

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE
 Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 17th January 2013
 in The Community Centre at 18.00 hrs

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| 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 |
| 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 |
| Julie Nelson | Nelson's Eye Patch | 711810 |
| Chloe Nelson | Nelson's Eye Patch | 711810 |

Present: Rhu Bruce-Lockhart, (Chair) Martin Sanders, Duncan Baker, Charles Butler, Ian Furniss, Michael Hill, Teresa Hill, John Lintott, David Makinson, Chloe Nelson, Julie Nelson, Jim Pallister, Paul Read, Mike Sherwood, Helen Stoker, Simon Wade, Simon Williams.

Apologies: Esme Bagnell-Oakley, Caroline Carter, Allison Cook, Ian Cook, Joshua Dyball, Nigel Emmett, Lindsay Furniss, Adrian Hill, Kate Langley, Linda Morris, Lynda Mossman, Kathy Neale, Tim Neale, Rodney Smith, Ashlea Smith,

Minutes of Last Meeting: With the correction that the final sentence of the Town Councillors Report should read under pass not by pass, the Dec minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Chairman's Announcements: Rhu Bruce-Lockhart advised the meeting he had written on behalf of the Chamber of Trade to NNDC regarding the following planning applications, Thaxters Supermarket Site, 9c Chapel Road, The Railway Tavern and Thornage Road Car Park. He had attended the Gresham's public consultation and the Town Council Meeting. He had had a meeting with David and Katie Farrow regarding the planning application in Chapel Yard.

Presentation to John Lintott: David Makinson then gave a speech of thanks to John Lintott as retiring Chairman. He said there was a danger that the enormous contribution made by John over the years could easily be overlooked. John joined the Chamber in 2005 and was almost immediately elected Chair, he had seen through many events including the ongoing Car Park situation, Church Street Toilets, The Holt Festival (a chamber initiated event), and the current Holt Vision, he had also held together the membership in quieter times with humour and courtesy commanding respect from all. David presented John with a book token and John thanked the Chamber, saying he had really enjoyed his time with the chamber, working for a fantastic Town and appreciated all the work done by fellow members. He then left the meeting with the comment he hoped the Chamber would continue to have fun whilst working for Holt.

Election of New Chairman: There had been one nomination for the role of Chair, Ian Furniss of The Tannery. He was proposed by Michael and Teresa Hill, Michael gave a short recommendation speech. Ian spoke briefly to say he was happy to take on the role and would be proud to get behind the traders of Holt which was a special place. He hoped the Chamber would increase membership and encourage members to take an active part. It was proposed

“that Ian Furniss take the role of Chair for a one year term with the option of being re-elected for a maximum of four terms of office.”

The vote was unanimously in favour with the addition of seven proxy votes e mailed to the secretary. Ian would take the role of Chair commencing at the next meeting. (Feb 6th)

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported that the offer of three month free membership to new members had so far brought in 9 new members. Including these the membership was now 86. The current balance was reported as £4689.18.

Membership Report: The membership secretary was unable to attend the meeting but had confirmed there were four new members since the last meeting.

Town Council Report: On the 8th of January there had been a site meeting at Thaxter's proposed supermarket site, members of the Town Council attended as had the District and County Councillors. The following bus tour rode past the Gresham's school. The proposal for a second storey at Albert Street and Budgen's car parks was ongoing. Phillip High expressed his conviction that there would be a car park at Thornage Road.

Holt Christmas Lights 21st Nov 2012: A The representative had been unable to attend so this item was deferred until the next meeting.

Review of Christmas Trading and Sunday Opening in Dec: The feeling was that this had gone well. Trading for the month along with the national trend had been down, but the last two Sundays had helped to improve this. Working as 'The Town' rather than individuals was a good initiative. However it was felt the free parking had not been well advertised. It was suggested that Sunday opening should be tried again on Sundays in the summer to tie in with the Railway open days and the Festival day on 21st July. The Chamber was asked if free parking could be requested to coincide with this.

