

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 2013 in The Aga Shop at 18.00 hrs

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

Present: Ian Furniss (Chair) Mary Bopst, Charles Butler, Alison Cook, Ian Cook, Lindsay Furniss, Michael Hill, Teresa Hill, Lesley Howard, Paul Read, Sandra Taylor Meeds. Simon Wade.

Apologies: Duncan Baker, Caroline Carter, Joshua Dyball, Nigel Emmett, Adrian Hill, Chris Lambert, Kate Langley, Linda Mossman, Linda Morris, Jim Pallister, Martin Sanders, Ashlea Smith, Rodney Smith, Adrian Springett, Helen Stoker,

2. Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the meeting of 12 June 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Chairman wished at this point to comment on the content of some of the previous meetings and some remarks that had been made. He wished to indicate that the purpose of the Chamber was to move forward for the benefit of all and he felt the negative comments being made at some of the meetings were not of worthy of either the chamber as a whole or of individuals. He would like future meetings to be a lot more positive and hopefully forward moving rather than dwelling on past items.

3. Treasurer's Report: Martin was unable to attend and no report was available.

4. Report from Town Council. Duncan was unable to attend no report was available. Several members had attended the last Town Council meeting and reported the main topic had been HO1. The main worry was that the main access would be through Woodfields and not down Cley Road. The building work was scheduled over 3 - 4 years and there was concern the vehicle would have to go through the town centre.

5. Holt Vision Meeting. The Chamber had no representative at the last meeting because of a resignation and holidays. Ian, as chair, had advised the committee of our apologies. New representatives were needed for the Vision Committee to ensure the Chamber was involved. £50,000.00 was to be invested to help mitigate the effect of the new supermarket on the Town, through the Vision Committee and as the members most likely to be affected, we should ensure we had a voice. However as no money had been received no decisions had been made. The next meeting will be in 6 months or sooner if the money arrives.

Ian reported he had a meeting arranged with Brian Payne, Michael Baker, Ian Wilson, Rhu Bruce Lockhart to discuss how the Town Council and Chamber might work together to support the businesses in Town.

6. Constitution. Ian had been discussing this with Jim Pallister and a draft should be available for approval at the next meeting.

7. Membership. This item is ongoing.

8. Festival. Thanks had been received for the donation and the Chamber was now shown on the Festival website as corporate members with a short information piece.

9. Christmas Lights 21st Nov 2012: Ian said that the Rugby Club have said they will help with the marshalling for the lights switch on and act as donation collectors in return for mney being collected

being 50/50.

10). Promotion. a) Website: Ian explained at this point that Chloe and Julie Nelson had resigned from the committee, Chloe has done a lot of work on the website. Ian would talk to Joshua regarding help on the website. The question was asked if we could use some of the 106 money or at least ask for a donation toward setting up the website to promote the whole town. The money could be used to pay someone to set up the website it was suggested Chloe Nelson could be approached to see if she wants to do this on a commercial basis. Ian to ask if she would be prepared to give a presentation to the Chamber. Facebook and Twitter would need to be continued.

b) Cards Michael Hill reported that the artist is working on four designs and will now increase this to six the Chamber will have a choice of how many to use, one will be a snow scene. The artist will possibly compete the back of the card and the wording. There could be information on the back about the town. Michael and Lindsay Furniss have done a lot of work behind the scenes so far but they cannot now progress until the work is on the table, hopefully this will be by the next meeting.

c) Norfolk Show: The tent Aylesham had at the Norfolk Show had been a big success and Len had asked if Holt wanted to do something similar next year. Great Yarmouth also have their own tent. The idea is more about promotion than selling although selling is allowed. Several ideas were suggested including a joint enterprise between the Town Council and The Chamber, a joint tent of 7 North Norfolk Towns showing the best of business in North Norfolk. However it was felt the Chamber should float the idea amongst the businesses in Holt as the first option. Michael Hill suggested the Lees Yard may wish to have a stand as a group and if approached other yards may wished to do the same to keep costs down. Ian would ask Len to take the lead role on this.

11) Parking: The committee reported that at present they had managed to secure six spaces to rent. There followed a discussion on the draconian approach used by the parking wardens, which was now outsourced to West Norfolk District Council. Ian suggested it was raised at a meeting with the Mayor to have a joint approach to NNDC over parking. Items to include free parking again at Christmas and the amount raised by car parking fines in Holt.

12) Potential Ideas to help businesses: Card Charges: Rates were now coming in. It was suggested Booker's gave a good rate and they and Anglian Farmers should be invited along to the AGM to give a short presentation.

13) Big Issue Seller This item was still outstanding - Ian would write to Big Issue and NNDC

14) Next Meeting and AGM. No meeting would be held in August, the next meeting would be 4th September and the AGM would be on 2nd October 2013. Bookers and Anglian Farmers could be invited to give presentations on card charges. The new member packs should be ready for the September meeting to be delivered after the meeting and to include an invitation to the AGM.

15). Any Other Business: Michael Hill drew attention to an article from the EDP which profiled Holt as an independent Town, as per a booklet produce by English Heritage. This Showed Holt as having a good representation of independent Traders and few of the standard large retailers present in many other town centres. Ian suggested Michael Hill followed this up with English Heritage. Michael Hill offered to invite the 'Trade' journalist from the EDP to our AGM.

News on Gresham's School development was that they were considering residential, retirement or a hotel . Consultation would follow. An invitation should be sent to the Headmaster to attend the AGM. Paul Reed attended the last Town Council meeting he felt sad that the incident from last year involving a lot of graffiti /damage in and around the town was reported by the Chair as trivial.

Lindsay Furniss reported that publicity for the Christmas period was ongoing.

Associate Membership, Michael Hill had approached Roger Percival, who had just retired who said he was touched to be asked but at this time needed a break. He would be happy to help with practical matters but not to take on associate membership.