of a dropped kerb to an existing dwelling at 235 Norwood Road, March. Received: 27 May 2022 Reply by: 17 June 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0624/F	<p>Mr Acott, 17 Elwyn Court, March. Erect a single-storey side and rear extension to existing dwelling, involving the demolition of the garage and conservatory at 17 Elwyn Court, March. Received: 30 May 2022 Reply by: 20 June 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>

F/YR22/0626/F

Wendy Jackson, 3 Orwell Drive, March.
Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 3
Orwell Drive, March.
Received: 1 June 2022
Reply by: 22 June 2022
Recommendation: Approval

38 Public Participation

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

39 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed:
Queens Platinum Jubilee Sub-Committee Meeting of 9th May 2022.
Annual Council Meeting of 9th May 2022.
Christmas Lights Working Party Meeting of 23rd May 2022.

40 Matters Arising

Re Platinum Jubilee Meeting of 9th May 2022:

The Mayor and the Committee were congratulated on the successful beacon lighting ceremony that took place on Thursday 2nd June 2022. The weather had been favourable, the band excellent, the barbecued food well received and literally hundreds of people attended. It was agreed that four bottles of port should be purchased as gifts for the following people/companies who provided complimentary support which was invaluable to the success of the event:

2 x bottles for Lt Col Nigel Spencer and his team of volunteers.
1 x bottle for Tony Demetrious (TD Services – loan of cherry-picker).
1 x bottle for Goldstar (loan of generator).

Re Annual Meeting of 9th May 2022:

Minute 32/12(o): The Clerk reported that he had emailed Phil Hughes and others on 10th May 2022 with March Town Council's continuing concerns regarding the March High Street Fund. A response dated 11th May 2022 did little to satisfy the queries raised so a further email was forwarded on 13th May 2022. Councillors were circulated with copies of all exchanges. In consequence, a meeting was arranged between March Town Council, Fenland District Council and other parties involved in the design of the proposed Broad Street and Market Place schemes. This took place on Monday 30th May 2022 and an agenda item is included later in this meeting to discuss matters further.

The Mayor reported that a meeting had been held at Fenland Hall on the evening of 30th May 2022 between March Town Council, Fenland District Council and various other parties involved in the design of the proposed Broad Street and Market Place schemes.

Generally, the meeting allowed March Town Council to be provided with the full background information that had been used to determine the reasoning behind the various proposals. This joint communication/consultation was welcomed and regarded as positive. It resulted in a frank exchange of views, with associated suggestions, so that all areas could be examined closely.

A discussion then ensued whereby March Town Councillors raised the following points:

- a) There has been a complete failure by FDC Officers and the associated Steering Group to recognise the importance of the “Palace” site to the future successful regeneration of the town. This failure has occurred even though the Darthill Road car park has been operating without a lease for the last two years. An eleventh-hour attempt to purchase the site failed to materialise because it had been sold elsewhere.
- b) Centralisation of the proposed Broad Street thoroughfare (as opposed to being located to the western side) could possibly have provided better balance for shoppers and shopkeepers alike.
- c) Questions were raised concerning the efficacy of the traffic surveys undertaken in March 2018 even though attempts have been made by Milestone Infrastructure to justify their results (email circulated to all Councillors on 31st May 2022).
- d) There still appears to be an apparent willingness to spend money unwisely rather than lose the available grant funding.
- e) A lack of forward planning, coupled with poor consultation, may result in the final design being greatly compromised because timescales have been exhausted and costs have escalated.
- f) The Market Place plan (as presented at the joint meeting) includes a non-existent tree. Matt Wright is currently attempting to obtain information from Milestone Infrastructure to ascertain how and why this has happened.
- g) There is an expectation by FDC (without consultation) that volunteers (March Street Pride Group) will take on the maintenance and watering of all new proposed planters.
- h) The overall Broad Street plan (as presented at the joint meeting) appears to show Grays Lane being wider than it actually is.
- i) Definitive dates were requested for the proposed consultation events at March Library.

In conclusion, it was hoped that further joint meetings between March Town Council and Fenland District Council would be arranged.

It was agreed that a copy of this minute should be forwarded to Paul Medd, Simon Machen, Phil Hughes, Matt Wright and others to ensure that they remained fully aware of the opinions of March Town Council.

42 Band Concerts Draw

2022 is seeing a return to a full programme of band concerts during July and August. A draw, therefore, took place to establish which Councillor(s) would supervise each of these concerts.

Where 20 or more chairs were required, it was agreed that two Councillors would be allocated.

Also, as is normal, the Mayor would be one of the supervisors at the final concert.

The result of the draw was as follows:

Sunday 3 rd July 2022	Wicken Coronation Band	30 chairs
Councillors K French & Elkin.		
Sunday 10 th July 2022	Hilgay Silver Band	20 chairs
Councillors Connor & Purser.		
Sunday 17 th July 2022	City of Peterborough Concert Band	30 chairs
Councillors Skoulding & White.		
Sunday 24 th July 2022	March Brass 2000	24 chairs
Councillors Donnelly & Tustin.		
Sunday 31 st July 2022	Chatteris & Manea Silver Band	26 chairs
Councillors Court & J French.		
Sunday 7 th August 2022	Wississippi Jazzmen	4 chairs
Councillor Johnson.		
Sunday 14 th August 2022	Soham Comrades Band	30 chairs
Councillor Skoulding & Elkin.		
Sunday 21 st August 2022	Newmarket Town Band	30 chairs
Councillor Connor & Tustin.		
Sunday 28 th August 2022	MADAOS	20 chairs
Councillor K French & J French.		

Further details would be provided closer to the date, but the following conditions would apply:

- a) If Councillors cannot fulfil their obligations at any time, it is their responsibility to find a replacement.
- b) It is the responsibility of the concert supervisor to collect the payment cheque from the Council Office in the week prior to the concert.
- c) The Assistant Town Clerk will provide details of the actions the concert supervisor will need to take in the event of inclement weather conditions. Generally, this will mean relocating to St Peters Church and being provided with the telephone number of the relevant contact there.

43 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) Work on the Norwood Road speed reduction scheme is due commence on Monday 13th June 2022.
- b) The Sycamore Close flooding that was again experienced on Sunday 5th June 2022 has been reported to all relevant CCC personnel with an urgent request for remedial works to be undertaken.

44 Fenland District Council Update

Councillor J French reported that:

- a) Civil Parking Enforcement will not become fully operational prior to September 2023. Thereafter, the issue of parking on double yellow lines will come under the control of Fenland District Council instead of the police. At such time, further consideration can be given to the extension of yellow lining within the town.

45 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Councillor K French4th July 2022.
Mayor of March.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 4th July 2022 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	K French	Town Mayor
	Councillors	DW Connor AR Donnelly J French MW Purser G Tustin	SR Court CK Elkin R Johnson RF Skoulding RW White
	County Councillor		J W Gowing
	Town Clerk		C Lemmon
	Town Clerk Elect		SL Lemmon
	Asst. Town Clerk		SA Taylor

48 Apologies

No apologies were received.

49 Police Update

Police updates were circulated on 8th and 30th June 2022. The date of the next liaison meeting is yet to be arranged.

50 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 3 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/YR22/0691/F	Mr John Pink, The Old Coach House, Thicket Road, Houghton, PE28 2BQ. Erect an external cavity wall to side, and external insulation and render to side and rear of existing dwelling at 76 Creek Road, March. Received: 21 June 2022 Reply by: 12 July 2022 Recommend Approval

F/YR22/0705/RM	<p>Mr Dan Clarke, c/o Peter Humphrey Associates, 2 Chapel Road, Wisbech.</p> <p>Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission F/YR20/1138/O to erect 6 x dwellings (2 x 2-storey, 5-bed and 4 x 2-storey, 4-bed) to include garages at Land South of 85-89 Upwell Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 21 June 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 12 July 2022</p> <p>Recommend Approval</p>
F/YR22/0717/F	<p>Mr G Mills, 1 Mills Garden, March.</p> <p>Erect a single-storey rear outbuilding at 1 Mills Garden, March.</p> <p>Received: 21 June 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 12 July 2022</p> <p>Recommend Approval</p>
F/YR22/0723/F	<p>Mr McCullough, Highfield House, Elm Road, March.</p> <p>Erect a single-storey extension to side/rear of existing dwelling at Highfield House, Elm Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 21 June 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 12 July 2022</p> <p>Recommend Approval</p>
F/YR22/0726/TE1	<p>Mr Gallivan, CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd, Great Bingham's Mead, Vastern Road, Reading.</p> <p>5G Telecoms installation: Erect H3G 18 metre street pole and the installation of 3 x ground-based equipment cabinets at Land North of 73 High Street, March.</p> <p>Received: 20 June 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 11 July 2022</p> <p>Recommend Approval</p>
F/YR22/0734/TRTPO	<p>Mrs Ellen Champion, 3 Magnolia Close, March.</p> <p>Works to a silver birch tree covered by TPO 03/2014 at 3 Magnolia Close, March.</p> <p>Received: 23 June 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 14 July 2022</p> <p>Recommend Approval</p>
F/YR22/0736/F	<p>Mrs Jo Henson, 86 Elm Road, March.</p> <p>Erect a 2-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 86 Elm Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 27 June 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 18 July 2022</p> <p>Recommend Approval</p>

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| F/YR22/0741/F | <p>Mr & Mrs Fox, 115 Elliott Road, March.
 Erect 1 x dwelling (single-storey 3-bed) and detached garage at
 Land North of 115 Elliott Road, March.
 Received: 1 July 2022
 Reply by: 22 July 2022
 Recommend Approval</p> |
| F/YR22/0761/TRTPO | <p>Cath Causer, The Old Rectory, The Walnuts, March.
 Fell 1 x Ash Tree covered by TPO 5/1975 at The Old Rectory,
 The Walnuts, March.
 Received: 29th June 2022
 Reply by: 20 July 2022
 Recommend Approval</p> |
| F/YR22/0775/F | <p>Mr & Mrs Gilbert, 27 Hereward Street, March.
 Erect a two-storey side and rear extension to existing dwelling
 at 27 Hereward Street, March.
 Received: 1 July 2022
 Reply by: 22 July 2022
 Recommend Approval</p> |

51 Public Participation

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

52 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed:

6th June 2022 – Main Council Meeting
 29th June 2022 – Meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee

53 Matters Arising

Re Main Council Meeting of 6th June 2022:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Minute 40/Platinum Jubilee: | <p>The Mayor reported that she had purchased the four bottles of port as agreed and distributed them as necessary.</p> |
| Minute 41: | <p>The Clerk reported that he had emailed a copy of this minute to Paul Medd and others on 7th June 2022. A copy of such email was circulated to all Councillors to keep them fully informed of progress to date.
 A response from Phil Hughes dated 9 June 2022 together with all subsequent email communications between March Town Council and Fenland District</p> |

Council has been circulated to Councillors as and when sent/received.