Planters: Holt Hall would be completing work on the planters as agreed at the previous meeting.

Let Holt Thrive: Chloe Nelson reported that due to other pressures she had had little time to update the website recently. She knew people had visited the site but had not had many suggestions to add to the content. She had had many favourable comments regarding it's current content.

Data Base: Ian Furniss had spoken with Chris Scargill of Larkin Gowen who provide the survey www.tourismsurveys.co.uk He asked members to complete this survey and in return Chris Scargill would provide the time to help with the Chamber survey. This would be able to determine our baseline and then build a picture on how the Town develops. All information would be treated confidentially. It was suggested a footfall survey should be taken on one day every year on three sites in the Town. Members were asked to produce a list of questions for the next meeting which could be considered for the survey, which would be mailed out to everybody in confidence.

Volunteers for Holt Parking Policy joint with Holt Town Council: The Chair explained he felt a joint committee with the Town Council - two members from each would be good for future planning. They would have to look at usage, future planning, costs etc.

Planning Applications:

a) 9c Chapel use - change of use from A1 to A3. The plans for this property were to change the use from retail to a coffee shop. David and Katie Farrow who own a nearby business had expressed their opposition to the Chair. The Town Council had voted in favour of this change at their December meeting but this decision was reversed at the January meeting following many letters of objection from the public. The general feeling was that to loose another retail outlet should be opposed, and the Town already had many eating establishments.

- b) The change of use for the Railway Tavern had come before the planners and a decision had been deferred for the present.
- c) Thornage Road Car Park an application had been sent to NNDC for a variation on the original request. The additional wording regarding the footpath was to remain with the addition of 'and/or park and ride.' NNDC site was showing 50 in support and 1 comment, this can now be updated to 51 in support, 1 comment, 1 against. If you wish to register you support the planning application number is PF/12/1444.
- d) Rhu suggested that the chamber should have a set of policies to enable work to take place between meetings within Chamber guidelines. He had also written to NNDC to suggest The Chamber should become standard consultees on all plans that may have anything to do with the Town centre. The answer was no. He recommended both these items need to be taken forward by the new Chair.

Thaxter's Supermarket Application:

Update from Planning website on 31/01/13 show 569 against, 154 in favour and 9 comments. The application would come before the planning committee meeting of 14th February at North Norfolk District Council. Recommendations from Geoff Lyons should be made public about a week before. A Mr Wood will produce the NNDC view on the RIS. Letters to NNDC need to go in then. Four speakers will be allowed on the day for a period of three minutes each. The Chamber would like as many of these as possible but could not guarantee getting more than one three minute slot. The comments and speaker(s) must therefore be considered very carefully by the action committee. Action committee to meet Sat 9th Feb at 9.30 venue tbc. Michael Hill commented regarding the future opportunity for the supermarket to put a café on the site, planning permission would be fought if this was required but not all internal changes need planning permission. It was suggested this should be woven into any submission made at the planning meeting.

What will be our Official Position be. Following discussion it was agreed that the Chamber needs consistency regarding their position, with reasons, regarding any new supermarkets. Recently the Chamber had had a lot of bad publicity, some of this personal and not necessarily correct. It was suggested a statement should be made by the New Chair clarifying our position and the reasons for it. Including the loss of jobs that could result for people in the town, if trade was taken away from the existing shops. Over 50% of the residents in town who worked were in the retail trade.

Any Other Business: Rhu Bruce-Lockart explained to the meeting that he had resigned from the Holt Vision Committee. Rodney Smith had resigned as one of the Chamber's representatives on the same committee. The other representative Julie Nelson advised the next meeting was scheduled for 28th January and she had been sent, from Mr Baker, a copy of project ideas he thought the Chamber should look to progress. Rhu Bruce Lockhart and David Makinson resigned their acting positions and were thanked for stepping in at short notice and for all their hard work.

Next Meeting: 6pm on Wednesday 6th February venue Holt Community Centre.