

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE  
Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
18.00 hours at Byfords Cellar, Holt

|                            |                            |             |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 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, Charles Butler, Len Casey, Ian Cook, Allison Cook Lindsay Furniss, Amanda Heading, Lynda Morris, Linda Mossman, Ray Moore, Martin Saunders, Rodney Smith.

**Apologies:** Nigel Emmett, Joshua Dyball, Michael Hill, Teresa Hill, Adrian Hill, Jim Pallister, James Stronach.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 were accepted as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising:** The chair had written to Norfolk County Council and National Grid regarding the recent road works in the High Street. NCC had advised that they did not deal with this problem. National Grid website advises compensation was only due if the works extended over four weeks, which this did not.

**4. The Website:** [www.thisisholt.co.uk](http://www.thisisholt.co.uk) Len Casey reported since the last meeting there had been quite a few changes to the site. We were now on Face Book and Twitter and followers were joining every day. Currently 16 businesses were on the site, with a further 21 to go on by the end of the month. He was asked if all those on the site were members, he explained members paid £80 to be on the site and non members £125. This additional £45 would be passed over to the Chamber for one years membership. The members confirmed that those on the website should all be members of the Chamber of Trade. It was agreed to get the website up and running with all members before considering other organisations such as Tourist Information, The Holt Society or local groups.

**5. The Royal Norfolk Show.** Len Casey reported this was now coming together, everything was booked and paid for, except the marquee. This would be erected on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and asked all those who would be attending the show to arrange their delivery times for as close as possible to 11am on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June. The exhibitors would then have until 7pm to set up. He expected to received carpark/entrance/delivery passes in the next few days. If any exhibitors required extra passes please notify Len by 29<sup>th</sup> May. The site security would be covered by Event Guard. One of our exhibitors, Wooden Art World, would have a caravan on site and would cover our security if the Chamber would pay the £30 for him to have his caravan on site. The response was it would be paid if he were a member of the Chamber. Len had pictures of the 'pull up banners' he had designed to go around the marquee and he would now order these. He would be arranging a meeting at Adrian Hill Fine Art Gallery on 29<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm and requested all exhibitors to attend to order their tables and chairs.

#### **6 North Norfolk Railway 40's Weekend**

Duncan Baker and Michael Hill had not yet approached the dial a ride bus regarding transport from the station to the town, but had considered this was more for peak periods throughout the year rather than the 40's weekend. Len Casey had not yet had time to make an appointment with Mr Michael Baker. There was discussion regarding opening on the Sunday. Len suggested a sign at Holt Station saying who the businesses were in town and who was open on the day. It was suggested the banners from the RNS could be set up at the station. Amanda Heading is on the Sheringham Carnival

Committee they were preparing a 1940's newspaper for this weekend and advertising could be offered either to individual businesses that were opening, or the Chamber as a whole

**7. The Christmas Lights:** No report available.

**8. Treasurers Report:** Martin Sanders produced the accounts for the first three months of the year showing a current balance of £4,638.78. Reminders had been sent regarding membership fees. 56 of the 96 members had paid leaving 40 outstanding. 4 members had decided not to continue 1<sup>st</sup> Class Discounts, Dotties, Leslie Howard Travel and Victoria Goss.

**9. Application for Variation to Thaxters Planning Consent.** Ian started the discussion by saying he had written to NNDC regarding the fact the Chamber were not a consultee for this planning application. He had received a standard letter and was not happy with this, he would follow it up. He had also written to Michael Baker, County Councillor, who had suggested that this application should go to full Committee, and the Chamber of Trade should be on the list of consultees.

Those present were against the change in planning conditions, reasons given included:

- It had been agreed to allow the supermarket because it was a cheap food store.
  - If all items could be bought at Aldi would people park there and come into the Town
  - The original plans had been accepted by the Town Council because Non food items were limited to 10%
  - This new condition would provide more competition for the Town Centre.
  - If additional space were used for cheap goods this would mean loss of space for cheap food.
- Which was why the plans were passed

It was questioned if this was refused, would it be enough to put Aldi off. If so there were other supermarkets waiting in the wings to take their place.

