

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 1st March 2021 held via “Zoom” commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	K French R Jack	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	DW Connor CK Elkin R Johnson RF Skoulding RW White	SR Court J French MW Purser G Tustin
	County Councillor		J Gowing
	Town Clerk Asst. Town Clerk		C Lemmon GSD Wilkinson
	Police		Sgt Richard Lugg

Public / Press No members of the public or press (although it was offered within the agenda notice) had requested permission to access the MTC “Zoom” group to witness proceedings.

To allow the meeting to take place via “Zoom”, and as agreed at the 6th April 2020 Main Council Meeting, Standing Orders are suspended until such time as the coronavirus epidemic abates.

152 Apologies

No apologies were received.

153 Police Update (including Presentation by Sgt Richard Lugg)

Sgt Richard Lugg was in attendance, and a written report had been circulated on 28th February 2021.

Sgt Lugg gave a “slide show” presentation which advised Councillors of the following matters:

- a) Anti-social behavioural matters reported on social media cannot all be taken at face value. Exaggerations and inaccuracies are commonplace.
- b) ASBOs are no longer an available tool in actions taken against anti-social behaviour.
- c) A very long legal process is now necessary before action can be taken against young people, with all steps along the way being closely monitored.
- d) The only acceptable ways for members of the public to report anti-social behaviour (or any other matters of concern) is to either ring the police or provide detail on the online police reporting portal. This ensures that the information can be collated and acted upon in the most efficient manner.

- e) It is never acceptable for the public to take matters into their own hands or adopt a vigilante mentality.
- f) The monthly meetings held between the police and the heads of the local Councils are an ideal vehicle to allow an exchange of views and provide a free flow of information.
- g) By working in partnership, the police and Councils can reassure the community that necessary actions are being taken and this will assist in resolving issues at an early stage.

A “question and answer” session ensued which, in the main, revolved around road safety and speeding issues.

Thereafter, Sgt Lugg was thanked by the Mayor and left the meeting at 8.05pm.

154 Planning Applications

Because of their positions 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 & Purser declared a permanent personal interest and take no part in discussions relating to planning matters.

It was also noted that, due to his involvement in the building industry, Councillor Skoulding would not take part in any discussions relating to planning issues.

The afore-mentioned Councillors remained visible during this agenda item but all other members observed that their microphones were muted for the entire time.

It was agreed that four 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/YR20/0977/F	<p>Mr Martin Reynolds. MRC, 183 The Drove, Barroway Drove, Downham Market. Erect a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling (workplace home) and detached light industrial unit at Land North of Old Dairy, Grange Road, March. Received: 17 February 2021. Application Withdrawn. Withdrawal noted.</p>
F/YR20/1084/F	<p>Mr Mark Hughes, 56 Wigmore Lane, Luton. Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) and detached garage involving the temporary siting of a caravan and storage container (during construction) at The Bungalow, 340 Wisbech Road, Westry, March. Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above. The revision is: Siting and design revised. Received: 17 February 2021. Reply by: 3 March 2021. Recommend approval.</p>

- F/YR21/0105/F
Mr J McKay, 160 Burrowmoor Road, March.
Erect a single-storey rear extension, first floor rear extension to enable loft conversion for living accommodation, insertion of 3 x dormers to front elevation and erect detached garden room/store to existing dwelling at 160 Burrowmoor Road, March.
Received: 18 February 2021.
Reply by: 11 March 2021.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR21/0140/F
Mr Belton, 33 The Avenue, March.
Erect a first-floor extension to rear and side of existing dwelling at 33 The Avenue, March.
Received: 23 February 2021.
Reply by: 16 March 2021.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR21/0166/F
Mr Grant Lenton, 51 Wisbech Road, March.
Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing rear extension at 51 Wisbech Road, March.
Received: 23 February 2021.
Reply by: 16 March 2021.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR20/1230/O
Miss Jill Riches, 91A Grand Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.
Erect up to 3 dwellings (outline application with matters committed in relation to access only) involving demolition of double garage and highway works including formation of a footpath at Land East of 25-27 Russell Avenue, March.
Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above. The revision is: Access now committed and details of highway works / footpath provided.
Received: 23 February 2021.
Reply by: 9 March 2021.
Recommend approval.
- F/YR21/0134/F
Mrs Lavinia Anders, 74 Knights End Road, March.
Erect a single-storey rear extension, insertion of 2 x rooflights to rear and cladding to front of existing dwelling including removal of chimney and demolition of existing side extension and part of rear elevation at 74 Knights End Road, March.
Received: 23 February 2021.
Reply by: 16 March 2021.
Recommend approval.

