Present: Councillors: C. Harvey (Mayor)

C. Barreto (Deputy Mayor)

A. Blackbourn

D. Blackbourn

M. Brindle

T. Land

M. MacDonald

A. Mitchell

V. Peters

M. Stirrup

S. Terry

R. Wood

S. Wright

 Officers: S. Wright (Town Clerk)

A. Yorke (Deputy Town Clerk)

K. Robinson (Committee Clerk)

 Members of Public: There were 40+ members of the public present.

Councillors, Council staff, and members of the public observed a minute of silence in memory of Colin Burnett, a previous Town Councillor, who recently passed away. Colin served as a Councillor from May 2015 until November 2021.

**357/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors I. Evans, D. Jefferson, T. Jermy, H. McCambridge and V. Ross-Smith.

**358/24** **Full Council Committee Minutes**

Council agreed that the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 8 October 2024 were a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**359/24** **Declarations of Any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

**360/24** **Public Participation**

There were 40+ members of the public in attendance. During the public participation session, a local artist requested the return of a painting that was currently in the Council’s possession, as they no longer wished for it to remain in the Council's possession. Members of the public also expressed views on climate change, with some asserting that there is no climate emergency, and that they believed that there is insufficient evidence to support such a declaration.

During this time, some members of the public were extremely disruptive and unruly, disregarding meeting protocols and leading to repeated warnings about their behaviour.

**19:16** The Chairman formally suspended the meeting due to the disruptions from members of the public attending the meeting. A formal warning letter was subsequently issued to one individual regarding their conduct.

**19:25** The meeting was reconvened.

**361/24** **Mayor’s Report**

The Mayor provided an overview of the report, highlighting key findings and recommendations that were included in the Agenda Pack.

**362/24** **Town Council Representatives on Other Bodies/District and County Councillors**

Councillor V. Peters informed members of an upcoming meeting with the Royal British Legion to discuss arrangements for the Remembrance Parade scheduled for 10th November 2024.

Councillor M. MacDonald reported on behalf of the Safer Thetford Action Group (STAG) and advised that the next meeting is scheduled for 18th November 2024.

Councillor S. Wright shared that he had recently attended the annual Cluniac Conference in Northampton. Additionally, he has been in contact with a representative from English Heritage in Bedford, who possesses Thetford Priory assets that could potentially be returned and displayed at the Priory site as part of a future project within the Heritage Master Plan.

Councillor T. Land reported on his recent attendance at meetings with Anglia in Bloom and Breckland Council, which included discussions on fly-tipping.

Councillor C. Barreto informed members of her attendance at the AGM for the Thetford Music Project. She also highlighted the upcoming end-of-year concert, which will be held at The Carnegie on 8th December 2024.

**363/24** **Town Clerk Report**

Members noted the contents of the Town Clerks report.

Councillor T. Land thanked the Town Clerk for her report.

**364/24** **Update on Standing Orders**

Councillors received and discussed the revised standing orders. It was

**RESOLVED:** To approve the updates to Standing Orders.

Proposed by Councillor T. Land and seconded by Councillor M. Stirrup.

**Action:** Town Clerk to arrange to put the Standing Orders onto the website; immediately.

**365/24** **Car Parking Charges**

Councillors discussed the report regarding the proposed car parking charges,

It was

**RESOLVED:** That Thetford Town Council formally opposes the introduction of car parking charges in Thetford and calls for further discussions with Breckland District Council to explore alternative solutions that would avoid the financial burden on residents while maintaining parking services.

That Thetford Town Council engages with local businesses and residents to gather feedback during Breckland District Council’s public consultation, ensuring that the concerns of Thetford’s community are fully represented.

**Action**: Town Clerk to write a letter to Breckland and Councillors to sign; immediately.

Proposed by Councillor M. Stirrup and seconded by Councillor S. Wright.

During the discussion on car parking, the meeting was repeatedly disrupted by a series of interruptions from members of the public. These disruptions included individuals shouting, phone alarms sounding, and attendees standing to voice their opinions without invitation. The interruptions were persistent and created a challenging environment for productive discussion. Despite multiple reminders about meeting decorum, three members of the public received formal verbal warnings from the Chairman regarding their behaviour.

**366/24** **Parish Partnership Bid**

As Councillors began discussing the future Parish Partnership Bid, they were repeatedly interrupted by members of the public. The level of disruption escalated, with a continuous stream of interruptions and a verbal onslaught directed toward Council members. Due to the intensity of these disruptions, the Chairman ultimately called for a vote, and it was agreed to conclude the meeting early.

**7.51pm** Due to persistent and disruptive behaviour from members of the public, Councillors were unable to complete the scheduled business of the Council. As a result, the Chairman made the decision to conclude the meeting early to maintain order

Chairman: C. Harvey