

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 6 July 2011 in Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.

Committee:	John Lintott (Chairman)	Hayes & Storr	712835
	Lynda Mossman (Membership Sec)	Past Caring	713771
	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
	David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858
	Sandra Taylor-Meeds	Budgens	713734

PRESENT: John Lintott (Chairman), Lynda Mossman (Membership Secretary), Martin Sanders (Treasurer), Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Di Dann, Joshua Dyball, Nigel Emmett, Mark Humberstone, Chris Lambert, Rodney Smith, Sandra Taylor-Meeds, Sarah Tribe.

APOLOGIES: Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Duncan Baker, Len Casey, Sophie Jewry, Kate Langley, Mary Pembleton, Lara Williamson.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Rodney Smith's name had been missed of the list of those attending. After adding Rodney's name to the attendees, the minutes were recorded as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: It was noted that nobody officially seemed to be responsible for the **ring-round system**. The list of companies was originally produced by the PCSO and Caroline had updated it last autumn. At present it contained about 60 names of businesses but keeping the list up-to-date involved a considerable amount of work as businesses were constantly changing. Also the system of one business ringing the next on the list meant that it could take up to two days for the last person on the list to receive any information. One way of getting round this is for each trader to ring, say, three people, but this is still going to be difficult where only one person is running a business as it may be some time before they have the time to make the phone calls. Another option, of course, is to physically go and tell neighbouring traders but again this is difficult if there is only one person in the shop, or to text other businesses but this relies on the use of a mobile phone and assumes that staff have a mobile phone switched on. It was pointed out that in many local businesses staff are not allowed to use mobiles during business hours. It was agreed that John would speak to the police to see if a way forward could be found – especially in view of a recent spate of damage to traders' premises.

Traffic control - From October 2011 plans are in place to move the responsibility for parking enforcement from Norfolk Constabulary. Under the new arrangements (Norfolk Parking Partnership) it is likely that new teams (probably from the company who look after the ticket machines) will be responsible for monitoring parking offences and that this will be done far more frequently – possibly daily.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Total income for the period to 30th June 2011 stands at £2,870.66 against expenses of £313.60. This gives a current year surplus of £2,557.06, and a closing bank balance of £5,318.12. Current membership stands at 84.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: The Chamber is pleased to welcome Nixey & Godfrey as new members. Hairport have also expressed an interest in joining.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: The H01 exhibition was well-attended. The requests made by the Town Council appear to have been considered. A planning application is due to be submitted by the

end of the month. There would be a meeting with the land owners of the LDF site south of the bypass on 12th July, 2011.

The Town Council has expressed their objections to the closing of the Holt Sorting Office. Many people are taking up the campaign to prevent its closure. If local mail is to be sorted in Fakenham this could mean businesses may be without their mail until mid/late afternoon.

HOLT VISION: Ideas put forward for inclusion in the commissioning document were now being finalised and would be sent out to potential organisations. Those organisations willing to submit will be ‘scored’ down to about six who will be interviewed formally on 12th August, 2011 and an appointment of planning consultants would then be made.

HOLT SUMMER FESTIVAL: There is a strong programme with bookings going well and several events already fully-booked.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: The next meeting is on 22nd July, 2011. Money is trickling in. There is an urgent need for someone to take on the role of ‘lights person’. It was suggested that possibly someone from C & O could undertake this role if no volunteer was forthcoming. This year it is intended to have work-shops for the children to make lanterns before the lights evening ready for the procession on 23rd November, 2011. Fund-raising will start in earnest after the Holt Summer Festival. Thanks were expressed to all those present who had helped out last year in collecting funding from local traders, and, in indeed, to those traders who had contributed.

BUSINESSES OPENING AND CLOSING: It was noted that Moo Moos had indicated in their window that their closure was only temporary for the purpose of refurbishment.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: John had received a letter from Jane Wisson (North Norfolk District Council) regarding the **Holt Tourist Office**. Mark Humberstone pointed out that **Byfords** had now completed its major renovations. Generally speaking there did not seem to have been as many problems with **low water pressure** recently. **Vandalism in Chapel Yard** – there had been several attempted break-ins in Chapel Yard. The police have been informed and now have plain-clothed police patrolling the area. There also seems to have been a general increase in recent months of domestic crime – ie. – break-ins to sheds, theft of statues, etc. **SNAP** – although their current priority is parking on New Street, Di Dann will bring up our concerns re damage to buildings. Joshua Dyball will also discuss the current situation re **mobile CCTV** with Lara Williamson. Chris Scargill said that when they had recently advertised for a new member of staff he had been amazed at the lack of interest bearing in mind the current credit crunch and the supposed lack of **employment opportunities** in the area. Only four people had applied although it was a local, full-time position. **Rent Reviews** – two local shops are facing a 14% increase in rent. The situation still exists where it is very difficult for local traders to get information on the rent level of neighbouring properties and how their premises are assessed against those of similar size/type. Nigel Emmett pointed out that if traders could get used to sharing this type of information they would be in a much better position if they subsequently wanted to appeal against their potential rent rises. One major problem was that new traders coming into Holt were being quoted very high rents which they felt they had to pay. This then set a precedent for that premises. Congratulations were expressed to **Roots and Shoots** for the appearance of the planters. **Holt Hall** are still looking for additional trustees. Could you help? Also it only costs £10 per year to become a friend of Holt Hall – please support if you can.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: There will not be a meeting in August so the next meeting will be on Wednesday, 7th September, 2011.