

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 4 November 2024 held in The Skoulding Suite at March Town Hall commencing at 7.15pm.

Present	Councillor	G Christy A Woollard	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
	Councillors	S Court J French H Orbell N Spencer	M Field J Lawler M Purser T Taylor
	Cambridgeshire County Councillor	J Gowing	
	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk	S Lemmon S Taylor	
	Public	0	
	Press	1	

101 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr K French and S Harris.

102 Police Update

Presentation/Minutes of the 15 October 2024 meeting were circulated by the Clerk on 21 October 2024. The next meeting will take place on 6 November 2024.

103 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.

Application

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

It was agreed that one additional planning application would be discussed at tonight's meeting.

F/YR24/0447/RM

Mrs Emily Green, 6 Knights End Road, March.

Reserved Matters applications relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR21/0164/O to erect 1 dwelling (single-storey, 2-bed) involving the demolition of existing outbuildings (part-retrospective) at Land North of 6 Knights End Road, March.

Revised Proposals; revised site layout and dwelling arrangements proposed in response to officer concerns.

Received: 29 October 2024

Reply by: 12 November 2024

Recommendation; Approval

F/YR24/0118/F

Silverwood Property Holdings

Change of use of existing building to 6 x 1-bed flats, including first floor extensions, rear dormer and landscaped courtyard at 140 and 144 Station Road, March.

Revised Proposals; Amended description of development and further Bat and Bird Survey.

Received: 22 October 2024

Reply by: 5 November 2024

Recommendation; Approval

F/YR24/0837/VOC

Mrs S Watson, Bedford.

Variation of conditions 2 (materials) and 4 (list of approved drawings) of Planning Permission F/YR23/0150/F (part demolition and rebuilding of existing dwelling (part retrospective)) to extend dwelling, render all external elevations and create vehicle access at 42 Hundred Road, March.

Received: 22 October 2024

Reply by: 12 November 2024

Recommendation: Approval

F/YR24/0845/FDC

Fenland District Council

Erect 1 x dwelling (single storey, 2-bed) at Land North of 84 Upwell Road, Access from Smiths Drive, March.

(Reg 3 application – FDC as applicant)

Received: 23 October 2024

Reply by: 13 November 2024

Recommendation; Approval

F/YR24/0854/LB

Fenland District Council

External works to the listed monument including replacing existing stepped base with sandstone steps at War Memorial Broad Street March

Received; 29 October 2024

Reply by: 19 November 2024

Recommendation; Approval

F/YR24/0856/F

Mr & Mrs Davies, Fenland Wind and Air Sports, Cross Road, March.

Change of use of land to a campsite for the siting of 5 touring caravans, 3 Glamping Pods, 2 Shepherds Huts, 1 container (outdoor kitchen) and retention of 1 container (training/storage), erection of a toilet block involving demolition of existing toilet block and formation of a gravel driveway at March Airfield, Cross Road, March.

Received: 29 October 2024

Reply by: 19 November 2024

Recommendation: Approval

F/YR24/0858/F

Mr Fauk Solak, 18 Broad Street, March

Change of use of bank to restaurant, and external alterations including remove signage, lengthen front windows and erect a rear timber canopy (part retrospective) at 18 Broad Street, March.

Received: 1 November 2024

Reply by: 22 November 2024

Recommendation; Approval *subject to Conservation Officer's comments.*

104 Public Participation

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

105 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Meeting – 7 October 2024

Planning Meeting – 21 October 2024

Christmas Lights – 21 October 2024

106 Matters Arising

None

107 MVAS/DTSA (Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs/Delivering Transport Strategy Aims)

Cllr Christy confirmed that all data (0.5m data points) had now been downloaded. He would speak to the police at the Liaison meeting on Wednesday to confirm where the data was to be sent.

Data collected showed that speeding in March was well below the national average, but there were definitely some issues/hotspots to tackle.

Clerk instructed to order 2 new batteries for the existing unit.

Cllrs Spencer and Taylor concerned that nothing is being done with the data. Spending time and council money on more units is not cost-effective if the police do nothing to enforce speeding.

Deterrent effects of speed monitoring and Speedwatch were discussed.

Cllr Orbell thanks Cllr Christy for assisting with MVAS; 3 people are definitely needed to lift/move the unit.

108 LHI's (Local Highways Improvements)

Cllr J French had provided the Clerk with a list of areas that would benefit from double-yellow lines (a non-complex scheme) due to issues with poor/dangerous parking.

The window for applications for the 2025/2026 round of LIS closes on Friday 10 January 2025.

The Clerk asked Councillors to have regard to the email she had recently circulated and the information/evidence that is needed to effectively support an application, particularly consultation, local support, anecdotal evidence, evidence of incidents, photos/videos etcetera. The evidence-gathering process should begin now and the Clerk requested that evidence be submitted to her before Christmas so that she can apply well before the January deadline.

Cllr J French discussed the possibility of purchasing new MVAS signs via the LHI scheme, although this would mean we would not acquire the units for some time.

MVAS data was considered vital evidence to support LHI applications.

CCC Highways officer had asked to meet Cllr J French and the Clerk re the recently approved Norwood Avenue traffic-calming scheme.

109 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

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

Broad Street would be finished in 1-2 weeks. The gasworks outside Wetherspoons are currently causing significant disruption/tail-backs in town, but the gas board is doing the work piecemeal, rather than replace the damaged length of pipe in its entirety.

CCC will shortly commence works to strengthen the town bridge.

The Northern Link Road is currently being costed.

New flagpoles have been installed in Broad Street.

County Cllr Gowing advised that the Marylebone Bridge would be closed again in the New Year for repair.

110 Fenland District Council Update

FDC are still having 2 planning meetings per month to deal with the backlog of planning applications.

111 Payments List

The Payments List, as circulated, was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:15pm.

Councillor G Christy2 December 2024
Mayor of March.