

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 4 September 2023 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	K French G Christy	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	S Court J French H Orbell N Spencer A Woollard	M Field J Lawler M Purser T Taylor
	Town Clerk		S Lemmon
	Assistant Town Clerk		S Taylor
	Public		0

87 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Harris and County Cllr J Gowing.

88 Police Update

Minutes of the 10 August 2023 Police Liaison meeting were circulated to all councillors by the Clerk on 27 August 2023. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2023 will be circulated in due course.

89 Planning Applications

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

<i>Application</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, Number and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
F/YR21/1497/O	Persimmon Homes Erect up to 1,200 dwellings with associated infrastructure, public open space, allotments/community garden, local centre and primary school, involving the demolition of existing

buildings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land West of The Avenue, March.

Revised proposals have been received.

Received: 22 August 2023

Reply by: 12 September 2023

*Cllrs Purser and Lawler declared an interest in this application and left the room when this item was debated.

Recommendation: Approval *subject to* MTC's previous comments dated 21.3.12 and 5.6.23; A community garden is the preferred option over allotments. A community garden will better serve the development and wider community.

Clarity is needed regarding the management and maintenance of said garden, as it needs to be well-maintained and offer biodiversity. MTC does not want the burden of maintenance of allotments (or garden). MTC keen to preserve the site of local hero Jim Hocking's plane crash.

Roundabout to be constructed *prior to* other development for construction traffic.

F/YR23/0658/F

Mr Nigel Davies, Fenland Wind and Air Sports Centre.

Agent: Craig Brand

Erect an equipment storage shed and the formation of a parking area at March Airfield, Cross Road, March.

Received: 29 August 2023

Reply by: 19 September 2023

*Cllr Purser declared an interest in this application and left the room when this item was debated.

Recommendation: Approval

F/YR23/0659/F

Catherine Stephenson, Relax Inn-Station Road Ltd.

Agent: 3D Planning Ltd, Peterborough

Change of use of existing dwelling to a hotel (12-bed) at 42 Station Road, March.

Received: 24 August 2023

Reply by: 14 September 2023

Recommendation: Approval

F/YR23/0696/O

Barratt David Wilson Homes, Cambridgeshire

Agent: Pegasus Group, Histon.

Outline planning permission (all matters reserved, except for access) for up to 425 dwellings (including affordable housing), formation of 2 accesses and a dropped kerb (for 38 Wimblington Road), safeguarded land for grass playing fields, public open space, landscaping, community garden, community orchard, childrens play areas, sustainable drainage infrastructure, retention of informal parking area, all other associated infrastructure and demolition of an existing dwelling (40 Wimblington Road) at Land South of Barkers Land and East of Wimblington Road.

Received: 21 August 2023
Reply by: 11 September 2023
Cllrs K French & Court declared an interest in this application and left the room whilst the item was debated.
Recommendation: Approval *subject to all access roads being substantial and effective traffic calming measures being put in place. Any archaeology comments/recommendations to be observed/ implemented.*

F/YR23/0698/TRCA

Mr Bateman, 18 Gas Road, March.
Works to a Willow Tree within a conservation area at 18 Gas Road, March.
Received: 23 August 2023
Recommendation: Approval

F/YR23/0704/F

Mr & Mrs Simpson, Phoenix House, 1 Church Gardens.
Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at Phoenix House, 1 Church Gardens, Westry, March.
Received: 30 August 2023
Reply by: 20 September 2023
Recommendation: Approval

90 Public Participation

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

91 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Meeting – 7 August 2023
Planning Committee – 21 August 2023
Christmas Lights – 21 August 2023

92 Matters Arising

Re; Annual Meeting – 7 August 2023

The FACT organized “Christmas Cracker” will be held on Sunday 10 December 2023.

Re; Christmas Lights – 21 August 2023

Cllr Field and the Clerk were liaising with Lisa Hedges regarding food and fairground rides. More stewards would be required for the event. Cllr J French to speak to Octavious regarding the TRRO for the road closure to enable to Clerk to progress the Switch-on event road closure application with CCC.

93 Grants & Donations

No applications had been received this quarter.

Cllr Christy will put together a press release to better advertise the MTC Grants & Donation opportunity.

94 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

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

Cllr J French reported that 17 new schools would be built within the County, with 1 SEN school to be built in March (opening c.2025)

Cllr J French had attended a peat soil presentation. The local peat soil (as it shrinks) can cause significant damage to roads, such as the 20 Foot bank. 132 local roads are affected which would cost £300 million to repair.

A working party of volunteers including Cllrs J French, K French and Christy has been set up to tidy up the town following the County Council's decision to stop spraying weeds. Great work has been done in cutting back brambles and significant overgrowth. The team are looking to work on Norwood Road and Russell Avenue shortly.

95 Fenland District Council Update

Cllr J French confirmed that CAB receive £55k funding annually from FDC. This is paid to cover the *whole* of Fenland.

FDC will liaise with CAB to ensure that March residents are not wrongfully excluded from using the service.

Cllr Christy has tried to contact CAB to offer them the use of the FACT Community Hub.

Cllrs noted that it was pleasing to see that the former George Pub had been tidied up as it is now for sale once again.

Potential (s215) planning enforcement was discussed at various locations within the town.

Cllr J French advised that CGM (contractors paid to cut grass on behalf of MTC at various locations within the town) were not doing their job. Westry had not been cut at all in 2023! The Clerk had reported this previously to CGM and would contact them again tomorrow.

96 Payments List

The Payments List, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm.

Councillor K French2 October 2023
Mayor of March.