

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE

(www.holtchamber.org)

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2010 in Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.

Committee:	John Lintott (Chairman)	Hayes & Storr	712835
	Alan Godfrey (Treasurer)	Gresham's School	714503
	Charles Butler	Butler's Pantry	711867
	Duncan Baker	Bakers & Larners of Holt	712244
	Caroline Carter	The Holt Chronicle	712177
	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), Alan Godfrey (Treasurer), Lynda Mossman (Membership Secretary), Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Duncan Baker, Joshua Dyball, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Di Dann, Tom Dick, Joshua Dyball, Nigel Emmett, Mark Humberstone, Chris Lambert, David Makinson, Lynda Mossman, Mary Pembleton, Sandra Taylor-Meeds, Rodney Smith, Sarah Tribe.

Sgt Helen Howes

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from James Adcock, Charles Butler, Stephen Davies, Stephen Watts.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: These were passed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: All matters arising were covered by the Agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There are currently 77 paid up members with 3 additional invoices going out this month. Income this year to date is £3,921.32 and total expenditure comes to £3,288.68 (including a donation of £1,200 to the Christmas Lights) giving a current year surplus of £632.64 and a closing balance at the bank of £2,713.42. It was agreed that a £20 gift voucher would once more be given to Ernest Lawrence, the local street cleaner, in recognition of his excellent services.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Two new traders have been approached and Flavia have expressed an interest in joining as has Stephen Watts of Bumblebee Toys.

POLICE OFFICER: At this point Helen Howes spoke to those present so that she could return to her duties. Sgt Howes said that she was very pleased to be back in Holt. She leads a team of two full-time and one part-time officer plus 2 PCSOs. She is worried that this team may be reduced in size, in the future, due to cost cuts. The team has to cover 26 parishes and all levels of crime! In Holt the problems near Old School House are being given priority and the police are aware of the problems with playing football near the road in this area and intimidation of people waiting for buses. Holt police station is only manned by volunteers from 8 am – 12 am on Monday and Tuesday mornings but members of the team are upstairs at other times and it is worth ringing the bell if you need assistance as someone may be free to come down. In response to questions Sgt Howes said that the traffic wardens are still currently under the auspices of Norfolk Constabulary until March. Police phone contact is only through Wymondham - 0845 456 4567 for non-emergencies. Discussions took place on CCTV (high costs to bring into operation) and 'Shop-Cop'. The latter set up in 2008 has been proved to work but relies on the willingness of traders to ring the next person on the list. John and Caroline will review the current list to bring it up-to-date.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: Car Park. Graham Chapman is making progress on discussion with County Highways relating to Section 278 works. Discussion took place on possible temporary measures

to provide additional parking/park and ride facilities for the coming summer. The problem in the past has been that the bus running from the NNR to Holt has not been financially viable.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Bad weather affected numbers and meant that most people left soon after the lights had been switched on. There had been major problems with visiting hawkers setting up unsuitable stalls in central positions with the inherent problems of generators, lights, vans etc causing bottlenecks. Intervention by Di Dann eventually solved one of the problems but some local traders were inevitably upset before the problem was resolved. Overall publicity for the evening had been widespread and Jake Humphrey proved to be a very popular choice as the celebrity. Also the fireworks were once again very popular. Fundraising had been really difficult and it was suggested that if the 'lights evening' did not take place next year people might miss it and be more supportive in future. There were obviously risks in this strategy and just to have the lights in place would still cost around £12,000. It was unfortunate that some traders still had no lights and that the town overall still had 'mixed' lighting. The committee was thanked for all their hard work and it was regretted that other traders in the town seem unwilling to join the committee. More volunteers to help on the night would also have made running the event much easier. Winners for the 2010 Best Christmas Lights Award are Bakers and Larners, with The Feathers highly commended. The Best Window Award goes to The House and Garden Shop, runner up - Great to be Green, and highly commended - Simon Finch Books.

TOWN GUIDE: Negotiations with Sophie Jewry have been on-going and a bi-annual guide will be produced centred on Holt and including community information which will largely be supplied by the Town Clerk. It is suggested that advertising is restricted to traders in the town centre (Holt) plus any Chamber of Trade members.

HOLT VISION BOARD: The next meeting has been postponed until January/February 2011 due to the spending review.

LOTTERY LICENCE: It was agreed to renew the licence at a cost of £20.

LATE NIGHT OPENING – 15 December 2010: There appears to be considerable support for this initiative.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Remembrance Sunday – some members regretted the fact that a trader near to the Memorial had felt it necessary to continue to trade throughout the two minutes silence during the outdoor service on Memorial Sunday. **Lights** - It was suggested that where people had indicated that they had travelled long distances to see the 'Lights' that this was included in publicity. **Website** – there had been a large increase in the number of 'hits' on the Christmas Lights website and numbers were also increasing gradually on the Chamber website. The new **Tannery** premises open on Saturday, 4 December. An announcement is imminent of the **site specific decisions** for the 350 new houses in Holt. The car parks in Holt have not been gritted and Albert Street Car Park is like an ice rink which has meant that customers have avoided parking there. It was pointed out that in addition to expecting people to 'self-grit' in the car park, the **gritting bin in Albert Street** had not been filled up! A '**winter newsletter**' is available from the library. As **Cley Nurseries** are closing it will be necessary to find another grower to supply plants for the town **planters** from April 2011 onwards. Some discussion took place on rent reviews and the possibility of setting up a register (without trader names) so that people would be aware of the average square footage rental for various zones in Holt. This would give them the information to handle **rent reviews** more efficiently.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for 5 January 2011 at 1800 hrs in the Wine Cellar at Byfords.