

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 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
- F/YR22/1303/F 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
- F/YR22/0856/VOC 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
- F/YR22/1318/LB 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.**
- F/YR22/1319/FDC 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.**

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

*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.