

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE
 Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10th September 2014
 17.35 hours at Byfords

Ian Furniss	The Tannery	07818405564
Martin Sanders (Treasurer)	Larking Gowan	712017
Charles Butler	Butler's Pantry	711867
Duncan Baker	Bakers and Larners of Holt	712244
Len Casey	Guided Media	768156
Sandra Taylor-Meeds	Budgens	713734
David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858

1. Present: Ian Furniss (Chair), John Allison, Duncan Baker, Lindsay Furniss, Amanda Heading, Linda Mossman, Ray Moore, Rodney Smith, Martin Sanders, Barry Starling, Helen Stoker, James Stronach, Sandra Taylor Meeds.

Apologies: Len Casey Mary Bopst, Alison Cook, Ian Cook, Nigel Emmett, Chris Lambert, David Makinson, Linda Morris, Ashlea Smith.

2. Approval of the minutes. The minutes of the meeting of 2nd July were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising: Car Parking - Duncan said that he thought that the outcome of the meeting between the District and County Councillors was that they recognised Holt needs more car parking. Philip High is to be thanked for making this happen. There are now three car parks that might come to fruition. Graham Chapman's car park can move forward now the right of way is established. There is also a Gresham's application for the site that backs onto the church to convert to a public car park. The key issue is the entrance onto Church Lane and this is being considered with Highways. The planning application should go to NNDC in the first half of next year. The full application is about to be submitted for the Town Council's Cley Road Car Park.

- Other parking matters - An EDP article said that car park charges after 6pm in the evening were to be dropped across North Norfolk.
- Duncan Baker said that Bakers and Larners would be open 4 Sundays before Christmas between 10.30 and 16.30. They would also be open on the Sunday between Christmas and the New Year.

4. Joint Chamber Member Advertising: The Chairman thanked Len Casey for sending him the rates on offer from a number of publications. The meeting favoured the EDP Norfolk Magazine and North Norfolk Living and The Resident were outsiders. The Chair will ask Len to consider preparing a template for the adds to give Chamber Members a clearer understanding of how the adds might appear.

5. The Website www.thisisholt.co.uk The meeting discussed the site and how it was looking good. However, there was a general wish that more prominence be given to events on the site. The Chairman had discussed this already with Len and he was in agreement. Duncan Baker said that he would arrange for Bakers and Larners to go on the site. The Chairman asked all members to promote the site to other existing and potential members.

6. North Norfolk Railway 40's Weekend. Barry Starling said that this year was going to be the biggest 40's event ever. All the shops should try to make an effort with staff dressing up. Someone mentioned that Sheringham Wardrobe had dresses available for hire and that Blakeney Players had an excess of uniforms that he will get ride of. There is a 40's themed fashion show in Folly's Yard with tea on the Sunday.

7. The Christmas Lights: - e mail from Esme Bagnell-Oakeley. The Chairman went through the note

from Esme Bagnell-Oakeley and the meeting agreed the following responses:

1. *What support can we have now that Iain Wilson has found he is too busy to continue his fund raising initiative at the same intensity as before?* The Chamber will share out the responsibility for raising funds from businesses in the Town.
2. *Can the Chamber provide a fund raising coordinator to gather funds from the Traders?* There was not a single volunteer at the meeting and so sharing it out was thought to be the best way forward. This was what happened with Iain in charge his support will be missed but every effort will still be made to collect funds.
3. *If the same level of funds as previous years cannot be raised, can we be sure that the Chamber will cover any deficit - so that we can make plans and order lights and trees etc - which we will need to do now in time for November?* The chamber does not have the funds to cover any deficit in fund raising.
4. *We have responded to the queries raised by the insurance brokers and as a result the premium has risen dramatically (but still manageably). Can the Holt Lights Group (community volunteers with no written mandate), be clear that we are acting as a sub group of the Chamber and that ultimate responsibility rests with you?* The Chamber appreciates the work of the Holt Lights Committee and the benefit the lights bring to the whole town. However, it does not have any influence or management input to the Lights Committee activity and, therefore, cannot accept any responsibility for the conduct of the Lights Committee. The Lights committee should gain comfort for the insurance they have obtained.
5. *With that in mind, should the Chamber have a more active role on the Holt Lights Committee?* The Chamber would be pleased to consider how the Lights Committee would like to have more involvement from the Chamber other than the fundraising that it carries out.
6. *If we design a window trail throughout the Town this year, would the Chamber be in favour?* The meeting was in favour of a window trail, or maybe two so that each one is not too long.
7. *Lastly - do you know of anyone who can step in to provide the entertainments officer role - coordinating the events for the switch on night?* There were no volunteers from the members present at the meeting. The Chairman suggested that the Rugby Club might be willing to take a more active role. There was also the suggestion that the Lights Committee should consider advertising in the Holt Chronicle for volunteers.

8. Treasurers Report: Martin Sanders distributed an up to date financial report and said that the Chamber had spent more on the Norfolk Show than anticipated and, therefore, used up a good proportion of its brought forward reserves. Expenditure would have to be limited for the foreseeable future. It would help to have more members to increase funds. It was agreed that as the Town was shared out for Christmas Lights contribution collections an effort should be made to attract new members.

9. Holt Town Council Report: Duncan Baker said that car parking had already been covered. He had contacted coach companies about coming to Holt. Holt Playing Fields Association said that coaches can park there at Christmas if they want to. But not on Saturdays.

Gresham's School obtained their planning permission - this is very good news for the Chamber Members and for the Town.

Land at Lodge Farm development - Town Council recommended refusal.

The Town Council were concerned that the Holt Festival Sunday Event may not happen as the Town Council had been asked to run this and they were concerned about how they were to do this.

The Town Council decided to put up a web cam in the Town to take images to put on the Town Council website. Len Casey to be asked if this should be linked to the 'thisisholt' website.

Duncan thanked Barry Starling for completing the improvements to his shop front. He in turn thanked the Chamber and Town Council for their support in making the work happen on the Bank Holiday Weekend.

10. AOB: Barry Starling raised the question of business rates and whether Holt businesses were claiming their £1,000 relief. Each business should check this for themselves. Barry Starling also asked if Holt had considered CCTV. This was implemented in Sheringham by the Town Council. The meeting thought that CCTV was not necessary in Holt and the Town Council could not afford to pay for it without increasing the precept.

The Chairman said that he believed the Tourist Office was closing for good. He would speak to NNDC about this and whether there was any opportunity to keep it open.

Lindsay Furniss said that it was the Holt Society's 50th anniversary next year and they were holding various event to celebrate this between 1st and 8th May. The Chamber would be welcome to join in. The Chairman said that with regret he had received notice of resignation from the Chamber of Michael and Teresa Hill. He said that Michael was not happy with him speaking at the Gresham's planning application meeting and representing the Chamber. The Chairman said that he had not had time to consult members and he regretted that under the circumstances. However he thought that the Gresham's planning application was very good for the town commercially with over £10m investment by the school and another c£25m due to house building. This would increase the vitality of the Town. Members present were not concerned about the lack of consultation and supported the fact that the outcome of the Planning Application was good for the Town. One member pointed out that Gresham's was very important to the Town and a member of the Chamber and should be supported by the Chamber.