

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 3 November 2010 in Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.

Committee:	John Lintott (Chairman)	Hayes & Storr	712835
	Alan Godfrey (Treasurer)	Gresham's School	714503
	Charles Butler	Butler's Pantry	711867
	Duncan Baker	Bakers & Larners of Holt	712244
	Caroline Carter	The Holt Chronicle	712177
	Joshua Dyball	Josh.biz	862610
	Sandra Taylor-Meeds	Budgens	713734
	Lynda Mossman (Membership Sec)	Past Caring	713771
	David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858

PRESENT: John Lintott (Chairman), Alan Godfrey (Treasurer), Lynda Mossman (Membership Secretary), James Adcock, Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Duncan Baker, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Di Dann (Town Clerk), Tom Dick, Joshua Dyball, Mark Humberstone, Lynda Mossman, Mary Pembleton, Sandra Taylor-Meeds, Rodney Smith, Sarah Tribe, Stephen Watts.

Mary Pembleton, Stephen Watts and Tom Dick were welcomed to the meeting and introduced to other members.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Lyndsay Furniss, David Makinson.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: Although David Makinson was not able to be present, the committee offered their congratulations as The Holt Bookshop had been named by The Independent as one of the Top 50 Bookshops in the UK.

The rent review meeting had been well attended and a good presentation had been given by John Hadcroft who is helping one or two traders with their rent reviews. The Tony Britten film is going ahead and will be filmed around the Cromer Pier area.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Seventy-three paid members to date give an income of £3,721.20 with expenditure to date of £1,886.86 and a closing balance of £3,967.64. This means that we are more or less 'on budget' and it was proposed by Alan Godfrey that a donation of £1,200 should be made to the Lights Committee. This was seconded by John Lintott and agreed unanimously by the committee.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Les Tricoteuses and C & O Electrical have joined as new members.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: There are still disruption issues around the area of the memorial/bus shelter site. CCTV may be installed in this area to combat the problem. Both toilet blocks are now open.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Those members present reported back on their fund-raising efforts and were thanked for their sterling effort which mean the overall costs should now be met. Thanks were also expressed to all the traders who had donated and to the Chronicle who will send out the promotional flyer with the next issue. All those who had fund-raised agreed that it was a difficult task as traders did not always recognize the positive effect that the lights had on on-going trade in the weeks leading up to Christmas and their positive influence in promoting Holt as a place to visit.

HOLT TOWN GUIDE: Sophie Jewry who published the present Town Guide has been approaching traders to advertise in a Guide to be published before Christmas. The committee is very concerned about this. After discussion, it was agreed that John Lintott ask Sophie if she is prepared to stop going ahead with this Guide and work with the Chamber in producing a more informative Guide in contrast to the present one which is more of a directory. Members are asked to be patient in the interests of a significantly more informative Guide.

CHRISTMAS OPENING: In order to help traders co-ordinate their opening hours over the Christmas/New Year period responses to our email request for information on seasonal opening hours have been collated and are distributed with these minutes as a separate attachment. Remember - if you would like to advertise your Bank Holiday opening hours this can be done through our website blog.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Chamber of Trade **website** – this is an excellent opportunity for traders to advertise a link to their websites. Please see the website for further information on logos etc. This is a valuable free resource for members that is presently being under-used! Two unpleasant **criminal incidents** have occurred recently in town – one where a member of the checkout staff in Budgens was physically threatened and the other where shop lifting took place in Fat Face. It was felt that it was time to up-date the “phone tree” arrangement originally installed by the Safer Neighbourhood Scheme where traders pass on details/descriptions of people causing problems or behaving in a threatening way so other traders are on their guard. Di Dann will contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team to see if the list can be up-dated and re-activated. Discussions also took place on the possibility of an additional **late night opening on Wednesday 8 December 2010** to maximize the benefits of the Christmas lights. Tom Dick was contacting individual traders to see if there would be support for this initiative. It was also suggested that the **lights** could be **switched on at 3 pm** this year each night (after the initial evening) to encourage visitors to come into the town earlier – thus giving them 2 hours of shopping time after the lights went on. Di Dann will speak to C & O Electrical to see if this can be done. Please go to the **BT Race to Infinity website** and vote for Holt. The five areas with the largest percentage of votes will win the chance to bring superfast broadband to their area and BT will donate £5,000 of computer equipment to a local community project. Get friends and family in the area to vote too! **The Race ends at midnight 31 December 2010. Holt Robbery – misinformation** - the trial continues and the gang has not yet been found guilty. Reference was made to the **Shop Local Passport Scheme** – it was noted that not many traders were taking part in Holt.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 1 December 2010 at 1800 hrs in the Wine Bar at Byfords.