

# HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE

([www.holtchamber.org](http://www.holtchamber.org))

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2010 at 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), Duncan Baker, Caroline Carter, Joshua Dyball, Nigel Emmett, Mark Humberstone, Chris Lambert, David Makinson, Lynda Mossman, Carol Pennington, Paul Rogers, Sandra Taylor-Meeds, Sarah Tribe.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Charles Butler, Di Dann, Lindsay Furniss, Rhu Bruce Lockhart, Rodney Smith.

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

**MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Total income for the period 1.2.10-21.7.10 stood at £3,250.77 which represented payments by 63 members plus bank interest. Total expenditure for the same period stood at £622.00 which gave a current year surplus of £2,628.77. The closing balance on 21 July 2010 stood at £4,709.55.

Unfortunately two of the new planters which cost £70 each have already been vandalized. Where possible planters will be turned round so that the damaged side is not on view. This should help to keep costs down. Monies originally given to help with restoration costs for the war memorial will now be used for maintaining planters in the immediate area.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** One new member has joined this month and new traders to the area are being encouraged to join.

**TOWN COUNCIL REPORT:** **Anti-social behaviour** was increasing in the town especially in the area near the Memorial Bus Shelter and in front of the Old School House. Police have agreed to try to increase patrols in that area and the possibility of installing a mobile camera, which could be hired on a monthly basis, is being considered. The **War Memorial** working party is progressing and work on restoration will start in the near future. **Dog faeces** were becoming a problem in the town again. Mention was made of the fact that most traders are not open on **Bank holidays** and reference was made both to the proposed **Orbital Railway link** through Holt and the forthcoming **British Cycle Tour** which is routed from Kings Lynn to Great Yarmouth (via Holt) on 16 September 2010.

**HOLT SUMMER FESTIVAL (25-31 July 2010) AND CHURCH SERVICE SUNDAY: (25 July 2010)** An invitation has been received for members to go to the church service at St Andrews which will launch the Summer Festival. Members are encouraged to support the overall programme which offers events every day plus on-going exhibitions. Sales are going well and tickets for three events are sold out. The committee expressed their thanks to Rhu Bruce Lockhart for his hard work and dedication.

**WEBSITE:** The new website has now been launched (see heading for new web address) and Joshua will contact Howard Heathfield regarding transfer of the websites. At present the original website is still active. Stationery will need to be re-printed with the new website address but, at present, it has not been possible to find an organisation that could re-print the stickers at an economic price. It was suggested that it would enhance the site if photographs could be included of the chairman and, possibly, a committee meeting in progress. It is proposed that the website will also promote the Holt Summer Festival, display

the minutes of meetings and contain a membership list with links to members' own websites. At present there will not be a forum.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:** The stage, technical back-up and the firework display have been booked for 24 November 2010 but there is still an urgent need for volunteers to shadow the present committee so that they can take over next year and a fundraiser is urgently required for this year. It was proposed that a tennis tournament in September at Gresham's School with competitive teams of traders might be organised to help boost funds.

**HOLT PARTNERSHIP BOARD (PLANNING GROUP):** The group will be holding a further meeting in August/September – a constitution is currently being formed.

**NORTH NORFOLK FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL:** This event, which is run by the North Norfolk Business Forum Agriculture Round Table, take place from 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> September at Holkham Hall. There is no entry charge but a car parking charge of £2.50.

**HOLT RENTS:** Concern has been expressed over the high level of rents in Holt and the threat that independent traders will be unable to afford the level of rents and thus the High Street will be taken over by 'multiples'. It is proposed that a surveyor specializing in rent reviews should speak to chamber members (and any other interested traders) at an open meeting where the process involved in seeking rent reviews could be explained. There was also a general feeling that the secrecy surrounding the different level of rents and proposed rent increases in Holt made it difficult for traders to judge the fairness of their own levels. It is proposed that the meeting should take place either in September or October 2010 at a time and place that would be announced in the local press. If this meeting is of interest to you could you please email 'lesleyatchamber@yahoo.com' indicating that you would be interested in attending such a meeting so that a suitable venue could be booked.

**RE-INSTATEMENT OF RAILWAY STATION AT STATION ROAD, HOLT:** The Holt, Melton Constable and Fakenham Railway Company are investigating the possibility of linking existing national network lines to standard gauge privately owned railways. The proposal would see a connection from the NNR station at High Kelling running alongside the bypass to a new town centre station, then continuing westwards beneath the Norwich Road and on to Melton Constable and Fakenham. The Mid Norfolk Railway, plan to extend their existing Wymondham to Dereham line on to Fakenham thus creating, with the national rail network, the 'Norfolk Orbital Railway'. Those present expressed support for any scheme that would bring more people into Holt Town Centre. The 'Holt Flyer' had been invaluable in transporting people from the railway station at High Kelling but sadly it has only been economically viable to run the 'cream vintage bus' at limited peak times so potential customers have been lost.

**ANTIQUES FAIR – GRESHAM'S SCHOOL:** Television Companies from the programmes 'Bargain Hunt' and 'Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is' had been filming at the event so it is hoped this will bring positive publicity for the area.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** The following points were raised. Holt had received publicity in The Times Travel Section. Many traders/residents have experienced problems with low water pressure and were gaining little satisfaction from contact with **Anglia Water**. The **reduced pressure** also has implications for public safety when fire engines need to connect to the mains. It would seem that Anglia Water are cutting the pressure to reduce pressure on 'old pipes' that might otherwise spring leaks. Please if you have an **alarm system** ensure that it has a **time element** as some alarms on traders' premises have stayed on all night! There will be another **Round Table Beer Festival** from 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010. There will be two bands at the event. Please support as the funds raised help the local Community Centre. **Mark Elliot Furniture** have been sold by administrators to SKG Capital. Some work has commenced on **Church Street toilets** where trees have been cleared. An application has been submitted for an extension to the present **Budgens Store** in Holt.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** There will be no committee meeting in August. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 at Byfords Wine Cellar at 1800 hrs.