

# HOLT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TRADE

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 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
	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, Rhu Bruce Lockhart, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Di Dann (Town Clerk), Joshua Dyball, Lindsay Furniss, Mark Humberstone, Lynda Mossman, Sandra Taylor-Meeds, Rodney Smith.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Sue Catt, David Makinson, Carol Pennington.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING:** none.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Eighty-one members have paid subscriptions of £40 in the period 1 February to 31 December 2009 making a total of £3,240.00. With donations, interest and a cheque for the missing planter this makes a total income of £3,370.40. Expenditure for the period comes to £2,983.24 giving a current year surplus of £387.16. Invoices for the coming year have been prepared. Due to the low surplus of income over expenditure this year discussion took place on the level of subscription necessary for the Chamber to continue to remain financially viable. It was eventually decided that the subscription would be £45 for traders with 5 employees or less but those with 6 or more employees would be asked to pay an increased subscription of £65. This increase was passed on a majority vote.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Two new potential members will be attending the next meeting and an additional trader has expressed a strong interest in joining.

**TOWN COUNCIL REPORT:** The planning application for the **Thornage Road Car Park** has now been passed to 'Go East Planning' in Cambridge. Two letters of objection have also been sent but it is hoped nevertheless that there will be a positive response by the end of this month. After extensive discussion on Monday, 11 January it has been agreed that the requested 15 year claw back clause for the **Church Street toilet site** will be accepted. The County Council have, however, now agreed to help with financial support to get the site up and running. **Chaos in the snow** – before and over Christmas the state of the roads/pavements meant that many potential customers had avoided doing their shopping in Holt. Although an apology had been received from County Highways for the lack of gritting and snow clearance, all those present agreed that it was important that the potential risk to safety must not be allowed to happen again. A meeting is being sought between all the interested parties so that preventative measures can be put in place. More salt bins are needed and traders are encouraged to clear the area in front of their premises as this will not put them at risk of prosecution if someone slips as long as they can demonstrate that they have made a good effort to provide safe access. Provision also needs to be made in the Highways' budget so that farmers can be asked, if necessary, to help with snow clearance. Both the Town Council and the Chamber will be writing to Council Highways to express their concerns. **Christmas Lights** – consideration is being given to producing a leaflet to be distributed during this event to promote local businesses.

**THORNAGE ROAD CAR PARK:** Graham is currently working with the engineers on the access arrangements.

**NNDC – Local Development Framework** – the schedule of Key Changes will not affect Holt.

**NNDC – Single Unitary Authority for the County** – NNDC do not support the proposal for a single unitary authority and the Town Council have written to the Secretary of State to express their support for authorities to remain in their present structure. The Chamber will also send a letter supporting this view.

**HOLT PLANNING GROUP:** The meeting in December went well and a small steering group will be put together as soon as possible.

**HOLT FESTIVAL:** ([www.holtsummerfestival.org](http://www.holtsummerfestival.org)) Gresham's School will be hosting a sponsors' launch meeting on 11 February 2010 at which Tony Britten will be putting forward proposals for the 2010 programme. It is hoped this will include a Blues Festival on the Saturday in the Theatre in the Woods. Byfords will be raffling a car in support of the Festival. A Festival Friends Scheme will also be launched this year. Membership (£100 single or £200 double) will offer numerous benefits including membership of the new Festival Club based at the Lawns Hotel.

**BUSINESS RATES:** If you are uncertain what your new rates will be you can find out at [www.businesslink.gov.uk/estimatemyrates](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/estimatemyrates).

**NEW POLICE SERGEANT:** It was agreed that Howard Olby would be invited to the next Chamber meeting.

**BUSINESSES OPENING AND CLOSING:** Frills, Spills and Sparkles has now opened in Chapel Yard and the old Wood and Things premises will now house Ebony (Danish Furniture).

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:** John had been to the Festival and praised the appearance of the Chamber tree.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Joshua will bring proposals and costings for the **new website** to the next meeting. It is hoped that its related forum and blog will make it easier for traders to share information re proposed bank holiday opening etc. Mark Humberstone sounded out those present on proposals for a 'bash' before Easter at Byfords for local traders to get together. The response to this proposal was positive. It was decided to set the date for the next AGM as 24 March 2010.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting would be on 3 February at 1800 hrs in Byfords Wine Bar.