

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 5 June 2023 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	M Purser	Town Mayor
		G Christy	Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	S Court	M Field
		J French	K French
		J Lawler	H Orbell
		N Spencer	A Woollard
	Cambridgeshire County Councillor	J Gowing	
	Town Clerk	S Lemmon	
	Assistant Town Clerk	S Taylor	
	Public	9	

39 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Harris and Taylor.

40 Thank you to Andy Cornwell and George Campbell Leisure Centre

Andy Cornwell, Sarah and Kaye, Manager and staff from the George Campbell Leisure Centre, were invited to tonight's meeting to express the Town Council's thanks for their recent actions in saving the life of a swimmer at the Leisure Centre. Their quick-thinking, life-saving training and use of a defibrillator had saved the life of a gentleman who had experienced a heart attack whilst swimming. The Town Council commended Andy and his team for their sterling work, which demonstrated the need for first-aid defibrillator training and the importance of defibrillators in the town. The Mayor presented a platter as a token of thanks.

41 Police Update

The next police liaison meeting will take place on 8 June. Minutes will be circulated when available.

42 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. Councillor Purser declared an interest and took no part in discussions relating to any of the planning items. Councillor Christy chaired the meeting for the purposes of agenda item 42.

*Application
Number*

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

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 – additional information relating to heritage, biodiversity, fire, transport and design changes.

Received: 2 May 2023

Reply by: 23 May 2023

*Cllr Lawler declared an interest in this application and took no part in discussions relating to this application.

Recommendation; Approval *subject to the comments of the Town Council dated 23 January 2023. In relation to the community garden, this is a much-preferred option to allotments. A community garden will better serve the development and wider community. However, clarity is required regarding the management and maintenance of said garden as the Town Council is keen to ensure that the garden area is always well-maintained and offers biodiversity. The Town Council does not want the burden of maintenance of allotments or the garden. Could the developer secure a bond/other funding to ensure its upkeep? The Town Council is also keen to preserve the site of local hero Jim Hocking's plane crash. FDC to secure adequate s106 contributions.*

F/YR23/0414/F

Natwest Group, Edinburgh.

Alterations to existing building including removal of existing signage, 1 x ATM and 1 x night safe involving in-filling apparatus with brickwork/glass at 18 Broad Street, March.

Received; 22 May 2023

Reply by; 12 June 2023

Recommendation: Approval

F/YR23/0426/F

Barratt David Wilson Homes Cambridgeshire

Agent: A Hodgson, Pegasus Group

The formation of 2 x accesses at Wimblington Road/Lambs Hill Drove junction and land at 40 Wimblington Road and associated highways works, and relocation of an access involving the formation of a dropped kerb at 38 Wimblington Road and Land West of 40-74 Wimblington Road, March.

Received: 23 May 2023

Reply by: 13 June 2023

*Cllr K French declared an interest in this application and took no part in discussions.

Recommendation: Approval *subject to the need for serious consideration to be given to a reduction in the speed limit on Wimblington Road; a reduction in the 60mph limit and traffic calming measures to accommodate vehicles accessing and egressing the proposed developments. Particularly bearing in mind that there will be additional development on the opposite side of the carriageway too. Cycle crossing to be given priority. Arboricultural report to be supported.*

F/YR23/0430/F

Mr Brian Hinson, 66 Wimblington Road, March

Agent: Gowler Architectural

Erect a dwelling (single storey, 3-bed) and detached store including the demolition of existing outbuilding and the widening of existing vehicular access, and the formation of a new vehicular access to 66 Wimblington Road at Land South of 66 Wimblington Road, March.

Received: 24 May 2023

Reply by: 14 June 2023

Recommendation; Approval subject to concerns that the new design is detrimental to the street scene compared to the previous design (CP16).

F/YR23/0433/CERTLU

Mr Thomas Jupp, Springfield House, Creek Fen, March.

Certification of Lawfulness (Existing); Occupation of dwelling without compliance with condition 5 of planning permission F/YR04/4362/F, relating to employment tie occupancy at Springfield House, Creek Fen, March.

Received: 24 May 2023

Reply by: 14 June 2023

Recommendation; Approval

F/YR23/0435/VOC

Mr J Chandler and Miss S Yorke, 4A St Peters Road, March.

Variation of condition 08 of planning permission F/YR22/0234/F (Erect 1 x dwelling (3-storey 4-bed) and associated garden structures incorporating the change of use of existing paddock land to residential garden land) relating to drawing references at Land North of 4 The Causeway, March.