It has been agreed that FDC will attend the Main Meeting of March Town Council to be held on 1st August 2022.

Minute 42:

The Clerk reported that he had emailed all Councillors on 7th June 2022 to confirm the dates that they were required to supervise the band concerts and their responsibilities in relation thereto.

54 Internal Audit Review – year ending 31 March 2022 and re-appointment of Internal Auditors

Letter from Whittings LLP dated 8th June 2022 stated that they had now completed the Internal Audit Review of the Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2022.

They confirmed that based on their tests there are no material items in relation to which they need to report.

It also noted that in the prior year the Mayoral expenses for 2020/21 were not expended due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and that these would be expended during the year 2021/22. From their review, it was noted that the Mayoral expenses had been carried forward and expended within the year as previously agreed.

Following the proposition of Councillor Purser, seconded by Councillor Skoulding, it was unanimously agreed to accept the Internal Audit Review.

Following the proposition of Councillor Purser, seconded by Councillor Skoulding, it was unanimously agreed that Whittings LLP would be re-appointed as Internal Auditor for March Town Council for the year ending 31 March 2023.

55 Broad Street and Market Place Proposals/Update

The update provided by Fenland District Council was circulated to Councillors on Tuesday 28th June and discussed in detail.

Comments raised were as follows:

- i) Although Matt Wright's email of 23rd June 2022 stated that all shop visits had been completed, serious concern was expressed whether this constituted full consultation. Certain business owners had alluded that the visit was cursory rather than meaningful. To alleviate Councillor's concerns, Fenland District Council would be requested to provide details of the responses received from each shop. If this request was refused, March Town Council would distribute its own consultation document to each shop to verify precisely their individual views and comments.
- ii) The Broad Street preliminary design has three zebra crossings located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed roundabout (one in Broad Street itself, one in

Station Road and one in Dartford Road). There is a fourth zebra crossing located further along Broad Street. Currently, pedestrians are only allowed to cross the various zebra crossings in accordance with the operation of traffic lights. Under the proposed scheme, traffic lights will be removed and, therefore, pedestrians will take priority over motorists and will be entitled to cross at all times without restriction. This is likely to slow the flow of traffic rather than improve it. Without doubt, the “Broad Street Traffic Modelling Video” posted on the FDC website appears to take too little account of physical pedestrian zebra crossing usage. Anyone familiar with March would know the extensive usage that these crossings generate.

- iii) The Broad Street preliminary design still appears to exaggerate the width of Grays Lane. Indeed, it is shown as the same width as the new Broad Street layout which is far from the case as anyone who has travelled along it would agree.
- iv) Because of budget concerns, and without a guarantee of the project being financially underwritten, there was no confidence that it could be delivered to anywhere near the extent of the proposals suggested.
- v) Councillors were disappointed with the lack of real progress achieved since the initial meeting held with Phil Hughes and Matt Wright on 25th April 2022. Still no final plans have been produced. Although initially promised for July 2022, this date has now apparently slipped to “Autumn” 2022. Obviously, without proper plans there can be no proper costings and this is a huge obstacle in a market where material costs have, and are continuing, to rise dramatically.
- vi) No planning applications have yet been submitted for the Market Place modifications or the re-siting of the public toilets. It is possible that the Market Place will not need a planning application but the toilets definitely will and, without doubt, many objections are likely to be received in respect thereof.
- vii) It still appears that FDC Officers are deliberately slowing the whole process down so that timescales are exhausted with a view to bulldoze the whole scheme through whilst ignoring the will of the electorate. This would then equate to a willingness to spend grant money foolishly rather than lose it. This could leave the town centre in an unfinished state with no budget to complete it and in a worse state than before works started. People who live, work and socialise in March are best equipped to know what the town needs.
- viii) Serious concerns remain about the level of parking provision within town particularly taking into account:
 - a) The lack of public transport within the area.
 - b) The failure to recognize the importance of the “Collingwood site” at an early stage of the plan’s development.
- ix) A regular update of Fenland District Council’s responses from the Thursday consultation exercises at March Library should be forwarded to March Town Council on a weekly basis by the following Monday latest.

Following these discussions, the following points were unanimously agreed:

- i) A copy of this minute should be forwarded to Paul Medd, Phil Hughes, Matt Wright and others so they are kept fully informed of March Town Council's continuing concerns.
- ii) In the event that March Town Council's requests did not receive a satisfactory response, it would produce its own press release and undertake its own consultation exercise in association with the press itself.

56 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

The Clerk reported that all email updates are being circulated on a daily basis. Councillors J French and Gowing then reported as follows:

- i) Concerns were expressed about the recent increase in the number of serious RTI's and fatalities on the A141 between Mill Hill roundabout and Chatteris. Investigations are underway.
- ii) Anglian Water are due to start works at Sycamore Close to help to alleviate flooding issues.
- iii) Work has started on Norwood Road traffic-calming measures.

57 Fenland District Council Update

Councillor J French reported that she would approach Simon Bell regarding the neglected condition of the Bandstand in West End Park.

58 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

Councillor K French1st August 2022.
Mayor of March.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 1st August 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	SR Court J French RF Skoulding	AR Donnelly R Johnson RW White
	FDC Acting Assistant Director		Phil Hughes
	Town Clerk Town Clerk Elect		C Lemmon SL Lemmon
	Public		3 (three)

63 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Connor, Elkin, Jack & Tustin and County Cllr Gowing.

64 FDC Presentation and Broad Street Update

Phil Hughes updated Councillors as follows;

Mr Hughes once again reminded those present about the history of the Broad Street proposals and the background to the competitive bid for Government funding; the funding was awarded for very specific purposes and could not be used for general improvements.

The last of the public “*consultations*” had now taken place on the Market Place on Saturday 23rd July and the public comments box at the library has been removed.

It was noted that consultation that had taken place in April 2020 (83 responses) was overwhelmingly positive. However, the more recent consultations in July 2022, along with social media comments, were overwhelmingly negative. Mr Hughes, however, tried to assert that the current responses were not necessarily representative of the general population. This suggestion was widely contested.

Following questioning, Mr Hughes told Councillors that requisite planning applications would be submitted in approximately 2 (two) weeks but that no such application was necessary in respect of the highways and infrastructure changes which fell within the remit of the County Council as Highways Authority.

Mr Hughes confirmed that the location of the public toilets would now be changed but that a location had not yet been determined. This would be a matter for discussion at the Broad

Steet Steering Group meeting on 4th August to which the Town Clerk and Town Clerk Elect had been invited to attend.

Mr Hughes stated that the siting of the War Memorial and the Fountain had still not been established. The kerb line of the proposed new road layout, was, however, confirmed.

Mr Hughes was thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 8.22pm.

Following his departure, Councillors continued their discussions concerning the Broad Street proposals and agreed that a “statement of concerns” should be drafted and presented to the Steering Group meeting on Thursday 4th August 2022.
Discussions in this matter concluded at 8.37pm.

65 Police Update

No police updates have been circulated since the date of the last meeting on 4th July 2022. The date of the next liaison meeting is 3rd August 2022.

66 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 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 1 (one) additional planning application would be discussed.

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR22/0550/F	Mr Barrett, 108 Doddington Road, Chatteris. Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey, 3-bed) and formation of a public layby at Land North of 98-101 West End, March. Received: 25 th July 2022 Application Withdrawn Withdrawal Noted
F/YR22/0805/TRTPO	Mr J Stevens, 2 Old Bank House, West End, March. Fell 2 x Yew Trees covered by TPO 01/2019 at TPO Land South of 2 West End, March. Received: 22 July 2022 Reply by: 12 August 2022 Recommend Approval subject to satisfactory inspection by Fenland District Council's Tree Officer.

22/0473/LAPAVE

Mrs Nicola Hemsley, The Exchange Tearooms, Market Place, March.

The area to the front and left of the building (facing the front door of The Exchange) for the outside consumption of food and drink in connection with the relevant use of the Premises.

Received: 29th July 2022

Reply by: 6th August 2022

Recommend **Approval**

67 Public Participation

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

68 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

4th July 2022 – Main Council Meeting

18th July 2022 – Meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee

18th July 2022 – Christmas Lights

69 Matters Arising

Re Main Council Meeting of 4th July 2022:

Minute 54

The Clerk reported that he had emailed Whittings LLP on 5th July requesting that they continue to act as the Council's internal auditors for the next financial year. A response dated the same day confirmed their acceptance.

Minute 55

The Clerk reported that he had emailed Paul Medd et al on 5th July with the relevant minute from the meeting of the 4th July, which detailed the Council's ongoing concerns regarding the proposals, lack of consultation and lack of progress or momentum with the project. A copy of this email was circulated to Councillors on 5th July and all subsequent correspondence was forwarded as and when sent or received. It has now been agreed that the Town Clerk should be represented on the Broad Street Steering Group.

Minute 60 CONFIDENTIAL

A Freedom of the Town Certificate was commissioned on the 5th July with a view to being presented on Monday 5th September.

70 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

The Clerk reported that all email updates are being circulated on a daily basis.
Councillor J French reported that the Norwood Road Traffic Calming Scheme had been completed and Civil Parking Enforcement remains an ongoing matter.

71 Fenland District Council Update

No update was provided.

72 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Councillor K French5th September 2022.
Mayor of March.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 5th September 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 AR Donnelly J French RF Skoulding	SR Court C Elkin R Johnson G Tustin
	Invited Guest		Lt Col. Nigel Spencer MBE
	Town Clerk Town Clerk Elect Assistant Town Clerk		C Lemmon SL Lemmon S Taylor
	Public		3

75 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Jack and White and County Councillor Gowing.

76 **Police Update**

Minutes of the Police Liaison meeting of 3rd August were circulated to Councillors on 12th August. The date of the next liaison meeting is Thursday 8th September 2022.

77 **Presentation of “Freedom of the Town”**

In accordance with Minute 60 of the meeting of March Town Council dated 4th July 2022, the Mayor, Councillor Kim French, presented Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Spencer MBE with a framed Freedom of the Town of March scroll in recognition of his services to the Town. The award is only the fourth such honour bestowed by the March Town Council. Previously, the Freedom of the Town had been awarded to The Air Cadets (1996), Army Cadets (2001) and Louise Hazel (2010). The Mayor thanked Lieutenant Colonel Spencer for his past efforts and he gave a brief acceptance speech in reply.

Lieutenant Colonel Spencer left the meeting at 7:30pm.

