Present: Councillors: C. Harvey (Mayor)

C. Barreto (Deputy Mayor)

M. Brindle

D. Jefferson

M. MacDonald

V. Peters

V. Ross-Smith

M. Stirrup

T. Land

Officers: S. Wright (Town Clerk)

A. Yorke (Deputy Town Clerk)

K. Robinson (Committee Clerk)

Members of Public: There were several members of the public present.

**324/24** **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors A. Blackbourn, D. Blackbourn, I. Evans, T. Jermy, H. McCambridge, A. Mitchell, S. Terry, R. Wood and S. Wright.

**325/24** **Full Council Committee Minutes**

Council agreed that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 30th July 2024 were a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**326/24** **Declarations of Any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were none.

**327/24 Public Participation**

There were 40+ members of the public in attendance. Members of the public spoke about potential conflicts of interests where Councillors are also members of other public office, the request for a rail on the outside steps of the Carnegie, disputes whether a climate emergency exists and a request to redirect the funds of £30,000 set aside by the Council for heating to compensate pensioners in the town who have lost their winter heating allowance.

**At 19:21 hours, due to a public disturbance involving disruptive behaviour from members of the public, Councillor Harvey proposed a motion to suspend the meeting. Councillor Barreto seconded the motion and this was unanimously carried.**

**At 19:55 hours the meeting resumed.**

County Councillor James updated the council on the recent Greater Thetford Partnership meeting, A further update was given regarding a previous question relating to the ownership of Station Lane, Norfolk County Council (NCC) Highways team confirmed that Station Lane is an unadopted private road, meaning it is not maintained by the Highway Authority. Maintenance, the maintenance responsibilities fall to the property owners along the lane.

Councillor James confirmed that the weed spraying has been completed in the Town, enhancing the appearance of our highway verges.

There was an update that letters have been sent to property owners about overgrown hedges obstructing footpaths in the Town, and follow-up visits are being organised to ensure compliance.

Lastly, Councillor James confirmed that the autumn edition of Your Norfolk Magazine is being distributed now, featuring various informative articles, including one on our county farms.

**328/24** **Mayor’s Report**

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

**At 7:27 pm Councillor D. Jefferson left the meeting.**

**At 7:30 pm Councillor T. Land joined the meeting.**

**329/24** **Town Council Representatives on Other Bodies**

Members received updates from representatives of other bodies, but due to more disruptive behaviour, the items could not be recorded, these items included a significant update regarding the upcoming Remembrance Service.

**At 8:10, due to a further public disturbance involving disruptive behaviour from members of the public, Councillor Harvey proposed a further motion to suspend the meeting. Councillor Stirrup seconded the motion and this was unanimously carried.**

**At 8:25 pm hours the meeting resumed.**

**330/24** **Town Clerk Report**

Members noted the contents of the Town Clerks report.

**331/24** **Public Participation Policy**

Councillors asked for this matter to be deferred.

**332/24** **Code of Conduct**

Councillors reviewed the Member Code of Conduct. It was

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Member Code of Conduct.

**Action**: Town Clerk to implement policy; immediately**.**

Proposed by Councillor Land and seconded by Councillor Stirrup.

**333/24** **Member/Officer Relations Code**

Councillors reviewed the Member/Officer Relations Code. It was

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Member/Officer Relations Code.

**Action**: Town Clerk to implement policy; immediately**.**

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

**334/24** **General Power of Competence**

Councillors discussed and agreed to adopt the General Power of Competence. It was

**RESOLVED:** To approve the General Power of Competence.

**Action**: Town Clerk to implement policy; immediately**.**

Proposed by Councillor Land and seconded by Councillor Peters.

**335/24** **Appointment of a Bid Writer for the Heritage Masterplan**

The Councillors considered appointing a Bid Writer to draft the bid for the Heritage Masterplan andinvited the remaining Councillors to join the Working Group. It was

**RESOLVED:** To agree with the recommendations of the Heritage and Events Committee and to approve the process to appoint a Bid Writer.

**Action**: Town Clerk to commence the process; immediately

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

**336/24** **Use of The Council Seal**

The council noted and agreed on the use of the Council Seal on a land purchase and a lease agreement.

**337/24** **Community Engagement**

There was none.

**338/24** **Exclusion of The Press and Public**

**RESOLVED**  **That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A (S3) of the Local Government Act 1972.**

**339/24** **IT & Telecommunications**

The Councillors discussed a report regarding IT & Telecommunications. It was

**RESOLVED:** To agree with the proposals in the report.

**Action**: Town Clerk to organise; 3 months

Proposed by Councillor T. Land and seconded by Councillor V. Peters.

**There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the Meeting at 8:40 pm.**

Chairman: C. Harvey