

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 12 January 2011 in Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.

Committee:	John Lintott (Chairman)	Hayes & Storr	712835
	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), Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Len Casey, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Di Dann, Tom Dick, Joshua Dyball, Lindsay Furniss, Mark Humberstone, Chris Lambert, Mary Pembleton, Rodney Smith, Sarah Tribe, Stephen Watts.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Duncan Baker, David Makinson, Lynda Mossman, Sandra Taylor-Meeds.

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

MATTERS ARISING: Sgt Howes is following up on the possibilities for a CCTV camera in Holt. North Norfolk Railway gave a negative response to the idea of using their car park for a park and ride scheme but Len Casey will follow up on our behalf. An application for a lottery licence has been sent off.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Alan pointed out that we were approaching the year end (31 January 2011) and although it has not been possible to achieve the target 100 members, the income for the year is close to the forecast budget. It was felt, however, that a small increase in the subscription rate would be necessary and it was agreed that the rates would increase from £45 to £48 and from £65 to £70. Total income for the period to date was £3,966.41 with expenditure of £3,421.22. This gives a surplus for the year of £545.19 (2 invoices outstanding) and a closing balance at the bank of £2,625.97. Sadness was expressed over the loss of Alan as our treasurer and the committee expressed their thanks for his sterling support both as our treasurer and as a representative for Gresham's School. We wish him well for the future. Although no-one has offered to take over the full role of treasurer, Chris Scargill has offered someone to help with the book-keeping. It was noted that a large number of members' renewal invoices would need to go out in February.

MEMBERSHIP: Three new members have joined this month and over the past year the membership has been augmented by a gradual increase in new members. However this has been offset by traders ceasing to trade in the town so membership remains around the 80 mark despite all efforts to increase it.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: Please note that recommendations for the 'Holt Honours' award need to be submitted by 31 January 2011. It is hoped that Holt Town will hold some kind of celebration in the week of the Royal Wedding – possibly along the lines of the 'Great Fire' celebrations. Reference was also made to the North Norfolk Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document and this is covered later in the minutes.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Esme Bagnall-Oakeley spoke of the positive and negative aspects of the 2010 Christmas Lights and presented preliminary proposals for 2011 onwards. These included:

- Creating a better display by lighting up more areas
- Ending the 'switch-on' night but having a street lantern procession, carols round the war memorial, etc
- Lighting up from 14th November and switching on from 1500 hrs each night
- Running two late night shopping evenings to encourage shoppers to visit the town to see the lights and to shop

As always, it has been difficult to find volunteers to help out both before and on the switch-on night. Fund-raising has been particularly difficult and it is hoped that traders will feel that the modifications suggested would bring more benefits to local residents, and to traders. Your feedback is important!

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN. The Lights Committee need the support of local traders to keep this event going – even in a modified form. Please contact Lesley on lesleyatchamber@yahoo.co.uk or a member of the Lights committee if you could join the committee or help in any other way. Suggestions for fund-raising would also be helpful. We also need your feedback on the proposed changes please.

TOWN GUIDE: The overall aim of the guide is to bring visitors into the town and it will therefore be distributed at Tourist Offices, on the North Norfolk steam trains and to people offering local accommodation. It was agreed that an insert in the middle pages would be a pull-out map which would also be printed separately and made available to day visitors. The Guide will go to print at the end of March and will be available by the middle of April.

WEBSITE:

PLEASE DO NOT WASTE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FREE ADVERTISING. PUT YOUR LOGO ON THE CHAMBER OF TRADE WEBSITE AND WE CAN SET UP A LINK TO YOUR OWN WEBSITE. FURTHER INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES ON www.holtchamber.org

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: In December 2010, in his Inspector's Report, Paul Dobsen recommended one change 'Deletion of proposed housing allocation on land south of Cromer Road, Holt (H15) and its replacement by a new allocation on land west of Woodfield Road, Holt.' (H01) It is intended that approximately 100 dwellings would be built on the land (45% affordable housing). HO1 was chosen predominantly due to its location on the edge of Holt whereas the previous option (H15) is located approximately 1 km from Holt Town Centre and is located in a semi-rural area which is detached from the main built-up parts of Holt. In response to this the Town Council has requested that a mini roundabout be placed at the junction of Cromer Road and Kelling Road to ease the flow of increased traffic.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Some premises are still experiencing frequent incidents of **very low water pressure**. Anglia Water have been unhelpful in their responses though it is almost certain that the pressure is kept low to prevent more water being lost from leaks. So that the Chamber of Trade can build an overall picture could you please let Lesley know at lesleyatchamber@yahoo.co.uk if you are still experiencing problems with low water pressure. Discussion took place on the desirability of **Georgian colours** on local trading establishments and the need for traders moving into Holt to be aware of the suggestions in 'Good design is good business' by Mary Alexander (The Holt Society 2006) which makes recommendations on colours for the outside of local buildings. Unfortunately unless a building is Grade II listed enforcement is not possible but traders have responded to polite appeals in the past. **Byfords** will be undergoing major renovations for three months which include structural changes as well as up-dating. Smith and Pinching are now open as independent financial advisers (no longer linked to Nationwide). Chris Lambert reminded us that new legislation is coming in 2012 which means that **employers with staff earning £7,500 or more per annum** will be obliged to auto-enrol them in a **pension scheme** (after three months' employment). A free seminar is being held at Sprowston Manor on 15 February at 1530. Please contact Smith and Pinching if you are interested in attending. John will contact Gresham's School to see if anyone would like to attend the Chamber of Trade meetings. Thanks were once again given to **Alan** for his valuable input to the Chamber. A video (U-Tube) can now be viewed on **Holt Christmas Lights** on their website – www.holtchristmaslights.org. **Shop-Cop Scheme** – Caroline has up-dated the list and re-connected businesses. It was suggested that a new scheme may be needed where each trader could ring three other traders rather than one, which would speed up the process considerably.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 2 February 2011 at 1800 hrs at Byfords Wine Bar.