

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 5 October 2011 in Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.

Committee:	John Lintott (Chairman)	Gresham's School	714621
	Martin Sanders (Treasurer)	Larking Gowen	712017
	Charles Butler	Butler's Pantry	711867
	Duncan Baker	Bakers & 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

PRESENT: John Lintott (Chairman), Lynda Mossman (Membership Secretary), Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Duncan Baker, Caroline Carter, Di Dann, Joshua Dyball, Nigel Emmett, Zoë Ford, Chris Lambert, David Makinson, Rodney Smith, Sarah Tribe.

APOLOGIES: Charles Butler, Mary Pembleton, Martin Sanders, Sandra Taylor-Meeds, Lara Williamson.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: These were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING: It was pointed out that there was still a large amount of pigeon mess in the town. Di Dann said that she would speak to the Manager at Kier but as long as the pigeons were roosting in the town the mess would, unfortunately, continue. Possible solutions such as culling or removing eggs had brought objections from local residents. Options of a hawk or even the presence of a recording of the call of a hawk were considered at the meeting!

TREASURER'S REPORT: Total income for the period 1st February to 30th September stood at £3,539.12 with total expenditure for the same period of £1,119.20. This gave a current year surplus of £2,419.92 and a closing balance at the bank of £5,180.98. As yet no allowance has been made for a donation to the Christmas Lights or for the winter planting of the containers in Holt. John Lintott, Lynda Mossman, and Caroline Carter agreed to contact those members whose invoice payments were still outstanding.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Several new businesses were opening up in town and these would be contacted to encourage them to join the Chamber. New businesses included Nana & Naboo (behind Benbows), Kitchen Bedroom Bathroom Studio, and Decorum who have moved into the site vacated by Gabriella's.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT:

HO1 Site – most of the cars from this development will access the town via Kelling Road but no provision has been made by the developers for a mini roundabout at the junction of Kelling Road/Cromer Road although this had been requested. It was felt that the sum of £50,000 for lost parking spaces and towards other facilities for the town offered by the developers (Landform) was far too low. In addition to the roundabout, and improvements to play areas, it would also be necessary to make extensive improvements to pedestrian access to the town which would include additional lighting.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Event, June 2012: It is hoped that it will be possible to have craft stalls in Church Street on either the Saturday or Monday of the holiday followed by an "English Tea". A 'fun run' around Spout Hills is also proposed.

Holt Vision: Allies and Morrison : Urban Practitioners have now commenced their Vision study for Holt (funded by the North Norfolk Community Partnership and the Town Council). It is hoped that the evidence from this study will enable grants for improvements to be unlocked from funding bodies. Last week's stakeholders meeting and the recent stall outside Budgens had produced many useful comments on possible improvements. Suggestions included improvements to the approaches to Holt, different road surfaces to slow down speeding traffic, and action over problems with parking etc. People were inevitably worried about the changes to the town that will be brought about by the increase in housing stock. Small 'quick fix' projects may include landscaping the roundabout on the approach to Holt from Norwich – possibly through sponsorship, and creating a footpath/cycle route along Norwich Road to Holt Country Park.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: The committee has now found a new member (Simon Gresham) who has taken over the responsibility for liaison with C & O over the lighting. The latter have not increased their prices for this year but the cost will be greater overall due to the increase in VAT. Approximate costs for lighting stand at £12,000 plus £3,500 for entertainments etc. A quotation has been requested for placing lighting along Church Street but putting up the lights could not be achieved without temporarily closing the road. As the Chapel Yard tree has had to be removed due to decay, a temporary large, lit Christmas tree will be placed there. Members present volunteered to help with fundraising for this year's event and traders will be visited in the near future and asked to help with sponsorship. Those present were shown the new packs that will be given to traders. The switch-on celebrity will be Ed Parker (a member of the Walking with the Wounded Team) from Help for Heroes.

BRININGHAM BENEFICE MAGAZINE AND AMAZON: David Makinson drew the attention of those present to an initiative being advertised in the newsletter produced by the Briningham Benefice which was encouraging people who buy items on-line from Amazon to do so through a website link which would net the Church 5% on all sales. Whilst it was understandable that the Church would seek available means of increasing its funds, it was felt that this could actually be seen as an initiative that would take trade away from the local traders – most of whom also lived locally. David had contacted the Church who had modified the Newsletter but he still felt that it was a free ad for Amazon to the detriment of local traders and as Amazon sold a wide range of goods on-line it could affect a large number of local shops. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Bishop of Norwich to express the disquiet felt by the Chamber committee members.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Duncan Baker would contact Lesley with the dates of the **Christmas closing days** for Bakers and Larners and these will be distributed to all members as many traders have asked for this information in the past. **Best Community Award** – those present were reminded that the judges for this award would be in Holt on the morning of Friday, 7 October. **Watering planters** – the season for watering the planters has now come to an end but they may need watering when it is very dry. As the **planter near the War Memorial** is damaged, this will be replaced by moving one of the planters currently outside the sandwich shop. Complaints have been made that the **street cleaning** is not as efficient as it was. Although the street cleaner does his best it was pointed out that unfortunately the 'cuts' have inevitably had an effect on this service. **Holt Society** – the **garden bench** around the tree in the Memorial Garden is no longer safe and for this reason the garden has been closed early for the season - (usually not closed until end of October). During the summer many of the **verges** into town were in a very unkempt state with high grass. Again it was pointed out that this was due to Council cuts – many of the verges were not cut this summer until well into July. The possibility was then discussed of the Chamber becoming involved in planting bulbs in the spring to improve the approach to the town.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on 2nd November 2011 at 1800 hrs in the wine bar at Byfords.