

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE
 Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6th November 2013
 in The Lounge, Community Centre 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, Ian Cook, Lindsay Furniss, Michael Hill, Teresa Hill, Lesley Howard, Paul Read, Helen Stoker.

Apologies: Allison Cook, Joshua Dyball, Nigel Emmett, Adrian Hill, Chris Lambert, David Makinson, Jim Pallister, Martin Sanders, Ashley Smith, Rod Smith, Sandra Taylor Meeds, Simon Wade.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting: With the correction Bakers Pantry should read Butlers on page 3, The minutes of the meeting of 4th September 2013 were accepted as a true record.

3. New Members Businesses Opening and Closing. It was reported that new people will be taking over the Christmas Shop; it will remain as a Christmas Shop. You No and Pollard and Read had exchanged shops.

4. Report from Town Council. Albert Street car park had been closed for resurfacing which had caused disruption.

The Council was operating with a locum clerk at the moment it was hoped a new clerk would be announced soon. The office was being cleared out.

Hoppers Yard had been nominated for the Graham Allen Awards.

It was expected the new supermarket would be at least a year away.

Philip High as District representative would now report through the Chair and not directly to the Town Council. Graham Chapman had expressed concern at this and had asked if he could report directly to the Town Council. The current offer for the piece of land required for Graham Chapman to negotiate for a Public Right of Way (PROW) was still the problem and NCC was demanding a payment of £120,000 for this (£50,000 for NCC and £70,000 for Holt Town Council). This had been new information and would be debated at the next Town council Meeting. The Chamber was aware of the problems the discussions would raise, the offer of £70,000 could be used for many projects, but the Town was desperate for more car parking spaces. The Chamber would support the Town Council if they decided to refuse the £70,000 and would suggest NCC did the same and refused their £50,000 to alleviate the current stalemate. It was decided the Chamber should write to NCC to ask how the PROW was progressing and what they would be doing to expedite it.

An offer to plant the Norwich Road Roundabout had been discussed there were ongoing concerns regarding maintenance and advertising. This matter was still ongoing.

A letter had been sent to the Post Office following a complaint from a member of the public regarding the cleanliness and number of free standing sales displays in the public area. There was also concern regarding Health and Safety. People wanted to support the local Post Office but felt the state of the current area was untidy and dirty and if not improved would loose the current Post Master local trade. There is no further news on Holt Vision.

Cley Road Car Park there had been a problem with planning permission (NNDC unaware it had already been granted) It was hoped to use some of the section 106 money from the Cley Road Development for this project. Concern was expressed from the meeting that free spaces (28) were to be removed and yellow lines put down on Cley Road. If this project only had a short lease then these spaces would be lost forever and only replaced with a short term solution, a longer lease would

be better supported. Members felt the cars parked down Cley Road helped slow down traffic coming into town. It was suggested there is a huge grass verge by the road could this be used for car parking? Car parking was needed for employees at modest fees, at the moment yellow lines were going down with great ease but did not seem to be reversible.

5. Treasurer's Report: Martin was unable to attend but had reported that there was not much action at the current time - due to all membership re-newalls being brought into one year end.

6. Christmas & the Lights Currently there was a lot of work going on and funds were coming in. Michael Hill commented that businesses were being as generous as they could but the current economic situation meant this was probably less than in previous years. A lot of work was being done and the Town should look better than last year. The comment was made that some areas of the Town felt less included than others. It was important to realise the Lights were not just one night but helped to bring trade in for 6 weeks over the Christmas period. The holders on buildings in the Town would be provided with Christmas Trees only. It was suggested in future there should be one package: tree, lights put up and taken down, price to include a donation. Saving problems getting lights up and down and possibly keeping uniformity of lights. The Chamber wished to reiterate that they were fully supportive of the Lights.

Sunday Opening: Businesses were still being encouraged to open on the Sundays in December but the free parking this year would only be on the two **Saturdays** prior to Christmas and only from 2pm. There was a request that the Chamber and the Town Council should work together to lobby everyone concerned to get this extended to Sundays.

7) Car Parking: had been covered at item 4

8). Promotion. a) Cards for Holt Lights and Chamber. 380 packs (1520 cards) had been distributed around the Town. Sales were going well Baker and Larners had a stand which was proving popular and had placed a second order. Gresham's had agreed on a sale or return order for their Christmas Fairs. Michael Hill had designed an order form which Ian will get copied and e mailed round to all members. Thanks were expressed to The Chronicle who had given a free half page advertisement for the cards. The artist had done a snowy view of the town and again given the rights to the Chamber. This was discussed and general opinion was that it was too late for this year but should be kept for next year.

b) **Website:** Len had spoken to Joshua Dyball who was currently very busy, but would have more time in the new year. It was suggested members look at the Choose Woodbridge website and feedback comments regarding this site as a basis for the Holt site. Len offered to cost this and the annual maintenance fee. A small committee should be set up to take this forward. Questions included could events be added, should we take it to the Town Council, should we include community groups, what links should we have.

c) **Norfolk Show:** Len had booked the marquee which included tables, flooring, power and the cost would be £2560 in total. 21 traders had expressed an interest in taking part and if a few more could be found the cost would be about £125 per table. The question was raised if the Chamber of Trade wanted to have a table. Len had looked into signage and it would cost £60-70 for a flag and £100 each for banners, two needed. The cost of the flag and the banners would be paid by the Chamber of Trade and yes they would like a table.

9) Chamber Constitution: Please return any comments on the draft document.

11) AOB Teresa Hill asked if Holt could have a gift card, similar to the ones issued by Chapelfield, or Castle Mall in Norwich, which could be brought at certain venues but spent at all participating businesses in the town. To be considered for next year.

There was a great deal of concern over the antisocial behaviour of youngsters in the Town Centre, who currently seem to be running riot around the Town in the evenings. This antisocial behaviour was also witnessed recently on a Sunday with youngsters verbally abusing passers by. It was felt current policing was inadequate and several businesses had at their own expense provided CCTV equipment on their properties to help prevent incidents and catch the culprits.

Actions: Through our representatives to make the Town Council aware of our concerns.

Will all members report any incidents from 1st November and in future as they happen to the Secretary

by e mail to compile a dossier of events to give to the police. Paul to invite local Police to our next meeting so that Chamber Members may express their concerns and fears.

Next Meeting Wed 6th December venue 6pm the Aga Shop.