

HOLT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TRADE

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2009 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-Meads	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, Duncan Baker, Rhu Bruce Lockhart, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Di Dann (Town Clerk), Joshua Dyball, Chris Lambert, David Makinson, Carol Pennington, Rodney Smith, Sandra Taylor-Meads.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Lindsay Furniss, Lynda Mossman.

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

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Eighty members have now paid their subscriptions of £40, which together with donations and bank interest, makes an income for the period of 1 February 2009 to 30 November 2009 of £3,271.33. Expenditure for the same period stands at £2,963.24 which gives a closing balance of £2,015.63 of which £1,993.63 is on deposit.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: One new member has joined - 6 Appleyard and Appleyard Gallery have renewed their membership.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: Church Street Toilets - concern was expressed regarding the claw-back clause sought by the District Council and the fact that they have withdrawn their offer to help get the site up and running. The situation will be discussed further at the next Town Council meeting on 14 December 2009.

Holt Conservation Area Proposals – seven pages of corrections had been necessary. It was felt that no areas should be withdrawn from the conservation areas and local listings should go out to public consultation.

Minerals Waste Site – the Council have agreed to the enlargement of the present area as this was thought to be preferable to moving the site nearer to Holt.

HOLT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Feedback has been positive and the clowns and lantern making in the Community Centre proved to be particularly popular. The positioning of the truck was discussed and it was agreed that it did screen off Old School House, the Xmas tree and the Church. Both Rachel's Sandwich Shop and the Owl Tea Rooms also felt that their trade could be affected by its position. Unfortunately, although re-positioning the truck had been considered, this would have caused other major problems. A circular stage might be one solution. Although the switch on was a little late, which meant that the lights controlled by time switches came on before the countdown, this year's celebrity went down well and it is hoped that Jake Humphrey will be able to fill the spot next year. Mrs Jones won the prize for the best window display and Byfords for the best lighting display. Rodney was congratulated for the highly successful wildlife projections on the side wall of Mark Elliot. Everyone agreed that the fireworks had been fabulous and the extra traffic stop had worked well. Thanks were given to Di Dann who manned this barrier. It was mooted that the Town Council might be able to give extensive financial support to the event but it was pointed out that numerous demands were already made on the precept. John will write to Alison Heathfield to thank her for her sterling efforts in fund-raising and those present were distressed to hear that she had received considerable abuse from one disgruntled trader.

THORNAGE ROAD CAR PARK: The next meeting of the District Council will be on 10 December. The Town Council have expressed their support for the planning application for Thornage Road. Speakers for

and against the application will only be allowed three minutes each so it is important that Graham Chapman is able to make all the relevant points in support of his application within this time allocation.

HOLT PLANNING GROUP: It is hoped that progress will be made at the District Council meeting on 10 December towards the formation of a partnership including the Holt Town and North Norfolk District Council to move forward the proposals and to discuss possible funding. Rhu will report back progress at the next Chamber meeting.

BUSINESS RATES: It was felt that little could be achieved until we knew the actual increase in trader's business rates. At that stage, if the rise was felt to be unreasonable, it might be possible to seek Norman Lamb's help.

EVOLVE PROJECT: John read out details of a Government and County Council funded initiative offering help for both the unemployed and those who felt they were at risk of losing their jobs.

TIME FOR A CHANGE: John stated that he felt he should stand down as Chairman at the AGM in April 2010 to give someone else the chance to take over the role.

BUSINESSES OPENING AND CLOSING: One new business is now open: Indigo Bay, selling jewellery, and another: Jordan Burr (hairdressers) is due to open soon.

PLANTERS: John had finally been given a cheque for the value of the missing planters.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Discussion took place on the **opening hours** for traders over **Christmas**. Most traders will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day (not Budgens) and some will have reduced opening hours on the 28th. Most were also closing on New Year's Day. Bakers and Larners would be open, with reduced hours, on the three Sundays before Christmas. **Holt Guide** – Sophie Jewry wants to reprint the **Town Guide** this year and combine the publication with a guide to Sheringham. The feeling of the meeting was that Holt only needed a Guide to be published once **every two years** and that it needed to be **town specific**. Rodney suggested that the excellent work of Ernest Lawrence, **the road sweeper in Holt**, should be recognised by the Chamber. It was agreed that John would write to him to express our thanks and send a £20 voucher. Caroline showed the decorations for the Chamber Christmas tree which will be part of the **Christmas Tree Festival in St Andrews Church**. The decorated tree can be seen between 16th and 20th December 2009. Lara Williamson has been appointed as the new Holt and District Partnership Co-ordinator which means the Area Partnership can now be re-launched. It is hoped that in future the co-ordinator can work from the Holt Tourist Information Centre and that it might be possible to keep the offices open throughout the year.

Members present wished Duncan every happiness for his forthcoming wedding.

DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 6 January, 2010 at 1800 hrs in Byfords Cellar Bar.

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