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 2 additional planning application would be discussed.

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR22/0913/F	<p>Messrs Siggee and Sanderson, Cherryholt Farm, Burrowmoor Road, March.</p> <p>Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey, 4-bed) with 2.0m high boundary brick walls at Plot 2, Land at Cherryholt Farm, Burrowmoor Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 16 August 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 6 September 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0919/O	<p>Mr and Mrs J White c/o Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd (agent).</p> <p>Erect up to 2 x dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) at Land South of 733 Whittlesey Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 15 August 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 5 September 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0922/F	<p>Mr T Goakes, 9 Orchard Road, March.</p> <p>Erect a first-floor extension to front, a 2-storey extension to front/side and a single-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling at 9 Orchard Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 17 August 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 7 September 2022</p> <p>C Elkin declared a personal interest in this application as he is a friend of the Applicant. As such, he took no part in discussions relating to this Application.</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0936/F	<p>Mr & Mrs Mark Pocklington, Linwood Lodge, Linwood Lane, March.</p> <p>Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) with attached car port and garage at Land South West of Caswell House, Mill Hill Lane, March.</p> <p>Received: 17 August 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 7 September 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>

F/YR22/0943/FDC	<p>Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March. Erect up to 6 x dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land West of 53-69 Grounds Avenue, March. [A Reg 3 application for planning permission where FDC is the applicant]. Received: 18 August 2022 Reply by: 8 September 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0944/FDL	<p>Mr Gareth Roberts, GAP Country Homes Limited, 2 Aquila Way, Langtoft, Peterborough. Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission F/YR20/1022/FDL to erect 8 x dwellings (1 x single-storey 3-bed, 1 x 2-storey 3-bed and 6 x 2-storey 4-bed) at Land South of Brewin Oaks, City Road, March. [A Reg 4 application for planning permission where land is owned by FDC but FDC is not the applicant]. Received: 18 August 2022 Reply by: 8 September 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0950/F	<p>Mr & Mrs Cherry, Causeway House, Grandford Drove, March. Erect a detached 2-storey double garage to existing dwelling at Causeway House, Grandford Drove, March. Received: 17 August 2022 Reply by: 7 September 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0962/F	<p>Mr Newton, The Stable Block, Knights End Road, March. Erect a single-storey 2-bed annexe ancillary to existing dwelling and single-storey carport with log store involving the removal of the existing mobile home and change of use to garden land at The Stable Block, Knights End Road, March. Received: 22 August 2022 Reply by: 12 September 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0974/F	<p>Mr A Chokshi, ASNC Enterprise Limited, 167 Cambridge Road, Great Shelford. Change of use of existing dentist surgery to form 3 x flats (1 x 2-bed and 2 x 1-bed), involving the partial demolition of a rear extension and the formation of a balcony at 21 Darthill Road, March. Received: 22 August 2022 Reply by: 12 September 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>

- F/YR22/0981/F Mr & Mrs Wade, 13 Fishermans Drive, March.
Erect a single-storey extension to rear including conversion of a garage for residential use and demolition of conservatory of existing dwelling at 13 Fishermans Drive, March.
Received: 23 August 2022
Reply by: 13 September 2022
Recommendation: Approval
- F/YR22/0988/O Mrs B Perman, 121 West End, March.
Erect 1 x dwelling involving the removal of existing shed (outline application with all matters reserved) at Land West of 121 West End, March.
Received: 26 August 2022
Reply by: 16 September 2022
Recommendation: Approval
- F/YR22/0989/F Mrs Ellen Champion, 3 Magnolia Close, March.
Erect an infill extension to front of dwelling to enable garage conversion, solar panels to front roof and car port/storage to rear of existing dwelling at 3 Magnolia Close, March.
Received: 26 August 2022
Reply by 16 September 2022
Recommendation: Approval
- F/YR22/0994/O Mr P Gumbley c/o Swann Architecture, Black Barn, Fen Road, March.
Erect 1 x dwelling (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land North of 125A West End, March.
Received: 31 August 2022
Reply by: 21 September 2022
Recommendation: Approval
- F/YR22/0997/O Mr H V Aveling, Badgeney Lodge, Badgeney End, March.
Erect 1 x dwelling (outline application with all matters reserved) at Land North of Byways, 1 Badgeney End, March.
Received: 1 September 2022
Reply by: 22 September 2022
Recommendation: Approval *subject to retention of adequate drainage.*

79 Public Participation

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

80 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

1st August 2022 – Main Council Meeting
8th August 2022 – Personnel & Admin Sub Committee
15th August 2022 – Planning Sub Committee

81 Matters Arising

Re Main Council Meeting of 1st August 2022:

Minute 64 The Mayor, Councillors and The Clerk collectively drafted a “Statement of Concern” representing their views and concerns which was unanimously approved by Councillors and presented by The Clerk at the Broad Street Steering Group meeting at Fenland Hall on Thursday 4th August 2022.

A further Steering Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th September at Fenland Hall to discuss how the project is progressing.

The Broad Street Project is included as a separate agenda item later in this meeting.

82 Amend Standing Orders

Councillors reviewed a revised [draft] version of the March Town Council’s Standing Orders which had been amended by The Clerk in line with the NALC model standing orders of 2020 and circulated to Councillors on 9th August 2022.

It was proposed by M Purser and seconded by R Skoulding to approve the revised Standing Orders as drawn.

The Clerk informed Councillors that the revised version would be circulated within 48 hours.

83 External Audit Report year-ending 31 March 2022

The Clerk informed Councillors that the external auditor (PKF Littlejohn LLP) had issued its annual report on 12th August 2022.

It stated:

“On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.”

There were no other matters that the auditors deemed necessary to bring to the attention of Councillors.

84 Social Media Representation

Councillor Johnson suggested that March Town Council should adopt a social media presence. Following discussions, it was agreed that information provided on the website, both legally and advisory, was previously deemed more than adequate for the Council's needs. Social media often creates an environment of hostility that is to no-ones' advantage. However, it was agreed that this discussion should be revisited after the elections in May 2023.

As regards band concerts, a poster which included the Town Council crest, could be produced on an annual basis which any individual Councillor could post onto their personal Facebook page.

85 Grants and Donations

Prior to discussions commencing, The Clerk advised Councillors that £2,500 of funding had been provided under this heading within the current year's budget.

This could be regarded as £625 per quarter, or split on whatever other basis Councillors decreed.

No grants have yet been awarded in this financial year.

Three (3) applications for funding have been received as follows;

Name:	1st March Scout Group
Amount requested:	£500
Purpose of Grant:	Contribution towards cost of Summer Camp

Name:	RKA Kickboxing Academy
Amount requested:	Unspecified
Purpose of Grant:	Contribution towards costs of team members representing England in the Kickboxing World Championships

Name:	March Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club
Amount requested:	£250
Purpose of Grant:	Contribution towards cost of new parade standard

Since he is an officer in the 1st March Scouts Group, Councillor Elkin declared a personal interest, left the room, and took no part in discussions relating to grants and donations. Similarly, since she is a close friend of the Secretary of the RKA Kickboxing Academy, Councillor Johnson declared a personal interest, left the room, and took no part in discussions relating to grants and donations.

It was noted that all applicants met the necessary criteria.

Following lengthy discussions, it was agreed that the applications should be awarded as follows;

1st March Scout Group - £300

RKA Kickboxing Academy - £500

March Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club - £250

86 Broad Street Project

It was agreed that the public should be excluded from this agenda item due to the confidential nature of the information to be discussed. It was proposed by the Mayor and adopted that “Under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public is excluded from the meeting for item number 86 on the grounds that the item involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-15 of Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Act”.

As such, this agenda item was discussed at the end of the meeting following “Schedule of Accounts”.

During initial discussions, the following comments were raised:

Since the last meeting of the Member Steering Group on 4th August 2022, individual members had not been invited to jointly inspect the various sites that FDC Officers were recommending as the suitable locations for the proposed public toilets. Although the minutes of that meeting were slightly ambiguous, the transcript was clear that all members should be invited and not just the Project Group.

Also, it was believed that the total Broad Street Project was open to legal challenge, and possible judicial review, because of the lack of meaningful consultation in the early stages of the scheme.

These comments became obsolete however when March Town Council members unanimously agreed that they would publicly oppose the project in its entirety, with a view to getting the scheme aborted, unless and until written confirmation was received from Fenland District Council that the following conditions would be met:

- a) That the “Collingwoods” site is purchased and the buildings thereon demolished. This site is critical for many reasons and, in particular, to compensate for loss of car parking and to future-proof the town for the additional 3,000+ homes that are planned to be built over the next 20 years.
- b) That the “Collingwoods” site is not redeveloped with residential or commercial premises, but retained as open space and car park. 74 spaces should be retained for immediate continued usage, with increased usage programmed in as and when needed.
- c) That the proposed replacement public toilets be situated on the “Collingwoods” site so that they are clearly visible and accessible to all visitors to the town.
- d) That the Fountain be relocated to the south-east corner of the “Collingwoods” site, within a “pocket park”, so that it can be seen in a more prominent and favourable position to the north of Broad Street.

It was unanimously agreed that a failure to satisfy any of these conditions would result in March Town Council withdrawing its support and putting the whole project at risk. The written confirmation from Fenland District Council that MTC’s conditions would be met needed to be

made at the earliest opportunity since the minutes from this evening's meeting, once approved on 3rd October 2022, would become public documents available for all to see on the MTC website.

87 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;

An email from the March Area Transport Strategy (MATS) leader, John Stanley, had been circulated confirming that CCC would be hosting 2 public events to raise public awareness about various initiatives including the Northern Link Road. Councillors commented that it would be desirable to see late afternoon/evening sessions included so that those who worked could attend.

88 Fenland District Council Update

Councillor J French updated Councillors as follows;

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) had hit a stumbling block as CCC had decided to implement in South Cambs before Fenland and had now insisted upon completion of a feasibility study. The Cambridgeshire Greater Partnership will fund the study, but the study could delay commencement.

89 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:35pm.

Councillor K French3rd October 2022.
Mayor of March.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 3rd October 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 AR Donnelly J French R Johnson G Tustin	SR Court C Elkin R Jack RF Skoulding
	County Councillor		J Gowing
	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk		S Lemmon S Taylor

92 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor White.

93 Police Update

All written reports to date have been circulated. The next meeting will take place on the re-arranged date of Monday 10 October 2022.

94 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.