Received: 26 May 2023

Reply by: 16 June 2023

Recommendation; Approval

F/YR23/0442/F Mr & Mrs Cherry, Causeway House, Granford Drove
Erect a detached 2-storey double garage to existing dwelling at Causeway House, Grandford Drove, March.
Received: 25 May 2023
Reply by: 15 June 2023
Recommendation; Approval

F/YR23/0453/F Mr John 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 of existing dwelling and rendering of existing dwelling at 160 Burrowmoor Road, March.
Received; 25 May 2023
Reply by 15 June 2023.
Recommendation; Approval

F/YR23/0450/F Mr A Henson, 30 Norwalde Street, March.
Agent: Mr R Papworth, March.
Erect 1 x 2 dwelling (2-storey, 2-bed) including part demolition of existing single storey element at 44 Robingoodfellows Lane at Lane North of 44 Robingoodfellows Lane March
Cambridgeshire
Received: 2 June 2023
Reply by: 22 June 2023
Recommendation; Approval

F/YR23/0455/F Mr Richard Bedford, 32 Boundary Drive, March.
Agent: Russell Payne, March.
Erect a single-storey front extension and a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling, involving the demolition of existing conservatory at 32 Boundary Drive March
Cambridgeshire PE15 9RR
Received: 2 June 2023
Reply by: 23 June 2023
Recommendation; Approval

43 Public Participation

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

44 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

15 May 2023 – Annual Meeting

22 May 2023 – Christmas Lights Working Party

45 Matters Arising

Re; Annual Meeting – 15 May 2023

Minute 31 – Appointment of Council Representatives

Gary Christy was appointed to represent the Town Council on the Hereward Community Rail Partnership. The Clerk was advised by Wendy Otter at FDC on 25 May that, whilst the works at March Railway Station have now been completed, the March Railway Station Project Board still requires a representative to be appointed as there are still responsibilities for the next 4 years in terms of monitoring and evaluation. There will also need to be discussion about the remaining elements of the March Station Masterplan work that have not yet been completed. Meetings are not likely to be held frequently. Cllr Christy would be very happy to be appointed to the March Station Board Project.

46 Grants & Donations

Two applications had been received for consideration.

- a) Fenland Farmers: a donation was sought to help fund the purchase of a gazebo to assist Fenland Farmers with their many local fund-raising activities and support of local events that benefit the entire community of March. A donation of £770 was proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr J French.
- b) March Armed Forces and Veterans Hub CIC; This application was deferred to a future meeting pending receipt of additional information.

47 Allotments – Information Report and Update

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk presented a report on the town's allotments and advised that a resolution was required to relinquish the West End bypass allotments (3 plots let as one). The site was unkempt and in a dire state and problems were exacerbated by the fact that there were no access routes to the plots (except from the bypass itself which was dangerous and clearly undesirable). As such, these allotments (for which the Town Council pays an annual rental to FDC) were not fit for purpose or suitable to re-let, and it was suggested that they be returned to the District Council, perhaps to be used as a woodland area or orchard. Cllr J French had been in discussions with FDC Assets Team with regard to the future use of the site as woodland, orchard or similar. The current tenancy expired in October.

Cllr K French proposed the relinquishment of the bypass allotments to owners, FDC. This was seconded by Cllr Christy. Cllrs Court, Field and Lawler abstained from voting.

The Clerk reported that the applications to register absolute title at West End Yardy and Grandford had been submitted to HMLR.

Enforcement action would be taken in relation to allotments that were unkempt and the subject of complaints.

Cllr Taylor's considerable expertise in relation to chemicals, pesticides and the new legislation/regulations was available to assist Allotment Overseers.

The closure of Lloyds Bank in October would mean that the Town Council would no longer be able to accept payment of rent by cash or cheque.

48 Summer Band Concerts - Draw

2 July – Cllrs Purser and Christy
9 July – Cllrs Lawler and Orbell
16 July – Cllrs K French and J French
23 July – Cllrs Woollard and Field
30 July – Cllrs Harris and Court
6 August – Cllrs Spencer and Taylor
13 August – Cllrs Orbell and Court
20 August – Cllrs J French and Spencer
27 August – Cllrs Purser and Lawler

The Assistant Clerk distributed packs for each of the events. Cheques would be posted.

49 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

The Clerk reported that all email updates are being circulated on a daily-basis.
Cllr J French and Court had met with the Director Highways and had a successful tour of the area with Cllr Spencer to highlight the dire state of some local roads.
A special meeting had taken place earlier today regarding Estover and County Road speed cushions. Work will be carried out at the end of July 2023 as part of LHI.
Middle Level's proposed dredging of the river in October will be delayed following a bank slippage at the top of Nene Parade, requiring a full river bank survey and stability assessments to be carried out. Silting works would therefore be postponed therefore pending the outcome.
CPE was still on track for next year (possibly September).

Cllr Gowing advised that he was no longer on the Fire Authority Committee, but was now a member of the Police Authority Committee and Constitution and Ethics Committee.

50 Fenland District Council Update

Cllr J French advised that the gas works in Broad Street were now complete. Anglian Water are expected to complete works on 16 June 2023.
Bicycle racks would be reinstated at the Market Place shortly (4 as opposed to the original 6).
Illegal parking on the Market Place outside the Town Hall was being monitored. Ticketing was preferred over double-yellow lining .
Two local businesses had applied for FDC grants.

51 Payments List

The Payments List, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Councillor M Purser3 July 2023
Mayor of March.