Ian asked if it could be taken back to the Town Council to encourage them to think about their reasons for taking their decision and if there was a good reason not to support the Chamber in this instance. People can attend the Town Council meeting to make their points.

The meeting all agree that the COT should be consulted at the planning stage on plans that would affect Town centre traders. The Chamber was asked by those present to write to the Town Council detailing their objection. All members who object are asked to write to The Town Council before Mondays meeting or to and to try to attend the meeting. Alternatively people could write to NNDC.

**10. Report from Town Council.** Duncan Baker reported the application for houses on three sites on Grove Lane had been approved, with conditions which included; Grove Lane to be access only. That there should be a contribution from the developer toward a hopper bus. Car parking should be considered. There should be an increase in the number of affordable homes on the site. There should be improvements to the footpath at the top of Grove Lane which had recently been refused by NCC. There was discussion within the Chamber meeting at the rate the Town was increasing, 25% in the next few years. Holt was now a designated Employment Centre to provide employment for Cromer and Sheringham. Plans for the HO9 site on Hempstead Road would include provision for new business. However the Town Centre was suffering because the greatest problem is lack of parking and this had been the problem for some time. Four sites had been suggested and all appeared to have problems apart from the Cley Road project which would provide an additional 80 + places. There was strong feeling that NNDC were getting a lot of income from car parks in Holt both through parking fees and fines and this was not being used to help the parking problem in Holt. Both the Chamber of Trade and the Town Council are keen to push ahead with new parking projects and it was queried whether NNDC/NCC were supporting this. It was suggested the Town Council and Chamber of Trade should get together over this problem. The Chair revealed he had written several times to the Mayor to try to arrange a meeting and had received no response. It was suggested that as there had been changes at the Town Council office, the Chair should write again to the Mayor to try to organise an open meeting inviting NNDC and NCC.

**11. Meeting times** The Chair opened this to the floor. Some of the traders who closed at 5pm then had to wait until 6pm for the meeting, had suggested we start the meeting at 5.30. However some traders do not close until 5.30. It was agreed the next meeting would start at 5.35 to allow those who closed at 5.30 to get there. The venue was again discussed and although suitable for a small meeting, if many

members attended Byfords would not be big enough. Adrian Hill had offered his gallery as a venue. It was suggested we try this for the July meeting.

**12. Businesses Opening and Closing.** There was nothing new reported. The Chair asked how people felt regarding A1 versus A3 businesses in the Town. This should be a point for the next meeting.

**13. AOB:** Len Casey had been asked by Michael Hill to get a quote for printing order forms for the Holt cards. He had been quoted £25 for 100. The cards were selling slowly and they needed a push. With 90 members 100 forms was not considered enough and Len was asked to obtain a quote for 250. Len also had a business card he had designed to be available at the RNS but it was considered the Holt Town Guide would suffice.

Paul Reed wished to comment that although relations were now better, the Town Council and the Chamber Of Trade needed to work together more. The Chamber should support the Town Council by turning up at Council meeting, not just when they had a reason to argue.

John Allison had recently been on a classic car event and suggested we should try and attract these events into Holt. He will obtain Classic Car Club details and pass them on to the secretary.

Amanda asked if we could align with Sheringham on events and if organising events was a Chamber remit - only if they were helping to bring people into Holt. As a collective we should advertise Holt and we need a marketing plan. There was a new magazine North Norfolk Resident which would be a good place to start. Ian suggested we should look at a publicity strategy for Holt and this item should be placed on the next agenda. Lindsay advised the meeting she was now a member of the Holt Society and if anything was noticed in the Town people should advise her she would feed it back to the Society.

A comment was made regarding the number of A board and advertising props appearing in the Town. This item to be carried forward to the next meeting.

Meeting Closed 8pm

**Next Meeting Wed 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014:**  
**Venue: Adrian Hill Fine Art Gallery**  
**NB start time 5.35p.**