

HOLT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TRADE

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2007 in the Feathers Hotel at 1800 hrs.

Committee:	John Lintott (Chairman)	Hayes & Storr	712835
	Alan Godfrey (Treasurer)	Gresham's School	714503
	Chris Harrison	Bircham Gallery	713312
	Charles Butler	Butler's Pantry	711867
	Caroline Carter	The Holt Chronicle	712177
	Sandra Taylor-Meads	Bakers & Larners	713734
	Lynda Mossman	Past Caring	713771
	Heather Ward	Silk Connections	711444
	David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858

PRESENT: John Lintott (Chairman), Lindsay Furniss, Josh Dyball, Heather Ward, Lynda Mossman, Harriet Clayton-Gray, Nick Searle, David Makinson, Mike Baker, Charles Butler, Chris Harrison, Caroline Carter and Sandra Taylor-Meads.

Esme Bagnall-Oakeley (Chairman of the Holt Festive Lights Committee) and Di Dann (Town Clerk) were in attendance.

The Chairman advised that Lesley was progressing after surgery.

APOLOGIES were received from Alan Godfrey, Mark Humberstone, Terry Hurlock, Carol Pennington, Linda Morris

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

MATTERS ARISING The Chairman advised that he had attended the Town Council Meeting on 11th November. It had been well attended and Cllr Simon Partridge, Leader of NNDC had answered questions relating to the closure of the Church Street Toilet site. He had advised that this property was owned by NNDC and they would be progressing its disposal. The Chamber had questioned the lack of investment in Holt by NNDC since 1993. This had been acknowledged by Simon Partridge and attributed to the community "helping itself".

CORRESPONDENCE The Chairman advised that following the October meeting, he had written to Ian Doughty of the North Norfolk Business Forum to advise that the Chamber would not be taking up membership. A letter had also been written to Ted Hewitt, a member of the PCC, advising that the Chamber could not support road closure, other than Church Street, over Great Fire week end. The Chairman had also written to NNDC in support of the planning application for the new car park in Thornage Road and opposing the NNDC application for a dwelling on the old toilet site in Church Street. It was noted that the Town Council would consider these applications at their meeting on 10th December. The car park application was likely to go to a joint planning committee meeting to be held on 31st January after a site visit in the middle of January. The Chairman advised that he had received a copy letter from M Jolliffe concerning alternative sites for the car park. It was noted that alternative sites had been explored since 1993 and had each been rejected for various reasons. The Chairman had also written to Terry Hurlock thanking him for his great efforts as Treasurer for the Chamber.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS Members present gave useful feedback concerning the switch-on event. Esme presented an overview of the activities of the Festive Lights Committee. She advised the winners of the competitions (Shield for exterior lights and for window display). The first was won by Bakers in Lion House Court with Art-e-fax and Old School House highly commended. The window display was won by Holt Travel and La Maison. Highly commended - Bircham Art Gallery, Glo-Glo and Ginger Rose. The judges,

Jean Corbett Jarvis, Charlotte Crawley and Adel McNicol had had a difficult task. Esme was thanked for her efforts by the Chairman who also asked that thanks be extended to all Committee members, and Steph and Sarah from Mark Elliott. There would be another meeting of the Committee shortly to plan for 2008. The main points noted concerning the event would be taken on board by the Committee:- Stalls were not reflective of Holt; too many generators; acoustics did not work; Chapel yard and Lees yard no music and dark; committee should have Yard representatives; Apple yard disappointing attendance; lights need to go on all at once. There was a proposal put forward for the Committee to consider the switch-on to be preceded by fireworks or church bells. The Events Manager needs to be passionate about Holt. Nigel Pearce and Sally Hardingham had received £1500 for their work.

TREASURER'S REPORT Alan Godfrey had prepared a statement of Accounts for the period from 1st February to 30th November, 2007. This was noted. There was a closing balance of £2149.31. (Current) £ 33.05 (Deposit)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT Caroline had been assisting in this role. Lynda offered to become Membership Secretary which was welcomed. There was an aim to have 25 new members in 2008. There was a brief discussion and agreement to raise the annual membership fee to £40.00

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT Di Dann, in the absence of Howard Heathfield who was away, advised that letters would shortly be circulated to businesses concerning the Great Fire Event. It was hoped to publish a town leaflet and advertising in this was invited together with sponsors for the floral exhibition in the Church.

WEDGE A loyalty card scheme, based in London, had invited John and Mike to attend the local launch. Cards for scheme members would need to be purchased for £10. It was generally felt that there would be no benefit in this for Holt.

LOTTERY REGISTRATION Renewal was required costing £17.50. It was agreed this should be done.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS Caroline advised members about the Chamber tree in the forthcoming Christmas Tree Festival. This was being held in St Andrews Church from 14th December to 19th December.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th January, 2008 at 6.00pm. It was agreed to take up Mark's kind offer to meet in the cellar at Byfords. The Feathers would be used for some meetings. The boardroom had been too small for the numbers attending. Meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.