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR22/1088/F	<p>Mr R Smith and Mr M Grove, Cambridgeshire Car Sales, Coleseed Business Complex, Upwell Road, March.</p> <p>Change of Use of land to outdoor car sales yard including palisade perimeter fencing (2.4 m high max), gate and CCTV (retrospective) at Cambridgeshire Car Sales, Coleseed Business Complex, Upwell Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 29 September 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 20 October 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/1089/CERTLU	<p>Mr Kevin McCourt, Rendezvue Limited (Cassanos) 78-82 High Street, March.</p> <p>Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing): Business operating without compliance of condition 1 of planning permission F/YR03/0668/F, relating to opening hours at 78-82 High Street, March.</p> <p>Received: 28 September 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 19 October 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>

95 Public Participation

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

96 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

5 September 2022 – Main Council Meeting
26 September 2022 – Planning Sub-Committee
26 September 2022 – Christmas Lights Working Party

97 Matters Arising

Re Main Council Meeting of 5 September 2022:

<u>Minute 82</u>	The revised Standing Orders were dated and duly minuted and circulated to Councillors on 6 th September 2022.
<u>Minute 86</u>	The Clerk, C Lemmon, prepared a statement on behalf of March Town Council that was read out at the Project Steering Group Meeting on

Tuesday 6 September setting out the Town Council's conditions to be met by FDC if MTC was to support the Project.
Failure to meet **any** if the conditions specified would result in the withdrawal by the Town Council of its support for the entire project.

A further Broad Street Steering Group Meeting will be held on Thursday 6 October, 4-5pm at Fenland Hall.

98 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;

- i) Works on the Market Place will commence in January 2023. This has been agreed with market traders.
- ii) Discussions had taken place with partners and the gas companies and, with works to Broad Street potentially starting on 31 March 2023, there will be inevitable disruption.
- iii) A new BMX track at West End Park and Park extension had been agreed and would be handed over to Fenland District Council in Spring 2023. £50,000 funding had been secured from Mick George Limited.

Councillor J Gowing had received a complaint about the state of the town moorings and had met with Middle Level Commissioners and Simon Bell (FDC) and had discussed the matter with Stephen Barclay MP, to apply pressure.

99 Fenland District Council Update

Councillor J French updated Councillors as follows;

A walking/cycling strategy had been agreed at Cabinet earlier today (to include Peas Hill to Mill Hill roundabout, using the grass verge and not highway). Missing white lines would be replaced/renewed.

100 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

101 Special Motion

It had been agreed at a meeting held on 20th September 2022 that a special motion (proposed by Councillor Connor) would be prepared and signed by Councillors with a view to amending the resolution of March Town Council at its meeting of 5 September 2022 (minute 86 – Broad Street regeneration) in light of new information forthcoming from Fenland District Council.

A motion would be drafted by Councillor Connor and signed by at least 6 other Councillors (in accordance with March Town Council Standing Orders 7 and 9).
Once submitted in writing and accepted by The Clerk an extraordinary meeting of March Town Council would be convened.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Councillor K French5 December 2022.
Mayor of March.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an **Extraordinary Meeting** of March Town Council held on 17 October 2022 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 6.30pm.

Present	Councillor	K French MW Purser	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	SR Court J French RF Skoulding R White	C Elkin R Johnson G Tustin
	Town Clerk		S Lemmon

102 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Connor, Donnelly and Jack.

103 Purpose of Meeting

It had been agreed at a meeting held on 20th September 2022 that a special motion (proposed by Councillor Connor) would be prepared and signed by Councillors to amend the resolution of March Town Council at its meeting of 5 September 2022 (Minute 86 – Broad Street regeneration) in light of new information forthcoming from Fenland District Council.

A motion drafted by Councillor Connor and signed by 11 (eleven) Councillors (in accordance with March Town Council Standing Orders 7 and 9) was submitted to the Clerk on 3 October 2022 following the Main Meeting of March Town Council.

The motion was accepted by the Clerk and this extraordinary meeting of March Town Council was duly convened.

The motion to amend Minute 86 is as follows;

- a) March Town Council still requires the Collingwoods site to be acquired as a prerequisite to the Broad Street Project.
- b) March Town Council accepts that the Collingwoods site needs to be redeveloped, whilst retaining the 70+ car-parking spaces to ensure that government funding is protected.
- c) The Fountain be positioned at the site highlighted on the Fenland District Council commissioned “artist’s impression” plan (adjacent to Malletts)

- d) The toilets be retained within the current area. New (rather than refurbished) toilets would be the preferred choice, to be situated on the site of the “old mans’ shelter”. In the alternative, the site of the current toilet block would be acceptable to March Town Council.

Councillor White proposed the motion be carried, seconded by Councillor Tustin.
Councillors unanimously agreed to move the motion in the terms detailed above.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.35pm.

Councillor K French7 November 2022.
Mayor of March.

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 Assistant Town Clerk		S Lemmon 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	<p>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</p>
F/YR22/1139/F	<p>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</p>
F/YR22/1148/F	<p>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</p>
F/YR22/1159/LB	<p>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</p>
F/YR22/1171/F	<p>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</p>
F/YR22/1182/F	<p>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</p>

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.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 5 December 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 G Tustin	SR Court J French RF Skoulding
	Cambridgeshire County Councillor	J Gowing	
	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk	S Lemmon S Taylor	
	Fenland District Council	Simon Machen, Phil Hughes	
	Public	11	

122 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Donnelly, Jack and White.

123 Installation of Mayor's Cadet

The Mayor welcomed Corporal Faith Anders of RAFAC March Squadron to the meeting and congratulated her on being selected to be the Mayor's Cadet for 2022-2024. Corporal Anders was presented with a badge to sew onto her brassard.

124 Broad Street Project Update

Simon Machen and Phil Hughes from Fenland District Council were welcomed to the meeting and updated Councillors as per the Highlight Report prepared by Matt Wright and circulated to Councillors with associated documents on 29 November.

Officers confirmed that work on the Market Place would commence in January 2023 and would take approximately 10 weeks.

Cadent would begin 3-4 months of vital works to upgrade the gas infrastructure in February 2023.

Once completed, FHSF and MATS works could begin on Broad Street.

This was unlikely to commence before the end of May and would take approximately one year.

The public toilets would be delivered after all the roadworks had been completed, with a projected start date of May 2024.

Planning applications had now been submitted in relation to the fountain and toilets.

125 Police Update

The date of the next liaison meeting is Wednesday 7 December 2022.

126 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 6 (six) additional planning applications would be considered*

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR22/1275/F	Mr and Mrs Ashby, 36 Burrowmoor Road, March. Erect a single storey rear extension to form 2-bed annexe to existing dwelling involving demolition of outbuilding at 36 Burrowmoor Road, March. Received: 22 November 2022 Reply by: 13 December 2022 Recommendation: Approval
F/YR22/1277/TRTPO	Mr Garry Harradine, 17 The Avenue, March. Felling of 1 x Horse Chestnut Tree covered by TPO 6/2003 at 17 The Avenue, March. Received: 24 November 2022 Reply by: 13 December 2022 Recommendation: Approval
F/YR22/1283/F	Mr and Mrs Brett, 36 Elwyn Road, March. Erect single-storey side extension to existing outbuilding at 36 Elwyn Road, March. Received; 22 November 2022 Reply by: 13 December 2022 Recommendation: Approval

F/YR22/1300/F	<p>Mrs Victoria Darville, 13 Upwell Road, March. Erect single-storey rear extension including balcony to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing rear single-storey element at 13 Upwell Road, March. Received: 28 November 2022 Reply by: 19 December 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/1303/F	<p>Mr Thompson, 18 Cromwell Road, March. Erect single-storey rear extension and insertion of first floor window to existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing extension at 18 Cromwell Road, March. Received: 28 November 2022 Reply by: 19 December 2022 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/0856/VOC	<p>Mr I Fink, FPP, c/o Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd, Guyhirn. Variation of Condition 4 (condition listing approved plans) relating to planning approval F/YR21/0984/RM (Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR14/1020/O, for the erection of 28 dwellings to allow for change of house types on plots 5-11 including re-positioning of plots 5-10 at Land East of Berryfield, March. Application Withdrawn Received: 30 November 2022 Action: Noted</p>
F/YR22/1318/LB	<p>Mr Matt Wright, Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March. Works to a listed structure involving relocation of the Coronation Fountain canopy at The Broad Street Project, Broad Street, March. Received: 2 December 2022 Reply by: 23 December 2022 *Defer to December Planning Sub-Committee Meeting on account of late receipt of application/s.</p>
F/YR22/1319/FDC	<p>Mr Matt Wright, Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March. Demolition of the public toilets and shelter within a conservation area at The Broad Street Project, Broad Street, March. Received: 2 December 2022 Reply by: 23 December 2022 *Defer to December Planning Sub-Committee Meeting on account of late receipt of application/s.</p>

F/YR22/1331/F	<p>Sibner Homes, c/o agent Surface Planning, 155 Main Street, Sheffield.</p> <p>Erect 2 x dwellings (3-storey, 3-bed) at Land North of 29 Elliott Road, March</p> <p>Received: 2 December 2022</p> <p>Reply by 23 December 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR22/1332/FDC	<p>Mr Matt Wright, Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March.</p> <p>Relocation of the Coronation Fountain canopy at The Broad Street Project, Broad Street, March.</p> <p>(A Reg 3 application for planning permission where FDC are the applicant).</p> <p>Received: 2 December 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 23 December 2022</p> <p>*Defer to December Planning Sub-Committee Meeting on account of late receipt of application/s.</p>
F/YR22/1334/TRTPO	<p>Mr Gocke, 111 Knights End Road, March.</p> <p>Works to 1 x Ash Tree covered by TPO 8/1970 at 111 Knights End Road, March.</p> <p>Received: 2 December 2022</p> <p>Reply by: 23 December 2022</p> <p>Recommendation: Approval</p>

*Deferrals were considered necessary to allow Councillors adequate time to fully consider all the documentation submitted as part of these applications.

127 Appointment of new Planning Sub-Committee Member(s)

Councillor Tustin was appointed to the Planning Sub-Committee. Additional members were required to help avoid further issues with getting a quorum.
Cllr Johnson would always help out (subject to childcare).

128 Grants and Donations

Three applications had been received from CamSAR, Age UK and Citizens Advice Rural Cambs. Following discussions and full consideration, it was decided that no awards be made on this occasion owing to budgeting constraints.

129 Public Participation

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

130 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

7 November 2022 – Main Council Meeting
21 November 2022 – Planning Sub-Committee
21 November 2022 – Christmas Lights Working Party

131 Matters Arising

Re Main Council Meeting 7 November 2022:

Minute 109 Broad Street March

The Clerk emailed FDC officers, Paul Medd and Cllrs Boden and Seaton on 9 November expressing Town Councillors concerns about the cancelled meetings and the lack of information and updates on the FHSF Broad/Street project. A response from Matt Wright was received on 9 November inviting the Clerk to an informal meeting with himself and Phil Hughes which the Clerk duly attended.

