

# HOLT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TRADE

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2009 at Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>John Lintott (Chairman)</b>	<b>Hayes &amp; Storr</b>	<b>712835</b>
	<b>Alan Godfrey (Treasurer)</b>	<b>Gresham's School</b>	<b>714503</b>
	<b>Chris Harrison</b>	<b>Bircham Gallery</b>	<b>713312</b>
	<b>Charles Butler</b>	<b>Butler's Pantry</b>	<b>711867</b>
	<b>Caroline Carter</b>	<b>The Holt Chronicle</b>	<b>712177</b>
	<b>Sandra Taylor-Meads</b>	<b>Bakers &amp; Larners</b>	<b>713734</b>
	<b>Lynda Mossman</b>	<b>Past Caring</b>	<b>713771</b>
	<b>David Makinson</b>	<b>The Holt Bookshop</b>	<b>715858</b>

**PRESENT:** John Lintott, (Chairman), Alan Godfrey, (Treasurer), Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Duncan Baker, Rhu Bruce Lockhart, Caroline Carter, Mark Humberstone, David Makinson, Lynda Mossman, Sandra Taylor-Meads, Rodney Smith  
Barry Starling and his Holt shop manageress Suzanne from Starlings, were welcomed to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES:** Harriet Clayton-Gray, Lindsay Furniss, Carol Pennington.

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

**MATTERS ARISING:** All matters arising were covered by the agenda.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The income for the year to 31 January 2009 is £2,266.46 and expenditure is £3,420.21 which gives a deficit of £1,153.75 for the year. The closing bank balance is £1,707.42. Despite the fact that several traders coming into the area have joined the Chamber, this has been offset by traders who have ceased to trade and as a result membership is currently down to 75 which means that a deficit is inevitable for this year which will make it more difficult for the Chamber to support the Christmas Lights Committee financially. Barry pointed out that membership at Sheringham Chamber of Commerce was suffering in the same way. A suggestion that the membership fee could be increased was rejected. One area of expense that might be reduced in future was the replacement of the flower tubs which had been necessitated by vandalism last year.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Despite sterling efforts by Lynda, membership fees from some traders, who had promised to renew/join, had still not been forthcoming. It was felt that, where possible, payment by Standing Order should be encouraged in future. Caroline would also put an article in The Chronicle relating to the Chamber and its work. To keep approaches more personal, an initiative would be tried whereby committee members each approached up to five traders in their area who were not members, in the hope that this might be more fruitful and reduce the workload for Lynda.

**TOWN COUNCIL REPORT:** An **electronic touch-screen travel and local information point** will be erected near the millennium bus shelter. **The Holt Youth Project 'Health Hut'** is nearing completion and a Lottery funding application to support this has been submitted. **Church Street Toilet Site** – an offer has been made for this site by the Town Council. It is hoped that it will be possible to house a museum, the tourist office, and toilets on this site. A report will also be submitted re maintenance costs etc. **Holt Honours Awards** – members are invited to submit to the Town Council the names of anyone they would like to recommend for this award. Mark Bradley had sent a letter to the council suggesting that the **Holt Market** might be re-instated but there was no enthusiasm for this initiative among Chamber committee members at present. Letters of objection had been received regarding the move of **Thaxters** to Cley Road and the subsequent change of use. It was felt that if this was granted it should be restricted to this specific application or there might be a danger, in the future, that the site could be sold for the

development of a supermarket etc. The Chairman will send a letter from the Chamber expressing its concern over the possible permanent change of use for this site. There will be a meeting of the Holt Planning Group on 12 March at 1800 hrs at Old School House and Chamber members are encouraged to attend. **Thornage Road Car Park** – extreme frustration was expressed by the committee at the lack of progress on the car park and the Chairman will speak to Graham Chapman to ascertain his response to recent setbacks and the situation regarding the traffic census. **Holt Festival** – Rhu Bruce Lockhart outlined fundraising and expenditure projections for the Festival together with a report on possible artists. For bookings to be confirmed a pledge of a minimum of £20,000 needs to be in place by the end of February. Failing this, a ‘mini festival’ might be possible with reduced funding. A full range of sponsorship opportunities are available ranging from £10,000 (Festival Main Supporter) down to £250 (Friend).

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:** The committee is in place but still has no treasurer. A donation will be made this year to the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Possible funding initiatives are a treasure hunt and/or a summer draw. There is a possibility of a joint venture with the Community Centre whereby funds raised from a draw would be distributed 1/3 Community Centre and 2/3 the Christmas Lights. There will also be a collection on the night (buckets) – volunteers please! It has been agreed that there will be no generators this year. The photography competition has been very successful and provided useful publicity material. Alison Rose will continue for another year as a fundraiser.

**NORTH NORFOLK – SIMPLY OUTSTANDING:** No invitation to take part has been received for this one day event, which takes place at Gresham’s School on Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup> (this has replaced NNDC’s Day out in North Norfolk event). Caroline will make enquiries.

**NORTH NORFOLK BUSINESS FORUM – REVISION OF BUSINESS CHARGES:** There will now be no charge to join but charges will be levied for events or for an annual fee of £25, all events will be free.

**PLANNING CONSULTATION** – The Local Development Framework – 12 year plan has now been produced and can be seen on the North Norfolk District Council web-site. It was pointed out that there is scant reference to Holt in the website (produced by NNDC) [visitnorthnorfolk](http://www.visitnorthnorfolk.com). The Chamber was asked to give its responses to the booklet **Areas of Natural Beauty** produced by the Norfolk Coast Partnership. As the response deadline is the end of February, this will not be possible.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Discussion took place on **traders who had left the area and new businesses** moving into empty premises. Barry pointed out that the council had objected to an **advertising sign** on his premises, despite the fact that there was already a car parking sign on their wall. He also pointed out that Starlings, both in Holt and Sheringham had experienced several **break-ins** with collateral damage and very little seemed to be done about them. Even when **shoplifters** were apprehended and a compensation order made, the money was not subsequently forthcoming and they were not kept informed of what happened in court proceedings etc. The importance of reporting criminal activity to the Holt SaferNeighbourhood Team was pointed out so that the right areas could be targeted. Caroline pointed out that two **missing planters** from outside the Beanery have now been traced and will hopefully be returned shortly. Extra copies of the **members’ benefits** would be made available for those visiting potential members and a copy would also be printed on the back of the Chamber invoices. The possibility was discussed of the public being able to temporarily use the **Gresham’s Pre Prep School Car Park** in the summer school holidays. Despite some security issues, the possibility was not ruled out.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, 4 March at 1800 hrs at Byford’s Wine Bar.