

## **The Holt Society**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Church Hall, Holt**

#### 1. Apologies

Mary Alexander  
Susan Williams  
Rosemary Bryden  
Graham Lynn

Steve Benson requested approval to sign the Minutes, which was given.

#### 2. Matters Arising

None

#### 3. Chairman's Report

Steve introduced Michael Hill, an Honorary member of the Holt Society to present to the Society the concept of the Holt Owl Trail, an initiative backed by the Holt Society, Chamber of Trade and Holt Town Council. Nicola Baker, Head of Planning at NNDC was also said to be supportive.

The idea was presented - a circular route designed to take the public around the different areas of Holt through the use of 23 bronze plaques, flush mounted into the pavement. This was summarised as follows:

The plaques are to be numbered, and feature an owl design, designed by Robert Gilmore MBE. These plaques are to be positioned next to buildings of architectural merit, or buildings with people related stories associated with them. The trail will be supported by a leaflet giving details of the trail, referencing the numbered plaques. At a future date, it will also be possible to read more detail by the use of scanning QR codes into mobile phones.

There will be signs displaying the trail featured on large boards in each of the car parks. The trail will be designed in loops to take in the different Yards. It is possible to start and finish the trail at any point and the following of the numbered sequence is not essential.

Philip High, Town Councillor, left an example of the bronze plaque for the meeting to examine. Michael Hill presented the artwork which demonstrated how the bronze plaque would look with the Holt Owl graphic on it.

Michael Hill and Philip High then left the meeting.

The Chairman gave his report, and here are some of the points that he highlighted:

- John Roebuck's book, Wartime and Post War Holt, selling well in the Holt book shop.
- First edition prints of The Holt Angel available for sale - contact Susan Williams or Steve Benson if interested.
- Spaces are still available on the Holt Society trips to Hoveton Hall and Voewood. Steve Benson asked those interested to give their names to Norman Cooker.
- Presentation of "Help the Holt Society buy ..." the Teucer stone leaflet. Proposal that the Holt Society should start the fundraising to buy the Teucer stone for Holt, for

display in the Holt Methodist Memorial Garden. However, this location for the stone must be finally approved - unofficial conversations with the Methodist Minister and Holt Town Council have been positive. Total cost of the Teucer stone is £3,800. Steve Benson proposed that the Holt Society should approve a contribution for purchase of the stone, for £500, using Society funds. This was seconded by Theo Crowder and approved at the meeting by a majority, (nobody opposed the motion). Members of the Society present at the meeting were given a copy of the fundraising leaflet, and pledges were requested for contributions towards the purchase of the stone.

- Eleanor Sidgwick asked the height of the stone. This was estimated. Meeting was told that the stone is made of Welsh slate.
- Concern was raised about whether the Methodist Memorial Garden was locked at night. Steve Benson confirmed that it was locked at night, and occasionally in the day-time, but the times that the garden was locked would need to be clarified.
- Norman Cooker explained that it was proposed that the Teucer stone should form part of the Holt Owl Trail.
- Steve Benson publicised the Teucer Exhibition at Norwich Cathedral from 28th May to 11th June.
- Eleanor Sidgwick suggested that when the publicity for fundraising is circulated, that the words of the stone should be “translated”.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

Geoff Davis presented his report and circulated the Summary Receipts & Payments Account 1st January - 31st December 2015. He pointed out one error in the figures - the number of John Roebuck book sales was stated as 473, but was actually 508. Geoff summarised the accounts - 2015 had been a good year, and the Holt Society was currently financially sound. There was a surplus of funds, and investment had been made in both John Roebuck's book and the funding of the Holt Booklet. No questions on the accounts were put to the Treasurer and Steve Benson moved that there should be an adoption of the accounts:

Proposed: Norman Cooker

Seconded: Ros Fairhead

Accounts unanimously accepted.

Steve Benson reminded that Norman Cooker would welcome receipt of any outstanding membership subscriptions.

#### 5. Election of Officers

There had been no proposals for new members of the Holt Society committee. Steve Benson therefore proposed the block voting in of the existing committee.

Proposed: Richard Jefferson

Seconded: John Lintott

#### 6. AOB

None

Steve Benson introduced Ann Farrant who presented her talk - Amelia Opie: The Quaker Celebrity.

At the end of the talk, Steve Benson thanked Ann, and summarised by saying that Amelia was a Quaker celebrity who was extremely well connected, and remarkable as a woman in the 18th to 19th century, in that she was able to write under her own name.

Steve Benson thanked the membership for attending and invited everyone to join in with refreshments.