

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE  
Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013  
in The AGA Shop 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) John Allison, Duncan Baker, Rhu Bruce-Lockart, Len Casey, Nigel Emmett, Michael Hill, Teresa Hill, Chris Lambert, Ray Moore, Gail Pegg, Martin Saunders, James Stronach.

**Apologies:** Allison Cook, Ian Cook, Lindsay Furniss, Adrian Hill, Sandra Taylor Meeds,

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were accepted as a true record.

**3. New Members and Businesses Opening and Closing.:** Seahorse had opened, behind Jeremy Barlow Art Gallery. Watermark had expressed a wish to join - Martin would send an invoice. North Norfolk Railway would like to join in the new year.

**4. Report from Town Council.** The Chambers concerns over anti-social behaviour in the town centre had been reported back to the Town Council. Ray Moore had a report showing the main protagonist had been issued with a CRASBO banning her from Holt for the next 24 months. It was hoped this would stop the problems.

The Town council had a new Town Clerk, Elaine Oliver.

A member of Victory Housing had spoken, at the last meeting, of garages available for hire in the Manor Walk, Kerridge Way, Shrublands Court area. Many were being hired to use for storage the downside was that they were only on a short notice period.

Planting on the Norwich Road roundabout was on hold whilst the Town Council consulted with NCC regarding the contract for advertising.

Revised plans had been submitted for the Premier Shop.

There had been a lot of mis-information regarding the Post Office, the Town Council had not complained about the Post Office they had merely passed on to the manager a complaint they had received regarding the cleanliness of the building.

Cley Road car park, quotes were being obtained and were due in by 16<sup>th</sup> December. Further decisions would be made after this date. Different options would need to be considered if there was a break clause after 5 years. No formal contract had been drawn up yet. The Chamber suggested some of their members were lawyers and maybe would be prepared to help with this.

Thornage Road Car Park: NCC had considered the strip of land which was causing the hold up was worth £120,000; £50,000 to them and £70,000 to the Town Council. This information has only recently been passed to members of the Town Council. The Town Council strongly believes that the project is a private venture and the strip of land is owned by NCC therefore the Town Council should not be involved. They have reported to NCC that Holt Town Council want no part of the proposed deal. Michael Hill reminded members that people had lodged a request for this land to be registered as a Public Right of Way, and people should continue to put pressure on NCC to declare this a Public Right of Way. **The Chamber decided they should write to NCC and NNDC to explain Holt is suffering because of a lack of parking and people are no longer coming to the town because of this.**

A comment from a member was that the Chamber is spending too much time on Town Council business and future meetings should concentrate on other topics. This was agreed.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** There was currently a balance of around £6,000. There were a few cheques to be written. There had been no income recently but invoices were due to be sent out in January. **It was agreed to keep the membership cost of £48 and £70 the same.**

**6. Christmas & the Lights:** The Chairman asked for comments from the floor and members agreed the lights were better this year. More shops were lit up, and with more lights. One disappointment was that some shops turned off their lights when they went home and it was hoped to persuade them to fit a timer so they stayed on during the evening. The Chamber wished to pass on their thanks for all the hard work done by the lights committee especially Simon Gresham and Ian Wilson. The Town now needed to work on getting people in to visit the lights. The busses heading for Thursford often used to include a stop off at Holt but this is not now happening because the busses had no where to drop off people in Town and no designated places to park once they had done this. It was agreed someone speaks to Thursford to see if they could help in getting Holt back on the buss routes. **Nigel Emmett and Duncan Baker agreed to do this.**

Regarding the switch on night the comments were that it was a brilliant atmosphere and trade was good. Some people had complained there was nothing to do once the switch on had happened. There was no carousel or entertainment in some of the yards. It was suggested that there should be some sort of entertainment trail to encourage the public to move around the yards. The lights had been switched on by the Elves and discussion followed regarding the good and bad points of having a celebrity for the switch on, following a 'show of hands vote' there was no strong feeling either way. Ian Furniss said the Rugby Club were keen to help again but felt they had not been used to their full potential. However the bucket collections were up on what they had been in previous years. Everyone thought the fireworks were brilliant. The window competition trail had been very successful. **It was agreed to make an increase on the donation from the Chamber, £1,200 last year to £1,500 this year and to invite Esme Bagnall-Oakeley to a future meeting to report on the event.**

**7) Car Parking:** had been covered at item 4

**8). Promotion.** a) Cards for Holt Lights, Holt Festival and Chamber: Sales were still going well new order forms will come out soon. Picturecraft had sponsored a small run of Christmas Cards and these were now in shops.

b) **Website:** Comments on the 'visit woodbridge' website were - that is fresh lively and right up to date. The responsibility for keeping a Holt site this way would have to be down to one person. Len had been visiting businesses regarding this site and over 70 were interested. He had looked at the costs and thought it would be about £2000.00 (70 businesses x £30) for the set up fee, a one-of fee of £55 per business, plus a maintenance fee. **Ian asked Len to put together a detailed proposal to be presented at the January meeting.** Many things would have to be considered: should this be Chamber led with links to other organisations such as The Town Council, schools and churches etc, what should the domain name be, should it be restricted to members only, and a logo should be considered.

c) **Norfolk Show:** Interest was now growing Len had 36 businesses interested of which 4 were still to confirm. Len had spoken with the Norfolk Show to extend the site, this would be a further 3m wide strip along the outside length of the marquee, **Len will bring full details to the next meeting.**

**9) Chamber Constitution:** Being dealt with by Ian and Jim.

**11) AOB:** James Stronach from Gresham's School came to ask for comments; Tom Appleton a teacher at the School, a talented musical director, had come up with the idea of a Gareth Malone type Choir for Holt. He wants to go round the Town to bring people who love to sing together, in the new year. He is probably looking at Beatles type songs with the ultimate goal of the choir to perform later in the year.

It was suggested this would bring the School and Town together, be a wonderful marketing opportunity for Holt and most of all would be fun. **There was a lot of support for this idea and James will bring Tom along to the next meeting.**

**Next Meetings;**

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> January venue 6pm the Aga Shop. Presentations**

**Len Casey: the New Website, and the Norfolk Show.**

**Tom Appleton, Gresham's School:  
The Holt Choir. Be prepared to sing!**

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> February venue 6pm  
The Community Centre tbc**

**Presentations:**

**The Local Police - concerns/improvements  
regarding Anti Social behaviour in the Town**

**Chrissie Raymond NNR: how the town and  
Railway can work together on Railway open days.**