

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 8th July 2015
at Adrian Hill Fine Arts Gallery, Lees Yard at 5.35pm

Ian Furniss	The Tannery	07818405564
Martin Sanders	Larkin Gowen	712017
Charles Butler	Butlers Pantry	711867
Duncan Baker	Bakers and Larners of Holt	712244
Len Casey	Community Media	768156
Sandra Taylor Meeds	Budgens	713734
David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858

Present: Ian Furniss, Duncan Baker, Charles Butler, Len Casey, Lindsay Furniss, Amanda Heading, Michael Hill, Teresa Hill, Ray Moore, Linda Mossman, Jamie Perry, Jane Gurney Reed, Brenda Smith, James Stronach, Penny Webb. Colin Rawlins, Laura Howell. and Colin Seal for the 1940's weekend.

Apologies: Alison Cook, Ian Cook, Nigel Emmett, Adrian Hill, Linda Morris, Rodney Smith, Helen Stoker, Helen Wright.

Approval of the Minutes of 4th June: Colin asked if Steve Blatch had been asked about a second storey on the existing car parks on Station Road and Albert Street. It was confirmed that he had been asked and his response was that unless the car parks were extended on the current area it would not be worth adding a second storey. The minutes were then approved by all present.

Holt Festival 19th – 26th July No official report Tickets can be purchased through the Box Office.

Royal Norfolk Show: Ian thanked LC for all the hard work he had put into organising the show. Len in turn expressed his thanks to everyone who had participated. A special thank you was extended to Brenda Smith and Julia Percival who encouraged visitors into the tent. The attendance figures for this year were 22% down on last year, this could be due to the high temperatures on both days and the increase in cost for tickets (£25.00 per person plus £10.00 for parking). LC is arranging a de brief for 30th July, he felt we had been victims of our own success and the change of position of the marquee may not have worked in our favour, we perhaps should have been nearer the retail sector. It was also thought the next pitch had encroached onto our space meaning the refreshment area was not as big as expected. However there were many positive comments on the Town and fewer comments on car parks than last year. It was considered that there was a real community feel about the tent. There was lots of media attention over the two days and no one should underestimate the promotional value of the event. The website thisisholt had also received over 1000 hits in three days more than 4 times the usual number. MH suggested the Chamber write to the RNS to say how much we enjoyed participating, would like to return in 2016 but have concerns over the ticket prices.

Both Webbs Jewellers and Bakers and Larners were represented for the first time, they felt the event was to be treated as a publicity event rather than a selling event and time would tell the value.

Advertising Four more names have been added to the website. The Uniquely magazine feature was due Len would have copies by Friday. There was now the opportunity to advertise in the Christmas edition which could be a five page feature.

1940's weekend 19/20th September Jane Gurney-Reed reported back from the team working on this, she introduced Colin Seal who is involved with Graphics and would like to help with the collaboration between the two towns.

Events will take place between 10.30 – 5 on the Saturday and 10.30 – 2.00 on the Sunday and it is hoped as many shops as possible will be open during these times. It is hoped all shops will join in, a simple but effective way of doing this is tape across the windows and sandbags. Bunting is also

effective. Staff will also be encouraged to dress up and outfits can be hired. The team is currently working to produce a ration book and have 18 businesses prepared to take part. (Further details attached). A cut of date for taking part will be advised. There will be a 1940's gazette for advertising. During the weekend there will be free busses between Holt and Sheringham, it was asked if these busses could have a stop at the Methodist Church end of the Town.

Colin Seal offered to produce 2 x 8ft boards to have on roads coming into Holt, Ian suggested the Chamber could consider commissioning these. JGR would liaise and advise Ian of the costs. Colin Seal added that in Sheringham last year pubs ran out of beer on both days but there was less trouble/crime than on a normal Saturday night. Greshams would consider additional parking for the weekend.

Holt Christmas Lights: Jamie Perry of Hidden talents, working for Byfords gave an update. The group taking on some of the tasks were like-minded people who wanted to see the evening succeed, they are each taking on different tasks. Their aim is to bring the Holt Lights back to the community by focusing on local shops, involving schools and local groups/societies. Because the children are involved and for the benefit of the traders it is intended to have an earlier switch on time. There will be two big trees one at each end of the town.

The town will be arranged into 'manageable chunks' with a lead representative in each area. There will be a move away from the name and shame idea regarding donations. There would be more details by the next meeting.

Car Parking: Ian confirmed Steve Blatch was happy for there to be a working group for car parking but NNDC was unable to run this. Ian confirmed with Duncan Baker that Holt Town Council would be happy to take the lead role in this. He felt the car parking would be hugely beneficial for the area and would help drive the economy. He hoped to get information to put together an economic case to include income, jobs and better tourism.

DB gave a short update on the car parks; Thornage Road is expected to be debated at NNDC in September or October.

Cley Road a presentation is being given, by Norfolk Homes, at the next Town Council meeting (13/7), it is hoped this will soon move forward.

Aldi it is planned the site demolition will start within the next week.

Greshams; JS advised next steps are to submit planning permission and he could see no problems, the site is relatively small (56 spaces).

Ian suggested there should be a meeting for those interested before the Thornage Road car park was discussed at NNDC to ensure we were all in agreement with how this should move forward. Regarding the Car Park Group it was confirmed that the intention was for it to be forward looking at what could happen to the Town after the Car Parks were completed. To safeguard the spaces we already have and ensure the town did not become a sea of yellow lines and parking meters. To consider what may happen to existing car parks – would times be reduced or extended. The Town Council was already under pressure re street parking and requests for yellow lines. In principle everyone supported forming a car parking group.

AOB Following a road traffic accident on the High street where a pedestrian was injured and another incident on Shire Hall Plain where it was very fortunate no-one was injured, it was suggested first aid should be offered via the Chamber of Trade for all businesses. LK offered to look into courses on offer. Meanwhile the advice to all was **do not do anything unless you know what you are doing**. It was also a good time to remind all businesses there are two (public) defibrillators in the Town, one at the police station and one on the wall at Budgens. Gresham's confirmed they have two on site and it was believed there is one in the dentist surgery.

Thanks were given to Adrian Hill for the use of the Gallery.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th August at The Barn, Appleyard at 5.35.