

MARCH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of March Town Council held on 5 August 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 K French M Purser T Taylor	J French H Orbell N Spencer
	County Councillor		J Gowing
	Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk		S Lemmon S Taylor
	Public		1

61 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Field, Harris and Lawler.

62 Estover CIC - Presentation and Update

Councillors discussed the history of Estover playing field (March Town FC Estover CIC) and its progress in relation to securing a 3G pitch, a much-needed first class sporting facility for the town of March.

March Town Council had generously budgeted £80k pa since 2019 to principally support repayment of the CIC's loan to Cambridgeshire County Council (for the pavilion build costs). The Football Association will be making a significant contribution towards the cost of the 3G pitch and the CIC is involved in various fund-raising projects and activities to raise the £300k it needs for matched funding.

Cllr J French proposed that March Town Council commits a further £80k per year for the next three years in order to facilitate the delivery of the 3G pitch at Estover.

This was seconded by Cllr Purser.

Councillors unanimously support the proposal.

The Clerk will draft an agreement providing that all monies shall be returned to MTC in the event that works on the 3G pitch have not commenced by July 2027.

63 Police Update

Presentation/Minutes of the 11 July 2024 meeting were circulated by the Clerk on 5 August 2024.

64 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.

*Cllr Purser declared a personal interest in the evening's applications to enable his involvement in a future Planning meeting at Fenland District Council and therefore took no part in any discussions.

<i>Application</i>	<i>Name and address of applicant, details of application, Number and recommendation of March Town Council</i>
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It was agreed that 2 (two) additional planning applications would be discussed at tonight's meeting.

F/YR23/1070/RM	Mr David Feary, Henley-on-Thames Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR20/1138/O to erect 4 x dwellings (single-storey, 4-bed) at Land South of 85-89 Upwell Road, March.
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Revised Proposals; additional information received – Response letter to Lead Local Flood Authority comments- Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy Rev B – June 2024.

Received: 16 July 2024

Reply by: 30 July

Recommendation; Approval only on the basis that the LLFA's objections can be overcome (hydraulic conditions and pond design)

F/YR24/0292/F	One Wisbech Road March Ltd, London. Erect a Drive-thru Café, automated carwash and substation with associated parking spaces and 6 x EV charging points at Land North of 205 Wisbech Road, March.
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Revised Proposals; Receipt of Noise Impact Assessment Report, Lighting Assessment, Residential Receptor Location Plan, Assessed Scheme of Lighting.

Received: 16 July 2024

Reply by: 30 July 2024

Recommendation; Refusal. Original concerns regarding drainage and flooding have not been addressed/discharged.

F/YR24/0424/F

Mr Sean Saxby, MJS Investments (March) Ltd.
Change of use of land to dog exercise area, installation of secure fencing up to 1.8m high (max), erect shelters and formation of new access and car parking at Land East of Mill Hill Roundabout, Wimblington Road, March.

Revised Proposals: Site plan, access and parking plans, supporting transport technical note along with detailed access plan from transport consultant, design and access statement, Flood Risk Assessment and outline sustainable drainage strategy from drainage consultant and lighting specification detail.

Received: 30 July 2024

Reply by: 12 August 2024

Recommendation; Approval *subject to satisfactory highways/access arrangements in line with the Highways Authority's requirements and recommendations. The junction/site access remains dangerously close to the roundabout on a 60mph stretch of road.*

F/YR24/0568/F

Mr Lee Emmington, 61 Cavalry Drive, March.
Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing conservatory at 61 Cavalry Drive, March.

Received: 15 July 2024

Reply by: 5 August 2024

Recommendation; Approval

F/YR24/0581/F

Mr Kallum Vincent, 3 Collingwood Avenue, March.
Erect a single-storey side and rear extension to existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing conservatory and rear extension at 3 Collingwood Avenue, March.

Received: 25 July 2024

Reply by: 15 August 2024

Recommendation; Approval

F/YR24/0587/RM

Mr Nick Bell, 19 Silver Street, March
Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR22/1268/O to erect 2 dwellings (3-storey, 3-bed) involving demolition of existing garage at Land East of 19 Silver Street, March.

Received: 26 July 2024

Reply by: 16 August 2024

Recommendation: Approval

F/YR24/0597/F

Mrs K Wingfield, 22 Maple Grove, March
Change of use of existing dwelling to mixed use to include erection of a single-storey detached building for use as a nail/hair/beauty salon business (part retrospective) at 22 Maple Grove, March.

Received: 1 August 2024

Reply by: 22 August 2024

Recommendation; Approval

F/YR24/0623/F

Mr R Dempsey, 122 Duncombes Road, March.
Erect a single-storey side extension to form a pool house at Willow House, 122 Duncombes Road, March.

Received: 2 August 2024

Reply by: 23 August 2024

Recommendation; Approval

65 Public Participation

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

66 New Model Financial Regulations 2024

New Model Financial Regulations have been published this year and were circulated to Councillors by the Clerk on 17 July 2024.

The Clerk explained the main changes, principally the requirement to maintain an enhanced asset register.

Cllr K French proposed that the Regulations approved and duly adopted by March Town Council. This was seconded by Cllr Spencer.

67 Minutes of Meetings

The following Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor:

Main Meeting – 1 July 2024

Planning Meeting – 15 July 2024

Christmas Lights – 15 July 2024

68 Matters Arising

None

69 Cambridgeshire County Council Update

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

Cllr J French discussed her recent attendance at a Highways and Transport meeting and discussed the unrealistic conditions for CPE.

County Councillor Gowing confirmed that the decision whether to close Manea Fire Station would be deferred another year! He is leading the member-led review and discussed recruitment and retention and a pilot scheme at March station. Cllr Gowing urged councillors to complete the Police and Crime Commissioner online survey if they have not done so already.

70 Fenland District Council Update

The 95% grant funding discussed last month had increased from £15,000 - £50,000, which is fantastic news for local shops and business. The works in Broad Street remain on schedule and there are discussions ongoing via Cllr Spencer with the Royal School of Military Engineering regarding commissioning the missing middle section of the Fountain, potentially as part of an apprenticeship project.

71 Payments List

The Payments List, as circulated, was agreed.

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

Councillor G Christy2 September 2024
Mayor of March.