Matt Wright agreed to provide regular (monthly) briefing sheets to keep the Town Council up-to-speed with progress/developments and the lines of communication open.

A BSSG Zoom meeting was held on 14 November to discuss the location of the public toilets. It was decided that these should be positioned near to Bank House which would open up the riverside area as originally envisaged and still provide the desired town-centre location.

The Clerk circulated to Councillors the Highlight Report from Matt Wright on 29 November.

Minute 113 Community Events - Funding

Provision had been made in the 2023/2024 draft budget to give £2,500 to the MAFF event and increase funding to both March Events and March in Bloom by £1,500 per annum.

132 Budget for 2023/2024

The Clerk presented the proposals for the 2023/2024 budget and precept.

Key points to note include;

- i) The 2022/2023 overspend is accounted for by the retiring Clerk's leaving gratuity and having 2 clerks in post for 6 months
- ii) There is a full election in May 2023. Whilst election costs have not yet been determined by FDC, £35,000 has been budgeted. This can be adjusted if necessary.
- iii) In light of ii) (above) the precept has been increased from £320,000 - £360,000. The price per Band D property has risen by £5.65 as such, with £5.17 of that

- directly attributable to the cost of the election. Cost of living increases have, therefore, been kept to a minimum.
- iv) The budget precept takes into account the economic climate. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to set the precept at such a level that will allow March Town Council to build reserves during 2023/2024.
 - v) Due to the possibility of the FDC tax base estimate changing, it will be necessary to approve the budget and precept in principle and to either amend or ratify the figures at the 9 January 2023 meeting.
 - vi) It is likely that Town and Parish councils will be requested to undertake additional (traditionally District and County Council) functions in future, since Town and Parish councils are not bound by the government constraints such as restricted rises in Council Tax in the same way as District and County councils.
 - vii) The Town Council continues support for March Town FC Estover CIC, CCTV, March Museum, March Street Pride and March Events.

Following discussions, it was unanimously agreed to accept the budget and precept (£351,670 and £360,000 respectively) (Proposer: Cllr D Connor, Seconder: Cllr Skoulding). Amendment would become necessary in the event of a change to the FDC council tax base estimate or upon receipt of election costings from FDC.

133 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. March Town Council would be entitled to make a maximum of 4 applications. There seemed to be an increasing need for double yellow lining within town which would hopefully become enforced with the introduction of CPE.

Councillors agreed to consider “hotspots”/areas of concern in their wards for discussion at the next meeting on 9 January 2023 with applications to be made soon after. Cllr Connor will liaise with Josh Rutherford at CCC Highways Projects Team regarding double yellow line applications.

134 Remembrance Parade – Funding of PAS

Cllr J French reported that the March Lions had 2 speakers that could be used to improve amplification at future Parades, following a complaint by a member of the public that the acoustics were poor. Cllr J Gowing to liaise with March Lions and Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Spencer regarding possible use of the speakers or alternatively to consider hiring or purchasing additional equipment.

135 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

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

Cllr Gowing had attended a meeting of the Environment and Green Investment Committee to discuss the Fenland Local Plan.

Cllr J French updated Councillors in relation to Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) – Funding had been secured and Milestone would be starting work earlier than expected.

New traffic lights were being installed in Dartford Road and it was likely that a new pedestrian crossing would be installed near Lidl's.

136 Fenland District Council Update

CPE was discussed under minute number 135 (above).

137 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

138 Broad Street Update – Confidential Item

In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the following proposition was moved;

“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public is excluded from the meeting for this item on grounds that the item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-15 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act”.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

139 Town Clerk – Jury Service

In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the following proposition was moved;

“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public is excluded from the meeting for this item on grounds that the item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-15 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act”.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:10pm.

Councillor K French9 January 2023
Mayor of March.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 9 January 2023 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	SR Court J French RF Skoulding
	Cambridgeshire County Councillor	J Gowing	
	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk	S Lemmon S Taylor	
	Fenland District Council	Matt Wright, Phil Hughes	
	Public	37	

142 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Donnelly, Jack, Tustin and White.

143 Broad Street Project Update

Matt Wright and Phil Hughes from Fenland District Council attended the meeting to update Councillors with regard to developments around the FHSF programme further to a written report submitted to The Clerk on 3 January and circulated to Councillors on 3 January.

Work on the Market Place had commenced today, as planned.

The 3 planning applications relating to the Fountain and toilets were expected to be heard by FDC's Planning Committee in February.

There would be a replacement toilet block following the proposed demolition of the existing provision – to include Changing Places facilities for the disabled. Plans for new toilets were being drawn up and should be available in April in order for the requisite planning application to be made.

Broad Street would remain open for the duration of works with traffic measures in place, the most severe of which would be during the 1st month of the Cadent [gas] works commencing on 14 February.

Temporary Taxi ranks were proposed for Mill View, near Sainsbury. 2 additional disabled parking bays would be available and a temporary bus stop would be located in Broad Street during the 2nd phase of the Cadent works.

An e-petition to prevent the demolition of the toilets had only received 197 of a necessary 500 signatures.

Cllr Skoulding expressed concerns about the layout of the Market Place car park with the square-on bays and queried whether zebra crossings and the railings on the corner of Broad Street and Dartford Road would be retained.

Messrs Wright and Hughes would make enquiries about the retention of the railings erected at the spot of a fatality some years ago.

Cllr Skoulding highlighted concerns regarding letters not being sent by the FDC Planning Department to all shopkeepers and business owners. FDC officers stressed that the planning department should be contacted directly in relation to this. Due to the design of the new road layout, this area would, of course, be widened with a larger turning area at the site of the roundabout, so it would no longer be a blind corner.

Cllr J French demanded that the installation of replacement toilets be prioritised so that the time the town would be without public toilets would be reduced to the bare minimum and asked Mr Hughes to make timely arrangements with regard to the return of the original central part of the fountain (or a replacement sourced).

Mr Hughes confirmed that the fountain, if moved as planned, would have a water supply and there would be a commemorative slab in the public realm area explaining the history of the fountain.

Cllr J French insisted that the improvements to the West End Park mooring, whilst technically falling outside the project, should also be addressed urgently. Mr Hughes advised that a briefing paper would be going to FDC Cabinet at some point in the future.

Messrs Wright and Hughes stressed that all aspects of the scheme had passed risk assessments and safety audits.

In addition to gas works being undertaken by Cadent, Anglian Water was carrying out work in the coming weeks so that there will be no further digging up of the roads except in the event of emergencies. Cllr J French requested that if any further [unscheduled] works were required to be done that these would be at FDC's expense. Additionally, confirmation and reassurance was sought that should any damage be caused to the bridge (as a result of the temporary lifting of the weight limit in order for plant to access Broad Street), that the contractors would be fully responsible for the cost and carrying out of any and all repairs.

144 Public Participation

4 members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting. Since they all wished to speak in connection with the Broad Street Project, the Chairman exercised her right to change the order of motions appearing on the agenda so that Public Participation be moved up from agenda item 5 to 3 to follow the update provide by Messrs Wright and Hughes.

Members of the public that had registered to speak were Mrs Linda Butler, Mrs Jennifer Lawler, Joanne Brazell and Mrs Gill Richmond.

(Ms Brazell did not, however, attend the meeting).

Speakers raised concerns about the lack of consultation in relation to the proposals, congestion, possible vandalism of the fountain, bus turning points, inaccessibility of the town for disabled visitors/residents and lack of parking in the town (exacerbated by removal of existing parking spaces) and the potential for zebra crossings to impede the flow of traffic

through the town. They shared concern that there would be fewer visitors to the town centre due to lack of parking and closure of local businesses would result.

Speakers were sceptical of the ability of the roundabout (used to facilitate traffic flow) to compensate for a reduction in the number of lanes of traffic.

Officers asserted that the town centre would be entirely crippled in 10 years' time without a roundabout in place.

FDC officers and Cllrs French and Gowing explained to members of the public that the reduction of 2 lanes to 1 northbound in Broad Street (without doubt a major bone of contention for residents) was a County Council led initiative and the County Council is neither required to consult nor seek planning permission.

This was outside the control of either FDC or MTC.

Mr Hughes stressed to speakers that the MATS had taken into account the future growth of the town. Considerable development and increases in both dwellings (and therefore cars) were planned for the town. The future face of the High Street, not just in March, but all towns, was changing. The Scheme was designed to future proof the town against further decay.

Cllr J French informed those present about plans for a Northern Link Road around the town which would take the pressure off the town centre in years to come.

145 Police Update

Minutes of the Police Liaison meeting held on 7 December 2022 were circulated to Councillors on 14 December 2022. The date of the next meeting is not yet known.

146 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.

*Application
Number*

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

F/YR22/1334/TRTPO

Mr Gocke, 111 Knights End Road, March.
Works to 1 x Ash tree covered by TPO 8/1970 at 111 Knights End Road, March.
Received: 19 December 2022
This application has been **withdrawn**.
Withdrawal Noted

F/YR22/1371/F

Mr Patrick Wilkinson, 1 Wigstones Road, March
Erect a 2-storey side extension to existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing dwelling at 1 Wigstones Road, March.

Received: 19 December 2022

Reply by: 9 January 2023

Recommendation; Approval

F/YR22/1386/F

Eastwood RVL March Ltd, c/o agent; Zoe Tozer, Savills, 33 Margaret Street, London.

Erect 9 x industrial units (B2/B8 use), the formation of an access and associated landscaping, and provision of car and cycle parking at Land South of March Trading Estate, Westry Avenue, March.

Received: 19 December 2022

Reply by: 9 January 2023

Recommendation; Approval

147 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

5 December 2022 – Main Council Meeting

19 December 2022 – Planning Sub-Committee

148 Matters Arising

Re Main Council Meeting 5 December 2022

Minute 132

A letter containing precept information for the local elections on 4 May 2023 had been received from FDC on 23 December 2022. Based on their election costings there has been no need to adjust our budget.

There are also no changes to the estimated net Council Tax base of 6,763.

Minute 133

CCC had confirmed that we can apply for a number of double yellow line applications in a single application.

The deadline for submission of LHI applications had been confirmed as Friday 6 January 2023 at 5pm. Since MTC was not able to make a resolution in respect of schemes until 9 January, MTC has been unable to submit any applications in time for the 2023/2024 round.

Minute 138 [confidential item]

The Clerk submitted an application to list the Collingwoods Car Park as an “Asset of Community Value” on Monday 19 December 2022.

Minute 139

Town Clerk Jury Service – following an appeal submitted on 7 December 2022, it was confirmed on 20 December that the Clerk could be excused from service on this occasion.

