

**HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE**  
 Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013  
 in The Railway Tavern 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
Julie Nelson	Nelson's Eye Patch	711810
Chloe Nelson	Nelson's Eye Patch	711810

**Present:** Ian Furniss (Chair) Rhu Bruce Lockhart, Charles Butler, Joshua Dyball, Nigel Emmett, Lindsay Furniss, Michael Hill, Teresa Hill, David Makinson, Chloe Nelson, Julie Nelson, Paul Read, Mike Sherwood, Ashlea Smith, Rodney Smith, Adrian Springett and Richard Moore.

**Apologies:** Duncan Baker, Caroline Carter, Len Casey, Alison Cook, Ian Cook, Adrian Hill, Chris Lambert, Linda Morris, Martin Sanders,

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** There was no report available.

**4. Membership Report:** There were several possible new members in the pipeline.

**5. Thaxter's Supermarket:** The Chair expressed the disappointment felt that the plans had been passed with little open discussion at the meeting. There had been a vote on the section 106 request which ignored the suggestion put forward on behalf of the Chamber. The Chair confirmed he had written to Geoff Lyon and the Councillors and asked them to reconsider the S106 and the meeting agreed this should be followed up. The 106 was discussed at great length and the following items were considered priority.

- Car parking - until this is sorted out many other projects cannot progress. A request for the second storey on Albert Street Car Park.
- Holt Vision included three walking/shopping loops in the Town, perhaps this could be investigated further and money used to start this project.
- Promotion of the Town Centre to ensure people wanted to continue to visit this area.
- CCTV in the Town Centre - see below.
- Planters and seating in the Town Centre.

CCTV was discussed and although not considered as a mitigating problem it was agreed that this was very much needed in the Town. Some businesses had their own CCTV and the trouble in these areas was less than in the areas without any CCTV. The problems were being caused by groups of youths who were banging on doors, setting off alarms and generally causing trouble in the Town Centre. They knew where the CCTV was and would avoid these areas.

There had been a pilot scheme in the Town and Chloe would ask the police to attend the next meeting and advise how this was going.

**6. Holt Christmas Lights 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2012:** Esme Bagnell-Oakley was unable to attend and Joshua Dyball as new vice chair wished to raise a number of points which he hoped Chamber members would take away and think about for the next meeting. He first wished to clarify the role between the

Chamber of Trade and the Lights Committee; the Lights Committee is a sub-committee of the Chamber of Trade and therefore the Chamber should take greater responsibility for the switch on.

Matters being considered this year were :

Insurance/health and safety officer, more stewards.

Signage and better warnings to the public.

A celebrity was needed to switch on the lights and attract people.

Better photography of the fireworks and the event.

More pro-active involvement from all the businesses in Holt to include the Yards around the Town and what they want.

Joshua circulated a copy of the accounts and explained the main problem was income which had dropped from £21,000 to £17,000, with trader donations down 36%. The expenditure was also down following the use of a new contractor. The bad weather on the night had caused some entertainers to cancel so no payments were needed. A surplus was still made.

The Lights Committee felt that it was not their role to fundraise for the event.

Responses to the finance were that people, including traders, were all suffering from the current economic situation and were unable to give as generously as they had in the past. There was a perception that the shops made lots of money on the back of the lights but this was not true, according to some members. There was a comment that most visitors came after dark when the shops were closed. Many shops were reluctant to open on the switch on night because of the problems caused by huge crowds.

The Chair asked for a show of hands for support for the lights and this confirmed unanimous support.

The Chair then asked for a show of hands supporting the current format of the opening night, members were reluctant to support this feeling the huge crowds brought problems, it was suggested that the traders should have stalls outside their shops rather than opening the premises. This would cause problems in Bull Street which was kept free for emergency access. Some traders were keen to return to the format where one contractor provided and put up all the lights, ensuring they were all the same.

The suggestion was made as this was a venture for the whole town not just the traders, whether it would be possible to approach the Town Council for both financial support and the opportunity to work more closely together.

There was a request that all food outlets etc to be from within the town traders - no outside burger vans, drink sellers. Joshua commented that the committee were in fact looking at a catering team from within the town. The amount of money from the buckets was poor considering the number who attended. People did not know what they were being asked to pay for. It was not for the traders lights but for the open spaces, churches etc.

Cards for sale were a suggestion and both Lindsay Furniss and Michael Hill had artists in mind. They would liaise on this.

Finally Joshua floated the suggestion of a Saturday switch on in 2014, comments received were, it would be a better day for the traders and could dovetail with being open earlier than the current event time.

**7. Holt Town Council Report:** There was no report from this meeting. It was suggested that the Chamber could ask if the position of the Chair of the Chamber reporting directly to the Town Council meeting, like the police or District Councillors, could be re instated.

**8.Holt Festival. Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2013.** A report was given by Karen Hall on behalf of the festival. A copy is attached. The committee are keen for the traders to be part of the Festival and hope they will open on the day. This is a 'new' venture having all the street entertainment on one day. The committee is keen to know the traders thoughts on craft stalls on the day - please see paragraph 6 of the report and return any comments in time for the next meeting.

It was suggested the traders could help with publicity for the event and perhaps could have one of the stalls to sell the new cards - item 6.

The Chair concluded that the Chamber members were strongly in support of the Festival and thanked Karen for her report.

**9.Potential Ideas for Future Chamber Activity** The Chair had a list of ideas, on the agenda, to be taken forward but did not intend to discuss each one, what he was hoping for was volunteers from the Chamber to come forward to offer their support in each category. Chloe Nelson offered to put the Chamber on face book and twitter, and to do some research into card payment services costs. It was

suggested that a précis of the minutes should go into the Chronicle. Len suggested a marquee at the Royal Norfolk Show. If enough traders were willing to have a small space at a cost it would work out at a reasonable price for each trader to advertise their business to thousands over the two days of the show. The Chamber could also promote the Town the Lights and the Festival. Len would look into costs and send out to all via e mail.

Paul Reed asked for a copy of those who had let their membership lapse and he would follow up on these to find out why. Any further offers of help to Ian.

**10. Parking Sub Committee.** Ongoing

**11. Chamber Constitution.** The Chair has a copy of the constitution and he will update this and circulate before the next meeting.

**12. Daffodil Week.** Richard Moore gave a short report on the idea of Daffodil Festival. The suggestion being to have a demo event in 2014 and full event in 2015. Businesses would be invited to display many different kind of daffodils around the Town from March 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of April and hold a series of fund raising events. He was looking for a team of volunteers to take this forward. Traders round the table explained that running their own businesses was something that took up a great deal of their time and they would be unable to help in such a significant way.

**13. Holt Vision** The vision appears to be 'parked' at the moment. The minutes of the last meeting are on the Town Council Website.

**14. Any Other Business:** A letter had been received and circulated regarding closure of Albert Street, Bull Street and Shirehall Plain for resurfacing. It was suggested a Sunday in June would cause the least disruption to the local businesses and the Chair would forward this to NCC. Rhu Bruce Lockhart is looking for a wall for a street artist during the festival. Adrian Hill of Picturecraft may be able to help.

**Next Meeting: 6pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May** venue The Aga Shop.