

HOLT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TRADE

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 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
	Caroline Carter	The Holt Chronicle	712177
	Sandra Taylor-Meads	Bakers & Larners	713734
	Lynda Mossman	Past Caring	713771
	David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858

PRESENT: John Lintott, (Chairman), Alan Godfrey, (Treasurer), Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Duncan Baker, Rhu Bruce Lockhart, Caroline Carter, Alan Cook, Di Dann, Joshua Dyball, David Makinson, Lynda Mossman, Sandra Taylor-Meads, Rodney Smith, Beverley Thirkle.

APOLOGIES: Harriet Clayton-Gray, Lindsay Furniss, Linda Morris, Carol Pennington, Elaine and Nick Searle.

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: Income for the period 1 February to 28 February 2009 stood at £1,480 representing thirty-seven paid subscriptions and bank interest of 12p. Expenses amounted to £108 (one cheque for £30 unrepresented) leaving a closing balance of £60 in the current account and £3,049.66 on deposit.

MEMBERSHIP: A traders list from Sophie Jewry was analysed and, where possible, members present agreed to approach traders who had not joined the Chamber this year. The advantage of free advertising on the Chamber website will be emphasized to potential members.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: **Church Street Toilets** – the Town Council is in discussions with the District Council over the site and a business plan is now in place which justifies the use of the site as a community building. This draws on the findings of the Feasibility Study undertaken in July 2008. The business plan includes recommendations for use, the means of delivery, people involved with the project, costings and details of potential earnings (to cover the cost of the necessary loan). Di Dann emphasized the need to generate income from the building to offset costs and to avoid an increase in the precept. It is proposed that the site would house public toilets (accessible from outside) a Tourism Information Point, an Archive Centre and a permanent office for the Town Council. **Pigeons** – in response to complaints regarding the fouling of certain areas by pigeons, the local Pigeon Club have offered to assist any traders experiencing related problems. **Wooden Building Application on Cley Road** – it is likely that this planning application will be refused. **Albert Street Toilets** – the improvement works did not start until 23 February so they are unlikely to be completed by Easter. However, the temporary toilets will remain in place until the work is complete. **Litter Picking** – the next litter pick is scheduled for Tuesday, 31 March 2009. Anyone willing to help should meet outside the Community Centre at 1830 hrs.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Details of sponsors will shortly be published in the Holt Chronicle, and the Holt Times. A celebrity has been approached and £700 has already been raised for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. A full committee is in place and the photos produced for the Photography Competition will provide good publicity material. A licence has been obtained for the street bucket collections and the website is going from strength to strength. (www.holtchristmaslights.org) It was pointed out that there is a marked lack of support from most of the local banks, estate agents and charities. It is particularly difficult to get sponsorship where local managers do not have the authority to make a donation without reference to their corporate managers. It is proposed this year to re-think some of the lighting placements.

Hopefully it will be possible to place lights on the community centre. The opportunity for Alison Rose to commence fund-raising much earlier this year should prove beneficial.

NORTH NORFOLK SIMPLY OUTSTANDING EVENT – (26 March 2009) The Chamber will have a joint stand with the Holt Area Partnership and members are reminded that their leaflets can be displayed. (Please send as soon as possible to Caroline). Thanks were given to the volunteers who will help to man the stall on behalf of the Chamber.

HOLT FESTIVAL – Although fundraising has been a little disappointing, the necessary £22,000 has been raised which allows bookings to be confirmed and applications for grants are in place. Accurate expenditure projections are difficult but overheads will be considerable and it is also hoped that a proportion of the entertainment can be free although all performances will require a separate licence. All events must therefore be centrally co-ordinated. Thanks were expressed to Gresham's School for its support and use of the Auden Theatre for performances. Bookings confirmed include: The Gwilym Simcock Trio, Ace Dance and Music, Iain Burnside and Friends, Cantabile, Marie (an evocation of Marie Lloyd), Opera on the Run, a play and possibly the Theatre in the Woods for a last night gig. Additional sponsors are still needed and much help will be needed in the running of the festival – in particular – someone to field enquiries and monitor the mailbox, a Sponsorship Relations Manager, A Box Office Manager, a Website Developer, and a Fringe/Outreach Manager. All venues, where possible, have now been booked for the relevant dates. Members are also reminded that considerable publicity opportunities are available for sponsors.

THORNAGE ROAD CAR PARK - John has spoken to Graham Chapman who is still willing to carry on and has produced a business plan to take to the District Council. Graham is also looking into exactly what is required for the traffic assessment.

LOTTERY FEE – it was agreed that this would be paid.

HOLT PLANNING GROUP – Two specialist urban planners spoke at the recent meeting with initial ideas for improvements in Holt. The general feedback from those attending was positive and although funding will be a problem it is felt important that a 'town plan' should be led by a consensus of opinion from local residents and traders rather than imposition from 'above'. The point was also made that Holt has been predominantly designed for the car user rather than the pedestrian. The Chamber expressed its support for the production by the group, in consultation with the Town Council, of an initial plan of achievable proposals for the town.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Please note there will be **NO** general committee meeting in April but all members are warmly invited to the AGM on 22 April 2009 at 1800 hrs at Byfords Wine Bar. If anyone would like to join the committee, please contact John before the AGM. The committee members present expressed their willingness to stand again and Duncan Baker was 'persuaded' that he would also like to join the committee! In addition, the committee wished to express its thanks to Chris Harrison who has resigned from the committee for the various roles he had undertaken in the past for the Chamber and for his support as a committee member. John agreed to contact Graham Chapman to see if he would be willing to come to the AGM.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Discussion took place on **new businesses** moving into the town and the premises that are now unoccupied. **Threatening Behaviour** – There was an unpleasant incident recently in New Street where youths threatened a member of the public and pursued his car up the road. Starlings have experienced another incident where their papers have been set alight and the police are aware that a 'gang' is currently causing problems in the area. Members are reminded to report all incidents to the Holt Safer Neighbourhood Group so that incident 'hot-spots' can be identified.

REMINDER – no committee meeting in April – Annual General Meeting on 22 April at Byfords.