

HOLT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TRADE

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 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, Lindsay Furness, Dave Hunt, Chris Lambert, David Makinson, Chris Manders, Linda Mossman, Ian Roberts, Rodney Smith, Sandra Taylor-Meads.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Caroline Carter, and Carol Pennington.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The following modifications were made: Chris Lambert was added to the list of those attending, the Elkie Brooks concert will be underwritten by Bakers and Larners, and in the section on shop rents, the words it was felt that rents would probably find their own level have been replaced by Rhu felt. The minutes were then signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising

TREASURER'S REPORT: Fifty-two members have now paid their subscriptions and with a donation of £10 – this makes income for the period 1.2.09 – 31.5.09 of £2090.65. Expenditure for the same period amounted to £235.99 giving a current year surplus of £1,854.66. The closing balance for the period stands at £3,562.20. Some members are still being chased for membership fees and we are also still waiting for payment for the new planter.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Various members had been actively encouraging traders in their vicinity to join the chamber with some definite successes and some promises of future membership. The drive to increase membership will continue.

VILLAGE DEFIB SCHEME – CHRIS MANDERS/DAVE HUNT: This has now been running for four years with about 200 medical emergencies annually. There are currently 10 responders locally who also offer first aid facilities for some public events. It is hoped that a defibrillator can be located in Holt High Street and staff working locally can be trained as 'partial responders' – ie they would respond to an emergency in the High Street and be able to access and use the defibrillator if necessary. Members present were reassured that the current defibrillators were automatic in use and guided the user extensively as they used them. The equipment would be housed in yellow metal boxes on the outside of a trader's premises. Discussion took place on a favoured location for a box and members were re-assured that to date there had been no vandalism to boxes elsewhere. The box would need a small electrical supply. Funding for this initiative has been possible through the Bakers and Larners/Budgens plastic bag scheme and it is hoped that eventually it will be possible to have more than one box in Holt Town Centre. There will also be a chance for traders to advertise on the box. Duncan expressed an interest in being trained as a partial responder and other members are encouraged to contact Chris Manders if they are interested. PLEASE SEE POSTER SENT OUT AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENT TO THESE MINUTES FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: There was nothing currently to report.

HOLT FESTIVAL: www.holtfestival.org The original application to the Arts Council for a grant has been turned down but it may be possible to re-submit. Tickets for the Elkie Brooks concert are already selling well. General sponsorship opportunities are still available. There is a significant gap in the programme for the 18-25 age group so it is hoped to redress this. Banners advertising the event will be placed each end of the High Street and posters are already in place in trader's windows. There will also be six feather banners and eight

signs will be placed at road junctions and, possibly, at the roundabout. Leaflets are in place with traders and other local outlets and traders are asked to encourage their customers to take a leaflet. Some traders are placing a leaflet in the bag with customer's purchases. A possible date for the next festival was discussed and it was generally felt that it should take place at approximately the same time next year.

PLANNING GROUP: After a successful meeting with Steve Blatch and Mark Ashwell it was agreed that a brief would be produced. Di has now produced this and it will be refined with the various stakeholders looking at traffic flow, clutter in the town and development opportunities. Rhu will be canvassing for financial support and the aim will be to initially fund initiatives that are reasonably inexpensive but productive. The Holt Society is hoping to launch a competition where the public will be asked to submit ideas about improving the town. Although the brief is only in draft form, it is hoped that eventually people will walk round the town and visually analyse what they feel are its good and bad points. Esme will be giving more details when these are finalised. The committee members indicated their support for the work of the Holt Planning Group.

PLANTERS: These have been replanted by Cley Nurseries and will be watered three times a week. The replacement planter is in place (though we are still pursuing finance for same). **Please** water any planter near your premises that look dry!

BUSINESSES OPENING AND CLOSING: It was noted that The Sausage Shop was now closed and Wood N Things will close in August. A new clothing shop will be opening in the premises previously used by Gazelle and Victoria Goss is opening an up-market premises selling natural bathroom goods.

THORNAGE ROAD CAR PARK: John has contacted Graham for a progress report. Unfortunately there will be a further delay as the traffic assessment cannot take place at present due to the temporary closure of Thornage Road. It is likely that this will now take place at end of August/beginning of September when conditions are back to normal. Graham is working on his business plan in the meantime.

CLEY ROAD CAR PARK: David Makinson who uses this car park and then walks to The Holt Book Shop has now been told that it will close and revert to agricultural use on 1st August unless the owners, Mike and Judy Ingram, receive financial support or are able to find more traders to take up the spare places. In an email to David they explained why they felt let down by the local council authorities and were amazed that out of the possible 40 parking spaces available only 8 people have actually paid to park there. David pointed out that at a cost of only £100 for the year and a short walk to town he felt the parking offered a good opportunity for traders to solve the problem of all-day parking. As it was worrying to hear of any potential parking facilities that might disappear, the committee asked Rhu to see if this could be discussed at the next town council meeting.

THE RURAL SERVICES NETWORK: This will be discussed at a later meeting as it is not clear exactly what is on offer.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: **Vandalism:** It was noted that several youths had climbed on to the roof of a building next to Butlers Restaurant one night just after closing time at the Kings Head. Alan Godfrey also said that serious damage had occurred at Gresham's School recently when it was obvious that the persons responsible had arrived ready-equipped with a crowbar so they could break into a garage. Esme pointed out that several of the local **Post Offices** had been closed that afternoon. It was felt that this was probably due to a computer problem. **Holt Lights** – all is presently progressing well and Esme will keep the committee informed of progress. It has been decided, however, to drop the idea of the raffle as the potential financial rewards do not justify the amount of effort involved.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held at Byfords Wine Bar on 1 July 2009 at 1800 hrs.