149 Budget Ratification

Since there had been no changes to the estimated Council Tax base and election costings had now been received from FDC which were in line with our own estimate, the budget (and precept) was duly and unanimously ratified.

150 LHI Application Process

Cllrs Connor and J French were unhappy that the County Council had not extended the deadline for submissions of applications, notwithstanding conversations between Cllr Connor and County Council Highways Officers. It was disappointing, although hoped that the schemes MTC wished to be delivered (predominantly double yellow lining) could hopefully be secured via the MATS Walking and Cycling Scheme and CPE. Funding was available and could therefore be achieved at zero cost to MTC.

151 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

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

Cllr J French confirmed that pothole repairs had been completed on the A141 (outside Hostmoor) as well as on the flyover.

With regard to recent news in relation to recycling and the discontinuation of the furniture collection (upholstered domestic seating) and bulky waste service, Cambridgeshire County Council had known about this since August but had taken no action. This is being investigated, but thanks to Cllrs Count and Gowing, this has now been sorted and a service has been resumed to overcome the risk of increased fly-tipping.

Pleasingly, works were due to commence on 31 January in Sycamore Close, an area that suffers regular flooding. The constant flooding and threat of flooding has been devastating for residents of the Close for many years.

152 Fenland District Council Update

Cllr J French advised that the Clerk had today circulated an email to Councillors today about the March Walking and Cycling Map. Cllr French had sought quotes from Simon Bell (FDC) for additional seating to be installed near the proposed BMX track on West End Park as well as upgraded CCTV cameras at the site. There was a possibility of grant funding (up to £6,000) from The Burnt House Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. It was resolved that the Clerk should submit a bid for funding once costings were received (motion proposed by Cllr J French, seconded by Cllr Skoulding).

153 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:15 pm.

Councillor K French6 February 2023
Mayor of March.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 6th February 2023 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	SR Court J French RF Skoulding
	Cambridgeshire County Councillor	J Gowing	
	Town Clerk	S Lemmon	
	Assistant Town Clerk	S Taylor	
	Public	3	

156 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Donnelly, Jack, Tustin and White.

157 Remembrance Parade 2023 – Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Spencer MBE

Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Spencer MBE attended the meeting to present to Town Councillors his proposals regarding the format of the Remembrance Parade in 2023. A revision to the regular format was needed on account of the works taking place in Broad Street as part of the FHSF project and the inaccessibility of the war memorial.

On Saturday 11 November 2023, the Remembrance service would take place at St Peters Church, the location of the original memorial. No road closures would be required on 11 November.

For the Parade on Sunday 12 November, West End Park would be utilised, with a format similar to the MAFF and a drum head service. Minimal road closures would be required.

Lieutenant Colonel Nigel Spencer would speak to the The Lions regarding additional speakers for better amplification.

An update on the MAFF for 2023 was also presented to Councillors. Planning for the event was well underway and it promises to be even bigger this year.

158 Broad Street Project – Written Update

A written update from Matt Wright, Fenland District Council was circulated to Councillors by email on 31 January 2023.

159 Police Update

All written reports to date have been circulated.

The date of the next police liaison meeting is not yet known as there has been a change of Sergeant.

160 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 3 (three) additional planning applications would be considered.

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR21/0885/F	<p>Aldi Stores Ltd Agent – Planning Potential Ltd Erect a retail food store (Class E(a)) with accompanying car park, formation of a new access and associated highway works; and landscaping scheme to include erecting 6 x 6m column mounted lights; involving the demolition of existing storage buildings (Class B8) at 1-3 Hostmoor and 1 Martin Avenue, March.</p> <p>Revised Proposals; March Town Centre Health check, Retail impact sensitivity tables, response to objector comments. Received: 23 January 2023 Reply by: 13 February 2023 Recommendation: Approval subject to request that the entrance/egress features are installed prior to construction works commencing to avoid construction vehicles crossing from one side of Hostmoor Avenue to the other.</p>
F/YR23/0054/TRTPO	<p>Mr Christopher Stone/ IG Environmental Services, Alnwick Fell 2 x ash trees and 2 x oak trees covered by TPO1/2011 at TPO land East of 88 West End, March. Received: 26 January 2023 Reply by: 16 February 2023 Recommendation; Approval</p>

F/YR23/0073/F	<p>Mr & Mrs Ogden, 95 Foxglove Way, March. Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 95 Foxglove Way, March. Received: 30 January 2023 Reply by: 20 February 2023 Recommendation; Approval</p>
F/YR23/0074/F	<p>Mrs Shanice Fowler, 11 Turnbull Road, March. Erect a single-storey rear and side extension at 11 Turnbull Road, March. Received; 1 February 2023 Reply by: 22 February 2023 Recommendation; Approval</p>
F/YR23/0075/F	<p>Miss Hamilton, Varidi Investment Ltd, The Cedars, 30 Regent Avenue, March. Agent; Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd. Erect a first-floor rear extension at 54 North Street, March. Received; 1 February 2023 Reply by: 22 February 2023 Recommendation; Approval</p>
F/YR23/0076/F	<p>Claudia Cantellow, 58 Norwood Road, March. Agent: Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd Erect part single-storey/part 2-storey rear and 2-storey side extensions to existing dwelling, involving demolition of existing rear extension at 15 Alpha Street, March. Received; 2 February 2023 Reply by; 23 February 2023 Recommendation; Approval</p>

161 Public Participation

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

162 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

9 January 2023 – Main Council Meeting
10 January 2023 – Personnel & Administration
23 January 2023 – Planning Sub-Committee
23 January 2023 – Christmas Lights

163 Matters Arising

Re; Main Council Meeting - 9 January 2023

Minute 143

A Broad Street Steering Group meeting took place on Monday 23 January via Zoom.

Fenland District Council's 3 planning applications (fountain x 2, toilets x 1) will be considered by the Planning Committee on Wednesday 8 February 2023.

Minute 150

An update from Jacob Hobbs from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department was received on 17 January 2023 providing an update on the progress of the Creek Road and Estover Road LHI for 2022-2023.

Minute 152

Regarding the Burnt House Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, Simon Bell (FDC) confirmed that benches had already been purchased, but a quote had been requested from Aaron Locks for an upgraded CCTV camera unit or the possibility of a single, linked camera in the vicinity of the BMX track on West End Park. Unfortunately, it was not possible for March Town Council to apply for the grant because the Town Council does not have Safeguarding or Equality policies, as discussed with Cllr J French on 24 January 2023. Cllr J French requested that the Mayor liaise with the Clerk with a view to implementing additional policies.

Re; Personnel and Administrative Sub-Committee - 10 January 2023

(f)

It was resolved that the Civility and Respect/NALC Model Councillor-Officer Protocol be adopted by March Town Council forthwith. A copy has been circulated to all Councillors.

(g)

The Clerk had a demonstration of "Scribe"- an online accounts package specifically designed for town and parish councils on 17 January 2023, which would be hugely beneficial to the Town Council for payment, invoicing and accounting processes. The cost will be £900.00 pa + VAT with an initial and one-off set-up fee of £719.00 + VAT (£1942.80 (incl)).

164 Standing Orders

Further to the meeting of the Personnel and Administration committee on 10 January 2023, it was agreed that the Standing Orders be revised to provide clarification in relation to members of the public registering with the Clerk to speak at meetings. The revised Standing Orders were hereby approved and adopted.

165 Scribe Online Accounting

Further to the meeting of the Personnel and Administration committee on 10 January 2023, the Clerk had taken part in a demonstration of "Scribe" – an online accounts package

specifically designed for Town and Parish councils' accounting needs. It was agreed that the purchase/subscription thereto be approved by Councillors at this main meeting. All Councillors agreed to move forward with online banking and accounting. The Clerk confirmed that the set-up process was underway and a manual back-up would be run for the first year.

166 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

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

Cllr J Gowing reported that concerns had been received about the war memorial and fears that people would climb on it or sit on it (as depicted in the FDC artists impression). Cllr J French confirmed that MATS had been discussing the possibility of erecting railings around it to prevent such disrespectful behaviour.

MATS had also been discussing the Hostmoor roundabout and improvements at St Peters Road and High Street at their meeting last week.

There is a budget meeting tomorrow (7 February). Many services would suffer cuts.

A Highways and Transport Improvement Board meeting was attended by Cllr J French and potholes and the appalling and dangerous state of Fenland's roads was discussed. Disappointingly, South Cambs' roads would be done before Fenlands.

Cllr D Connor is meeting with senior CCC officials this week to take them on a tour of the worst of Fenland's roads. It is evident that any pothole repairs are "quick-fix" and sub-standard.

167 Fenland District Council Update

Cllr J French advised Councillors that the budget setting for FDC looked good. At the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee today FDC was doing well and would not be cutting services.

168 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

Councillor K French6 March 2023
Mayor of March.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 6th March 2023 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 J French RF Skoulding	SR Court R Johnson
	Town Clerk		S Lemmon
	Public		1

171 Apologies

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

172 CCC 20mph Speed Limit Applications

March Town Council was advised last week that CCC's new 20mph process scheme opened on 27 February 2023. The deadline for new applications is 30 April at 17:00. Cllr J French, who will be attending a CCC Transport Committee meeting on 7 March, advised that CCC were proposing to impose 20mph limits across the whole of March. Currently there were 20mph limits in place around schools. Following lengthy discussions about enforcement of *any* speeding restrictions, Cllr K French, seconded by Cllr Skoulding, proposed that 20mph limits be limited to schools only, and not March-wide. The motion was carried. Cllrs Court & Johnson voted against, preferring to see a town-wide 20mph speed limit.

173 Police Update

There have been no further Police Liaison meetings. A meeting with the new Sergeant, Chris Arnold, was hoped to be arranged for the end of the month.

174 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 1 (one) additional planning application would be considered.

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR23/0118/F	Mr Ali Boyraz, 91 High Street, March. Erect a 3-storey building comprising of 2 x commercial units (Class E) and 7 x dwellings (4 x 1-bed flats and 3 x 2-bed flats) with associated waste and cycle storage involving demolition of existing 2-storey building at 91 High Street, March. Received: 15 February 2023 Reply by: 8 March 2023 Recommendation: Approval
F/YR23/0187/TRTPO	Mr T Gocke, 111 Knights End Road, March. Works to 1 x Ash Tree covered by TPO 8/1970 at 111 Knights End Road, March. Received: 3 March 2023 Reply by: 24 March 2023 Recommendation: Approval

175 Public Participation

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

176 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

6 February 2023 – Main Council Meeting
20 February 2023 – Planning Sub-Committee
20 February 2023 – Christmas Lights

177 Matters Arising

Re; Main Council Meeting – 6 February 2023

Minute 158

3 FDC Planning Applications relating to the Fountain and Toilets were approved by Planning Committee on 8 February 2023.

A Broad Street Steering Group meeting was held on Tuesday 21 February via Zoom. Works in town are progressing well and are ahead of schedule.

