



- F/YR24/0662/F Colin Roberts, Flower Garden Group Ltd, Harlow.  
Erect 9 x single-storey dwellings (3 x 1-bed and 6 x 2-bed) at Site of Former Gas Distribution Centre, Gas Road, March.  
Received: 20 August 2024  
Reply by: 10 September 2024  
\*M Purser declared an interest in this item and took no part in discussions or voting thereon.  
**Recommendation: Approval.**
- F/YR24/0670/F Sally Batchelor, 6 Aspenwood Grove, March.  
Change of use of existing business units from use classes E(g), B2 and B8 to class uses E and F (retrospective) at 7-8 Platinum Business Park, 59 Thorby Avenue, March.  
Received: 27 August 2024  
Reply by: 17 September 2024  
**Recommendation: Approval**
- F/YR24/0682/F Mr & Mrs Goodwin, 14 Berryfield, March  
Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling and conversion of garage to create additional living accommodation involving the insertion of a bay window to front elevation at 14 Berryfield, March.  
Received: 27 August 2024  
Reply by: 17 September 2024  
**Recommendation: Approval**
- F/YR24/0683/VOC Mrs T McCurry, Ravens Haven, March  
Removal of condition 2 of Planning Permission F/YR10/0380/F (erection of a 3-bed detached agricultural dwelling with detached carport/garage) relating to the removal of an agricultural occupancy at Ravens Haven, Grange Road, March.  
Received: 29 August 2024  
Reply by: 19 September 2024  
**Recommendation; Approval**
- F/YR24/0687/F Mr & Mrs John Cannon, 7 Sation Road, Coldham.  
Erect a single-storey extension to rear and porch to front involving demolition of existing rear extension, and installation of external insulation and render to existing dwelling at The House, St Johns Chase, March.  
Received: 29 August 2024  
Reply by: 19 September 2024  
**Recommendation; Approval**

## 77 Public Participation

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

## 78 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Meeting – 5 August 2024  
Planning Meeting – 19 August 2024  
Christmas Lights – 19 August 2024

## 79 Matters Arising

5 August 2024 Main Meeting. Minute 62; The Clerk had drafted an agreement to be signed by March Town FC Estover CIC. This was duly signed at a meeting of the CIC on 22 August and the Clerk had received the Town Council's signed copy of the agreement for safe-keeping. The Clerk had been advised that the CIC are incredibly grateful to the Town Council for its generous support and a formal letter of thanks was received from the Estover Committee by the Clerk on 28 August 2024 which the Clerk will circulate electronically to councillors following the meeting.

## 80 Grants and Donations

Two applications for grants were received this quarter;

The Clerk advised members that no awards had been made so far in this financial year and the available sum budgeted for grants/donations was therefore £2,500.00

G Christy declared an interest in both applications before members and left the room for the duration of this item.

- i) FACT: The sum of £195 was requested to provide transport to residents to attend the "Christmas Cracker" event hosted by FACT.  
Application unanimously **approved** by councillors.
- ii) Friends of March Railway Station: The sum of £329.92 was requested to purchase gardening tools.  
\*J Lawler, as an adopter, declared an interest in this item and left the room whilst this application was discussed.  
Application unanimously **approved** by councillors.

## 81 Biodiversity Policy

Town and Parish Councils are under a duty pursuant to Section 40 of NERC 2006 as amended by section 102 of the Environment Act 2021 to consider what action to take in relation to biodiversity, but with no duty to publish a report. A model diversity policy has been produced with has been reviewed favourably by DEFRA and published by both NALC and SLCC.

The Clerk reviewed the model policy to make it suitable for March Town Council and circulated the draft to councillors on 13 August 2024 for consideration and approval in advance of the meeting.

It was proposed by N Spencer and seconded by M Field to adopt the policy, and this was approved by all members.

H Orbell enquired how we could enforce/monitor the restriction of the use of pesticides on allotments. The Assistant Clerk would include a statement about the new Biodiversity Policy in a letter to allotment holders and this would be further supported and encouraged by the Allotment Overseers.

On a more general note, it was mooted and considered appropriate going forward to ask successful applicants to be accountable for monies paid to them by MTC. The Clerk and G Christy would devise a suitable evaluation form to demonstrate that monies had been spent for the purposes applied for, possibly with a suitable clawback clause.

## **82 Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

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

Cllr J French had attended a very positive meeting with County Highways and Transport and Cllr Count regarding the walking, cycling and mobility feasibility study - which MTC would be consulted on in due course. J French declared this a fantastic scheme. Once costings were finalised, an application would be made to the Combined Authority for funding.

Cllr J French further reported that the delivery of the new SEN school on Kingswood Road had been delayed by the government from 2026-2027.

J Gowing had advised by email that a damaged deck on the Marylebone/West End footbridge had been reported to him by members of the public, but remedial work had been undertaken.

## **83 Fenland District Council Update**

Cllr J French reported that the deadline for expressions of interest for the shopfront grant scheme closed on Friday 30 August. There had been some 30-40 applications submitted. Some had expressed concern that it was unfair on businesses to match-fund the 5% rather than the property landlord, but this was, ultimately, for private negotiation between tenants and landlords.

J French updated on the planning application for West End Park and further mentioned that certain applications for relatively big developments (one for 88 dwellings on Wimblington Road) and/or ones that MTC had recommended refusal (for example the car wash and coffee drive through near KFC) had been approved under *delegated* authority (ie by officers and not the planning committee). The Clerk would follow this up with FDC.

## **84 Payments List**

The Payments List, as circulated, was agreed.

The Clerk advised members that there were two outstanding/unpaid invoices from Nurture who cut the grass on our behalf. They have continually failed to cut some of the contracted area along Westry and the Clerk had refused to pay the invoices until the works were completed to our satisfaction. As such, the Clerk asked that, if the works were completed

sufficiently before the next main meeting, could she go ahead and settled the invoices which were, be definition, well overdue? Members agreed that this would be acceptable. The invoices would, of course, still show on the October Payments List.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:10 pm.

Councillor G Christy .....7 October 2024  
Mayor of March.