

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE

(www.holtchamber.org)

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1 February 2012 in Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.

Committee:	John Lintott (Chairman)	Gresham's School	714621
	Martin Sanders (Treasurer)	Larking Gowen	712017
	Charles Butler	Butler's Pantry	711867
	Duncan Baker	Bakers & Larners of Holt	712244
	Caroline Carter	The Holt Chronicle	712177
	Len Casey	Guided Media	768156
	Joshua Dyball	Josh.biz	862610
	Sandra Taylor-Meeds	Budgens	713734
	Lynda Mossman (Membership Sec)	Past Caring	713771
	David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858

PRESENT: John Lintott (Chairman), Lynda Mossman (Membership Secretary), Martin Sanders (Treasurer), Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Amanda Barrington, Duncan Baker, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Len Casey, Di Dann, Joshua Dyball, David Makinson, Mary Pembleton, Juliet Smith, Keith Smith, Rodney Smith
New members, Keith and Juliet Smith from Kitchen Bedroom Bathroom Studio, and Amanda Barrington from Nana Naboo Ltd were welcomed to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: Lindsay Furniss, Hilary Harmer, Sandra Taylor-Meeds, Sarah Tribe.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: These (December minutes) were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING: All matters arising were covered in the agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Martin reminded us that his report represented the year end. The number of paid members was currently 77, with another 10 from whom we were awaiting payment. After running through the income/expenses for 2011 the following budget figures for 2012 were agreed: subscriptions would not be increased; the budget for planters would remain the same; the Christmas Lights donation would remain at £1,200 but extra funding could be made available if there was a deficit in their funding this year; Christmas decorations (covering costs for Christmas Festival) – leave as is; secretarial – John to discuss with Lesley; gift vouchers – keep at £20; advertising and printing – to stay as nil; no consideration was required for Holt War Memorial; website costs would remain the same, and £20 would be set aside for the renewal of the lottery licence.

Discussion then took place on the possible need to use some of the funds to deal with the health problems created by pigeon guano. This would be discussed later in the agenda. Joshua would look into costings for re-printing the membership stickers including the new logo (printing and stationery) and £100 would be set aside to help with costs for the Jubilee celebrations.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: Church Street would be closed on Saturday 2nd June for a quality craft market followed by a Royal Tea at 4 pm. On Sunday there would be a hog roast followed by a Civic Service. There would also be a 'best garden' event. The Day Centre is keen to make bunting for the Jubilee Celebrations which could hopefully stay in place till the Olympic Torch procession. Local traders are to be encouraged to place bunting across their shop fronts and flags in the Christmas Tree holders. The Jubilee celebrations will take place from 2nd - 5th June. Monday 4th June will replace the normal Late May Bank Holiday. Olympic Torch Procession – this will progress down Holt High Street on Wednesday 4th July. It was pointed out that the torch will travel from Fakenham to Holt in a van and cannot therefore be seen passing in the intervening villages. Thaxter's Site – Tim Schofield of Norwood Homes is still looking at many perspectives for the site. It will not necessarily be a supermarket but may well be developed as small business units. A meeting is due to take place within the next couple of weeks with the developer of the HO9 site regarding what our community will need to help with the impact of this major development. Vision – a final report has now been produced though very few copies are currently available. It can be viewed at Holt library or it will soon be possible to download the report from www.holttowncouncil.org – but be warned it is a large document! It is also hoped that it may be possible to present it in the form of a CD. Because the 'Vision' is such a major undertaking volunteers will be sought to join sub-committee(s). Unfortunately no member present felt able to take on this commitment at present. It was felt important that some evidence of progress could be seen and smaller projects that could be advanced were: improvements on the appearance of the roundabout and a trial weekly market for groceries on Fish Hill. This would necessitate losing a small number of parking spaces once a week and could be an event that is managed by Holt Town Council for a management fee with any resulting profits being used to finance local projects. Di Dann offered to look at the ways in which the Fakenham market functions and report back.

HOLT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Unfortunately the position of fund-raising supervisor is still vacant. Although individual traders were willing to cover some of the areas it would be beneficial if an individual was able to co-ordinate the fund-raising. Some help is still needed with fund raising from traders on the High Street. If you could help, please contact Esme Bagnall-Oakeley as soon as possible. It is only envisaged that traders would need to collect from a small number of neighbouring premises. A fund-raising Ball had been suggested but generally it was felt that this would be too labour intensive so alternatives suggested were a fundraising dinner and/or an auction. Reference was also made to the successful Charity 'Fashion Evening' that had been held at Voewood. The best timing for this would probably be in the summer before the Gresham pupils broke up for the holidays. Some disquiet was expressed that 'Christmas Lights' might not be

seen as a 'real' charity but overall there was enthusiasm for the proposal as Fashion Shows tended to be popular in their own right. Esme will look into the possibilities of the suggestions made.