178 Grants and Donations

The Clerk advised that £1,050 of the 2022/23 budget had been spent, leaving £1,450 available.

An application had been received from March Library for the Summer Reading Challenge to assist local children with their reading over the summer holidays. Councillors voted to donate the sum of £300 to this cause.

179 Budget – Revision

The Council's 2023/2024 budget was approved and ratified in January 2023. However, a revision had become necessary owing to the move to the new online accounting system, Scribe. Essentially, the bottom-line figure has been uplifted by £900.00 (to take into account the annual Scribe subscription fee), but the main change is that the cleaner's wages are now included in Salaries/Wages budget rather than Cleaning Materials and Services budget for the purposes of the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return).

The new format budget will reflect the cost centres and cost codes now set up in Scribe.

The allotment account will be closed and merged with the main account going forward. The Clerk also sought the Council's approval to discontinue the use of petty cash once the new bank account is set up (which could take up to 10 weeks from now).

Cllr J French, seconded by Cllr Skoulding proposed that the banking and budgeting changes were approved. All Councillors voted in favour.

180 Allotments

Currently, there are two billing periods for allotments; West End Yardy invoices are payable in April, whilst the remainder are paid in October. It is proposed to bring allotment invoicing in line with the financial year so that all are payable in April so long as Councillors are agreeable.

As such, the Clerk will be writing to allotment holders currently billed in October to advise that their next invoice will be for a period of 6 months only. From April 2024 therefore, all allotment invoicing will be invoiced annually in April and, as such, align with the financial year.

Cllr J French, seconded by Cllr Skoulding proposed that these proposals were approved. All Councillors voted in favour.

181 New March Town Walking and Cycling Plan

Cllr J French circulated copies of the Walking & Cycling Map for the town of March which had been prepared by FDC. It was considered expedient and best value-for-money for March Town Council to purchase extra copies of FDC's map rather than to commission its own map. Our most recent plan is over 10 years old and considerably out-of-date. Given the Broad Street works and the proposed residential developments in the south of March, another new plan would likely be required within the next 2 years.

Councillors agreed (proposed by Cllr J French and seconded by Cllr Skoulding) that the Town Council would order 2500 copies of the above-mentioned plan at a cost of £742.00. More could be purchased in future if needed. It would, however, be necessary to liaise with FDC to see how they were planning on distributing their copies.

182 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

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

Cllr J French advised that CCC had issued a letter of apology regarding a council tax billing error. Council tax letters would have to be reissued as a result of the error and CCC would absorb the cost of this.

183 Fenland District Council Update

Cllr J French advised that both the works on the Market Place and Cadent Gas works in Broad Street were 2 weeks ahead of schedule.

184 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:25 pm.

Councillor K French3 April 2023
Mayor of March.

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 3 April 2023 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	SR Court C Elkin R Johnson R White	J French G Tustin
	Cambridgeshire County Councillor	J Gowing	
	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk	S Lemmon S Taylor	
	Public	1	

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Donnelly, Connor, Jack and Skoulding.

2 Police Update

A police liaison meeting took place on 29 March with the new Inspector (Chris Arnold). Minutes will be circulated when available.

3 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 application would be considered.

*Application
Number*

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

F/YR22/0835/VOC

Mr J Green, Ely Diocesan Board Finance
Agent: Headley Stokes Associates Ltd
Variation of condition 11 (access), 12 (turning and parking) and 21 (condition listing approved plans) relating to planning permission F/YR19/1106/F (Erect 4 dwellings (4 x 2-storey 2-bed) and associated works) to enable amendments including; access redesign (including removal of turning head and section of path), attenuation pond redesign and creation of pedestrian access to rear of dwellings (resulting in reduction of private gardens to plots 1-3) for full details refer to schedule of amendments at Land East of St Mary's Church Hall, Wisbech Road, Westry.
Received: 24 March 2023
Reply by: 7 April 2023
Recommendation: Approval

F/YR23/0209/RM

Mr Nigel Marsh, 317 Wisbech Road, March.
Reserved matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR20/0905/O to erect 3 x dwellings (3 x 3-storey 5-bed) at Land South West of 317 Wisbech Road, March.
Received: 29 March 2023
Reply by: 19 April 2023
Recommendation: Approval

F/YR23/0222/F

Motorfuel Group, St Albans.
Creation of Electric Vehicle charging zone, involving 4 x electric vehicle charging bays, canopy, sub-station enclosure, LV panel, meter cabinet and air and water machine, including demolition of existing Jetwash and installation of new Jetwash at Land South of Dartford Road, March.
Received: 24 March 2023
Reply by: 14 April 2023
Recommendation: Approval

F/YR23/0232/F

Mr Noble, Nicholas Percival, Colchester.
Erect 7 x commercial units comprising of 1 x blocked of 6 x units (Class B8) and 1 x detached (Class E(b)) with associated parking at Land South and West of March Enterprise Park, 33 Thorby Avenue, March.
Received: 23 March 2023
Reply by: 13 April 2023
Recommendation: Approval

F/YR23/0240/F	<p>Mr David Staples, Ransonmoor Grange, Grange Road, March. Erect a coach house/garage involving demolition of existing garage block (part retrospective) at Ransonmoor Grange, Grange Road, March. Received; 30 March 2023 Reply by: 20 April 2023 Cllr Elkin declared a personal interest in this matter and took no part in the discussions/deliberation. Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR23/0250/F	<p>Mr Newton, The Stable Block. Knights End Road, March. Erect a detached car port and log store to existing dwelling at The Stable Block, Knights End Road, March. Received: 31 March 2023 Reply by: 21 April 2023 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR23/0260/TRTPO	<p>Mrs McAuliffe, 9 Woodlands Avenue, March. Works to 1 x Ash Tree covered by TPO 7/1972 at 1 Aldeby Close, March. Received: 30 March 2023 Reply by: 20 April 2023 Recommendation: Approval</p>
F/YR23/0266/F	<p>Mr Robert Skoulding, Upwell Park, March. Erect 26 x dwellings (20 x single-storey 1-bed, 6 x single-storey 2-beds for over 55's) and the formation of an access road and attenuation pond at Land South of 107 Upwell Road, March. Received: 31 March 2023 Reply by: 21 April 2023 Recommendation: Approval <i>subject to a satisfactory Flood Risk Assessment.</i></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 Mayor:

6 March 2023 – Main Council Meeting
20 March 2023 – Planning Sub-Committee
20 March 2023 – Christmas Lights

6 Matters Arising

Re; Main Council Meeting – 6 March 2023

Minute 172 Cllr J French reported that the proposed town-wide introduction of a 20mph speed limit would not be implemented due to delivery costs and lack of police enforcement.

Minute 181 The walking and cycling maps will be delivered to the Town Hall on Wednesday 5 April.

7 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

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

Cllr J French reported that work would soon be starting (new drains and gullies cleaned) in notorious March flood hot-spots; Sycamore Close, Ellingham Avenue and Gaul Road. Brewin Avenue and Butt Avenue works would be commencing next week. This was great news for long-suffering residents.

8 Fenland District Council Update

Cllr J French reported that the new benches on the Market Place would be replaced shortly. Due to an FDC error, wooden benches had been fitted. The replacement benches will be very similar in appearance, but will be not be wooden. They will therefore have increased longevity and be easier to maintain than wooden benches.

Cllr J French was also pleased to announce that the town was hosting a whole month of events in April to include a celebration of St Georges Day. The celebrations were renamed as the St Georges Day *Festival* (rather than Fair) for 2023 only, with the traditional fair hopefully returning next year, following completion of the Broad Street redevelopment works.

There had been a serious medical incident at the George Campbell Leisure Centre this morning involving the air ambulance to deal with a swimmer who had suffered a heart attack. Cllr J French praised the George Campbell leisure staff involved for their superb handling of the situation.

9 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:45pm.

Councillor.....17 April 2023
Mayor of March.

March Town Council

Minutes of the **Annual Assembly** of March Town Council that took place at 7.15pm in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall on Monday 17 April 2023

Present	Councillor	K French M Purser	Town Mayor Deputy Mayor
	Councillors	S Court R Johnson R White	J French G Tustin
	Town Clerk Asst Town Clerk		S Lemmon S Taylor
	Public		9

10 Introduction

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly.

11 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Connor, Donnelly and Skoulding.

12 Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 25 April 2022

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Assembly, as previously circulated, were accepted by the meeting.

13 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were no matters arising.

14 Report of the Town Mayor for 2022 / 2023 and the Mayor's Charity Donations

The Mayor's report was accepted by the meeting and is attached to these minutes as Appendix A (2 pages).

The Mayor distributed 8 cheques from the Mayors Charity Account totalling £3,100.00p to causes of her choice and presented said cheques to representatives from the chosen organisations. The recipients left the meeting following the presentations and photographs.

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

15 Written Report of the Town Clerk for 2022 / 2023

The written report of the Town Clerk, as previously circulated, was accepted by the meeting (see Appendix C – 4 pages).

16 Affirmation re Mayor's Allowances

The Mayor, Councillor Kim French, 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 her Mayoral duties.

17 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 10 January 2023. 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 6 February 2023.

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 Purser and seconded by Councillor J French, with all in favour, that its contents were approved.
- c) The resolution to accept the Annual Governance Statement was, therefore, unanimously approved.
- d) The Clerk and Chairman duly signed and dated such Statement.
- e)

18 Resolution to Approve the Accounting Statements for 2022 / 2023

The Annual Accounting Statements for the financial year 2022 / 2023, 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 K French and seconded by Councillor Purser, with all in favour, that such Accounting Statements be approved.
- b) The resolution to accept the Accounting Statements for 2022 / 2023 was, therefore, unanimously approved.
- c) The Mayor, Councillor Kim French duly signed and dated such document as necessary.

19 Open Forum

There were no members of the public present so no questions or concerns were raised.

Cllr J French advised that going forward there may be continued issues with getting potholes fixed and referred to recent difficulties in Oxford with dangerous roads merely being closed rather than repaired. Concerns were shared about the potential introduction of parking charges in future years, unless such measures were fiercely challenged.

Cllr J French congratulated both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for a fantastic first year in post.

Councillors J French and K French thanked all Councillors present for their hard work over the foregoing four years and wished them well in the future.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7:45 pm.

However, anyone who so wished, was invited to remain for the Planning Meeting which was due to follow.

