

H O L T C H A M B E R O F T R A D E

(www.holtchamber.org)

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2011 in Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.

Committee:	John Lintott (Chairman)	Hayes & Storr	712835
	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
	Kate Langley	Gresham's School	714601
	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), Duncan Baker, Charles Butler, Joe Buxton, Di Dann, Nigel Emmett, Mary Pembleton.

APOLOGIES: Caroline Carter, David Makinson.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: These were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: Appeal to members. Could members please assist with watering planters if they see that one near their premises is looking dry. At the moment they are only watered twice a week and it would cost £60 for each extra watering. In a dry period the plants might dry out completely without your help.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The total income for the period 1.2.11 to 31.5.11 was £2,582.50 against expenses of £313.60. In addition a fee of £20 was due for the website domain renewal and the invoice for the planter maintenance costs was awaited. John Lintott had been following up on unpaid subscriptions and had achieved some success.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Several companies including NFU, Pointens, Sowerbys, G A Keys, and Nixey and Godfrey have expressed a willingness to join (rejoin) the Chamber. Martin has also given Sanders another form!

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: Di Dann reported that the Holt Vision Project, an update on 'Exception Sites', and the response at the H01 exhibition on 8th June to the points raised by the Town Council under Section 106, would be discussed at the next Town Council meeting. It was pointed out that the erection of 150 new properties in the area would have a significant impact on Holt and its services. Other points to be raised were the NCC application for faster broadband speeds and the possible closure of the Royal Mail Sorting Office at Holt. John will write to the Royal Mail expressing the concerns of the Chamber and it was suggested that individual members should do the same. The closure would inevitably mean that business mail was received later in Holt than at the present time as it would have to come from Fakenham. The situation regarding undelivered mail was also unclear. Will this have to be collected from Fakenham?

ROBBERIES IN HOLT: After the report of a robbery at Nicholsons attention has once more returned to the 'ring round' list. Although a list of traders exists it seems unclear who is organizing the system and ensuring that the list is kept up-to-date. Duncan pointed out that an expensive cycle had also been stolen from their retail outlet. Lead has also been removed from the roof of the NFU office, 6 Appleyard were broken into recently and someone had tried to force the door at Past Caring. Traders are, therefore, warned to remain alert and try to inform other traders if they see anything suspicious.

HOLT VISION: Ideas for a commissioning document are now being finalized. The document will then be sent out to organisations interested in undertaking the work. It is hoped that at this point further funding can be attracted. It will be important to consider what is deliverable within the financial constraints.

HOLT SUMMER FESTIVAL: A successful launch of the Festival was well attended and the Festival has a large band of volunteers this year. An exciting programme has been planned across daytime and evening events and a new booking office is open next to Nicholsons.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT: The committee are considering the possibility of producing Christmas cards using photos from the Lights evening.

BUSINESSES OPENING AND CLOSING: Moo Moos and Normal for Norfolk are closing and Adnams are hoping to move into the old Mark Elliott site.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Work has started on the Budgens extension and will continue over the next few months. Eventually the premises will be completely gutted and re-fitted. The work should be completed for a re-launch on 15th November, 2011.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Those present reflected on the sad passing (in France) of **Howard Heathfield**. Our sympathies go out to his family who are hoping to arrange a celebration of his life later in the year. The chairman had written to NNDC regarding the situation with the Town Guide and the **Holt Tourist Office** but as yet there has been no answer. John had also spoken to Henry Cockerton regarding the high rents in Holt. Whilst Henry Cockerton understands the animosity that has been caused by high rent increases he pointed out that it was his responsibility to achieve as high a rent as possible for landlords. He felt it would, however, be worth getting professional advice as to a realistic rent level on a property as this could put traders in a better position to successfully negotiate a reduction in rent even without a formal rent review. **Yell Advertising** – Rodney pointed out that he had been approached by Yell regarding advertising his year. He had indicated that he did not wish to advertise. He was subsequently sent a copy of an email which they claimed they had received indicating that he wanted to advertise this year. Not only was the email fake and, it would seem, self-generated by a representative of Yell, but it was sent as if from an old email address that Rodney has not used for several years. Although Rodney has been able to sort out the problem now he wanted other traders to be aware of this possible scam.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 6th July at 1800 hrs in Byfords Wine Bar. Please note there will be no meeting in August, 2011.