THORNAGE ROAD CAR PARK: The report on the meeting at Byfords had been seen and approved by NCC. At the time that the draft was sent John had sent an email asking for confirmation that, if the railway land became a public right of way, the Deed agreed with Graham would become null and void. Unfortunately the reply was a definite 'no' stating that the agreement would stand no matter what happened. Graham, when informed of this, sought legal advice and has been told that if it became a public right of way there should be no reason for Graham to make any further payments for this right. Graham Chapman had expressed a wish that the Chamber of Trade, through John, should take up this argument on his behalf with NCC. It was agreed, however, that although those present were sympathetic to his situation, the Chamber could not become involved in negotiations and legal issues in what was strictly a private venture. Graham will be speaking to NCP to see if their experience indicates that the payment demanded by NCC is a reasonable one – he is still hoping that NCC will agree to a lower figure.

HO9 SITE – SOUTH OF HOLT BYPASS: Emails have been received from concerned property holders re the proposed final details. It was suggested that Mr D Fletcher of Strutt & Parker should be invited to a meeting of the Chamber to give us more information on the outline plans. It was pointed out that any car park linked to this development would be unlikely to be in place in less than 5 years. Such a car park could, however, be successful as a park and ride. Esme pointed out that it was essential that people make sure their voice is heard on the proposals - especially as this proposal is so much bigger than the HO1 site. Examples were given by those present of loopholes that had been found by local developers seeking to back-track on their section 106 obligations. It was stressed that this must not be allowed to happen in this case.

FEBRUARY ROAD CLOSURES: These had been widely publicised. Most of the local traders were not happy about the timing. The diversions tended to be very long but it was accepted that the road repairs were needed. The last weekend of the closure is likely to be particularly difficult as many roads will be closed off completely rather than using stop/go boards.

BROADBAND: Much publicity material is available to traders to promote faster Broadband for the Holt area. Please sign on through www.norfolk.gov.uk/sayyesnorfolk or call 0344 800 8023 and register your details to prove to private investors that there is a strong consumer demand for faster Broadband in Holt.

TRADE CONFERENCE – 2ND MARCH – ROBINSON COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE: This is a free conference aimed at bringing small and medium-sized businesses together with UK and European experts to help British firms take their businesses abroad.

PIGEONS: No further progress has been made at the moment. Di Dann has investigated the problems regarding property maintenance issues but it is the traders renting the premises that are responsible for the repairs not the owners and everyone understands the financial pressures already faced by these traders. Apparently pigeons are now also collecting near Feeneys. Costs for a pest controller are approximately £40 per hour. Research will be carried out re employing a pest controller and/or installing a hawk. If necessary, monies could be set aside from Chamber of Trade funds for this initiative. Sensitivity is, however, essential towards those with concerns for the welfare of the pigeons. No response has yet been forthcoming from the Pigeon Club. They will be contacted again.

JOHN PERRY WARNES: County Councillor Perry Warnes' details have been added to the Chamber database and he will, in future, automatically receive the minutes.

BUSINESSES OPENING AND CLOSING: Amanda Barrington, and Keith and Juliet Smith were all wished success with their new businesses. Both Anthony Hudson. (Architect), and a Charity Shop for FARA will be moving into the town in the near future. The premises for Normal for Norfolk appear to be empty now. Simon Finch Books will be moving into the Hatfield Hines premises in April 2012.

GLAD ABOUT THE GLAVEN: Please support the 'Glad about the Glaven' event at Holt Hall on Saturday, 21st July 2012. More details will be available shortly.

ROOTS AND SHOOTS CONFIRMATION: It was unanimously decided that the arrangement with Roots and Shoots to plant up the town planters would be continued.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: The possibility of 'park and ride' was discussed and the running of an additional bus from the Steam Railway to Holt Town Centre from May to September (the present 'red bus' only runs from July to August). The Chamber expressed its initial support for this additional bus service and various options were discussed for additional park and ride options. **Chapel Yard** - the court yard is owned privately and has been looking increasingly 'grim' recently especially since the tree and surrounding seating had been removed. The area urgently needs re-surfacing, which is particularly dangerous when the area freezes, and the only planters there are actually are maintained by People Tree. Although the traders pay periodically into a 'sinking fund', the accumulated money is never used to improve the area. John offered to talk to the owner to see what could be done. Esme also pointed out that The Holt Society could possibly get involved, and Mary Pembleton volunteered to see what, ideally, the traders would want done in the area.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on 7th March 2012 at 6 pm in Byfords Wine Bar.

NOTE: Some members felt that it would be helpful to know the opening hours of Bakers and Larners during the Jubilee Bank Holiday. These are as follows: Sat 2nd - Normal trading 8.30 – 5 Sun 3rd – Shut Mon 4th – 10 – 5 Tues 5th - 10 - 5