Councillor
Mayor of March

.....

15 May 2023

Appendix A

It was a true privilege to be elected again as the Mayor of March for the year of 2021/2022.

I was fortunate to be able to attend some lovely events this term.

The first event of the term was at RAF Molesworth for the Civic Leaders Open Day. This gave Ian and I an insight into the works that the personnel do within the RAF bases across the UK and Europe. An interesting day for sure.

On the Friday the 2nd of June I had the honour of unveiling a plaque situated on the town hall to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Later that day I was fortunate to be able to light the beacon for the official jubilee celebrations. Over the course of the weekend we were invited to various street parties to be part of the ongoing jubilee celebrations which was lovely. A lot of cake was eaten through that time.

The next event was at the Bishop of Ely's Garden Party at the end of June, where we met with other relatively new dignitaries in the beautiful surroundings of Ely Cathedral's Garden. This was a lovely evening meeting and greeting new friends.

On the 1st July we were celebrating Independence Day at RAF Alconbury, the entertainment, food and games was great fun and the evening ended with an amazing fireworks display.

I held my first fund raising event on Sunday 17th July, with afternoon tea at March Golf Club. This must have been the hottest day all year but this didn't melt people's enthusiasm and generosity to donate to the Mayor's Charities.

Ian and I also attended the High Sheriff's Garden Party in July which was set in the grounds of Jennifer and John Crompton's home in at Sawston Hall, Cambridge. It was lovely to see so many attending, again, lots of new faces.

September started with a bang, with March having its first Armed Forces Fair, organised by a group of volunteers. This was a brilliant event for the town and was extremely well attended. Not just by the local people of Cambridgeshire, but of dignitaries too.

On the 5th of September, at the full council meeting, I had the pleasure in presenting Col Nigel Spencer MBE, with the "Freedom of the Town of March", which has only previously been bestowed to two other citizens of the town.

Unfortunately. On the 8th of September we lost our beloved Queen. This was a huge shock to the nation and whilst it was an extremely sad time for us, I was honoured to have been able to read out the Proclamation of the accession of King Charles III on Sunday 11th September.

September we also saw Clive Lemmon, our Town clerk retire after 23 years in the position. What an amazing achievement for Clive and we very much valued everything he did in the execution of his role. His replacement, Sarah has fitted in extremely quickly and has found her feet in no time.

October, we welcomed back the March Town Council's Civic Service, held at St Wendreda's church. It was lovely to see so many attend, both locally and from afar. I had some amazing people contribute to the day, including Twenty20 and BackTwo, thank

you.

At the end of October we attended the 75th birthday of the USAF 501st squadron which was a hanger dance held at Sywell Aerodrome. This was an amazing atmosphere and we had great fun at the event.

Ian and I was honoured to attend Madingley's Remembrance Service at the American Cemetery on the 11th November, it was a beautiful service and surroundings. The town also welcomed back the MTC Remembrance Parade on Sunday 13th, which, as always was very well attended.

On the 6th of December, we instilled the new Mayor's Cadet for March Town Council. Cpl Faith Anders was chosen for the first Mayor's Cadet and she will have the honour of having an 18 month term, which will take her through to May 2024.

Sunday 18th of December I held the Mayor's Carol Service which again as very well attended.

January was a relatively quiet month as we were ramping up for the Mayor's Charity Ball on Friday 3rd February. We had 150 attend the evening and a huge sum of money was raised for the Mayor's Charities. This was obviously the first Ball since 2020 – it was amazing to see so many familiar faces come together and raise funds for my amazing causes.

On the 17th of April, I will distribute the Mayor's funds to some amazing causes across the town. They have all played an important part in my Mayoral year, and by way of thanks, my donation to them will hopefully help their causes.

I'd like to personally thank everyone who has supported me in my Mayoral year. It's nice to have been part of the council for the last four years, three of those as mayor.

Lastly, to my fellow Councillors, thank you for all your support, not just to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, but to the town. Each and every one of you are an asset to the town.

Kim French

Appendix B

<u>Mayor's Charity Account 2022 / 2023</u>			
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Net Profit</u>
	£	£	£
Balance brought forward			578.94
Afternoon Tea Ticket Sales - July 2022			1,240.00
Afternoon Tea Raffle and Donations			627.71
Civic Service Collection (09.10.22)			279.69
Mayors Charity Ball Net Proceeds (03.02.23)			1,100.00
Afternoon Tea Catering (March Golf Club)		738.00	
Transfer from Mayor's personal account	11.66		
Amount available for distribution			3,100.00
Donations to charities of Mayor's choice made on 17-Apr-23			
March Street Pride			250.00
Mr S Harris (RKA Kick Boxing Academy)			300.00
1220 (March) Squadron Air Training Corps			1,100.00
The Friends of March Library			250.00
March Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club			250.00
FACT			250.00
20Twenty Productions CIC			250.00
MAFF (Royal British Legion (March Branch))			450.00
Total			3,100.00
Balance carried forward			-
.....			
S. Lemmon			
Town Clerk			
17.04.23			

Appendix C

ANNUAL REPORT of The Clerk to March Town Council (2022/2023)

INTRODUCTION

This Report and the Annual Assembly on Monday 17 April 2023 mark the end of the fourth year in office of the current Council. A warm welcome to you all.

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

It has been a challenging and difficult year in many respects – with a complete change of administrative staff, a wonderful celebration of the late Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, followed a few months later by the sad news of her late Majesty's passing which invoked Operations Unicorn and London Bridge. As a Town, we held a Proclamation on the Market Place, the first such event in over 70 years, to officially announce the reign of our new Monarch, King Charles III.

Central government has experienced a tumultuous year, the war between Ukraine and Russia has not proved to be a short-lived affair, having wide-spread consequences across the globe. The world continues to respond to the combined climate and cost of living crises. The town of March, specifically Broad Street (as part of the Future High Street Fund project) is undergoing change beyond all recognition. Happily, with Covid-19 restrictions lifted, the town could once again enjoy The St George's Day Fayre (our busiest yet) and a wonderful Summer Festival. Last, but not least, the Town Council has gone digital, having acquired a new online accounting system.

COUNCIL

During May 2022, Councillor Kim French was elected as Mayor of March and Councillor Mark Purser as her Deputy.

At the time of this Report the political groups within the Council are as follows;
Conservative 7, Independent 2, Green 2 and Liberal Democrat 1.

The average attendance of Councillors at Main Council Meetings was 76%, calculated as follows:

SR Court	13 attendances out of 13	100%
J French	13 attendances out of 13	100%
K French	13 attendances out of 13	100%
RM Johnson	13 attendances out of 13	100%
MW Purser	13 attendances out of 13	100%
RF Skoulding	12 attendances out of 13	92 %

D Connor	10 attendances out of 13	77%
CK Elkin	9 attendances out of 13	70%
AR Donnelly	7 attendances out of 13	54%
RW White	7 attendances out of 13	54%
G Tustin	6 attendances out of 13	47%
RE Jack	2 attendances out of 13	15%

The low attendance on the part of Cllr Donnelly has been due to declining health and an enforced leave of absence from October 2022. Cllr Jack took a leave of absence from April to July 2022 and has been unable to attend main meetings since due to personal reasons.

ADMINISTRATION

March Town Council still maintains an office within the Town Hall which is manned by a basic staff of two part-time employees. As you will be aware, Sally took over as Assistant Town Clerk in February 2022, following the death of Geoff in December 2021, and I officially took over the mantle of Town Clerk in October 2022, with Clive having retired in September. Clive served as Clerk to March Town Council for 24 years and set the bar high. I am grateful for the 5-month hand-over period with Clive and I am honoured to have been given this opportunity to take over this position and I have enjoyed every second of the role, which has been rewarding and challenging in equal measure.

With Covid restrictions lifted, the office is manned (as a minimum) from 8am to 3:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and from 8.30am to midday on Fridays.

PLANNING

A total of 196 Planning Applications received consideration during the year, an increase of 6 applications on the previous year's total.

Approval was recommended in respect of 163 applications, 15 were the subject of comments, more information was requested in respect of 4 applications, no site inspections were suggested, and no comment was made on 8 occasions. Objections were raised in respect of 6 applications.

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

During 2022/2023 financial year donations totalling £1,350.00 were made to the following organisations;

March Armed Forces Breakfast Club	£ 250.00
1 st March Scout Troop	£ 300.00
RKA Kick Boxing Academy	£ 500.00

March Library (Summer Reading Challenge)£ 300.00

Grants totalling £3,500.00 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
*Talking Newspaper for the Blind	£1,000.00
FACT	£ 500.00

In addition, generous financial support was also given to March Museum Society and Estover Playing Field 2015 CIC.

*Talking Newspaper for the Blind is sadly winding up in July after 47 years. No further grants will therefore be payable to this organisation.

ALLOTMENTS

Since relinquishing some of its allotment sites in October 2004, the remainder are now fully occupied and a waiting list of nearly 50 exists.

Since September 2020, waiting lists have increased, no doubt influenced by householders wanting something to do during the pandemic and the increasing costs of food in supermarkets. We have also written to Allotment holders so that we can align the billing of all allotments with the financial year. This will lead to less complicated allotment accounting.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

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

- A. March & District Museum.
- B. March Street Pride Group (previously March in Bloom).
- C. The town centre Christmas Lights. Christmas 2022 again saw an excellent display of lights thanks to the continuing efforts of all the volunteers and fundraising.
- D. March St. Georges Fayre and Christmas Market.
- E. March Summer Festival Committee. The event, a further victim of Covid-19, returned with a vengeance in 2022.
- F. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations which shared the same weekend as the Summer Festival.
- G. March Summer and Winter Arts Programme including entertainment on the Market Place. These activities have not fully resumed following Covid-19.
- H. Band Concerts on West End Park during July and August.
- I. Estover Playing Field 2015 CIC. It is pleasing to note that following the signing of a 99-year lease in November 2015, exceptional progress has been made with

- plans to develop the site into a first-class multi-sports facility. As previously advised, the lease has been assigned to March Town United Football Club and will continue to be operated for the benefit of the community. It has now been renamed March Town FC Estover CIC to reflect the change of the management involved.
- J. The Town's first March Armed Forces Fayre in September, which was an enormous success, the first of its kind in the country. This will now become an annual event.
 - K. The March Armed Forces Air Cadets – in November 2022, the first Mayor's Cadet was appointed.
 - L. Remembrance Day Parade - which saw a record turnout in November 2022.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, and continuing on a positive note, the past year has again been extremely successful with all Councillors, and the various political groups, working constructively together for the benefit of the town, in often challenging circumstances.

I wish you all the very best going forward.

Sarah Lemmon – Town Clerk
17 April 2023