F/YR21/0148/F Mr N Bowers, Goldstar Traders Ltd, Lodge Farm, Goldstar, Knights End Road, March.
Erect a lorry maintenance warehouse building and the formation of a lorry park including the siting of a portacabin at Land North and West of Goldstar, Lodge Farm, Knights End Road, March accessed from Ransonmoor Lodge Road, March.
Received: 24 February 2021.
Reply by: 17 March 2021.
Recommend approval.

F/YR21/0187/F Clarion Housing Group, Read House, Peachman Way, Broadland Business Park, Norwich.
Erect a single-storey rear extension to rear of existing dwelling at 56 Lake Close, March.
Received: 24 February 2021.
Reply by: 17 March 2021.
Recommend approval.

155 Public Participation

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

156 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed:
Main Council Meeting of 1st February 2021.
Planning Sub-Committee Meeting of 15th February 2021.
Unlike the procedure normally adopted whereby the Mayor immediately endorses the minutes, it was agreed that the Clerk should sign the minutes on her behalf.

157 Matters Arising

Re Main Council Meeting of 1st February 2021:

There were no matters arising concerning the previous meeting.

However, the Clerk reported that earlier in the day he had signed the necessary paperwork to allow the 21 years extension to the Museum lease (Minute 122 of 7th December 2020 Main Council Meeting applies).

158 Nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2021/22

Due to activities during 2020/21 being severely restricted because of the Coronavirus epidemic and subsequent national lockdowns, the current post holders have only experienced, held or attended a minimal number of events.

As such, Councillor Jack proposed and Councillor Purser seconded, with all in favour, that Councillor K French should remain in post for a second term.

Councillor K French then proposed and Councillor Purser seconded, with all in favour, that Councillor Jack should also remain in post for a second term.

Both Councillor K French and Councillor Jack stated that they would be honoured to carry out a second term and hoped that 2021/22 would see a rapid return to normality and an end to the problems associated with Covid 19.

159 Grants and Donations

One application for funding had been received as follows:

Name:	Revitalise Respite Holidays.
Amount requested:	£382.00p.
Purpose:	The provision of respite holidays for local disabled adults and their carers.

Prior to discussions commencing, the Clerk raised the following points:

- a) The current year's budget is already overspent. Although this, in itself, should not completely preclude the application, other points were applicable.
- b) This organization has been supported in previous years since, undoubtedly, it is a worthy cause.
- c) In this application, the "disabled person from March" is quoted as living in PE4. This postcode actually covers Werrington, Walton, Paston and Gunthorpe which can hardly be regarded as March or even local.

As such, and following discussions, this application was unanimously rejected.

160 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:

- a) Councillor J French had presented the Creek Road / Estover Road 2021/22 LHI funding bid to the judging panel earlier in the day. It was hoped that a positive outcome will be forthcoming but, because of delays caused by purdah, a final decision will not be made before May 2021.
- b) Works on the proposed pedestrian crossing for Station Road will commence in the near future.
- c) Carriageway surfacing works will take place in Russell Avenue and Peyton Avenue on 23rd March 2021.
- d) The refurbishment of the Further Education Centre in Station Road is due to commence imminently.
- e) Work on New Shire Hall (the actual name decided upon) has continued at pace and is coming in within budget.

161 Fenland District Council Update

Councillor J French reported as follows:

- a) The introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement to the area is progressing as fast as processes allow.

162 Schedule of Accounts

The Schedule of Accounts, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Councillor K French
Mayor of March.

12th April 2021.