

HOLT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TRADE

Minutes of the Meeting held at Byfords Wine Bar on 5 November 2008 at 1800 hours.

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	Budgens	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, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, David Makinson, Lynda Mossman, Carol Pennington, Rodney Smith, Sandra Taylor-Meads, Tony Brittan (Part)

APOLOGIES: Harriet Clayton-Grey, Stephen Davies, Chris Harrison, Jonathan Henry, Paul Laurie, Linda Morris, Nik Searle, Heather Ward, Clare Wheeler

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

MATTERS ARISING: The Committee was informed that unfortunately Heather Ward of Silk Connections would be leaving the Chamber as she had ceased to trade. John Lintott would write a letter of thanks on behalf of the Chamber for all her hard work. Volunteers to join the Committee would be welcomed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There are currently 73 members of the Chamber. 24 members still need to pay their subscriptions and this will be followed up. New members would be welcomed. The Closing Balance at 31 October 2008 stood at £3,180.23. A £1,000 donation by the Chamber to the Holt Lights was approved and a cheque was given to Esme Bagnall-Oakeley.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: 'No. 28' was welcomed as a new member of the Chamber.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: Rhu Bruce Lockhart apologised for being unable to attend the last two meetings. He reported that the budget had been agreed and that he had applied for additional funds for the lights, but without success.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Esme Bagnall-Oakeley expressed thanks to Duncan Baker, Di Dann and Sarah Tribe of the Lights Committee for all their hard work. Duncan Baker in turn thanked Esme on behalf of the Chamber. Details were confirmed as follows:

The lights will be switched on by Emma Bridgewater and Matthew Rice on Wednesday 26th November. Work by the lighting contractors will start shortly. New lights have been purchased for the Methodist Church. Nick Watkins has worked to improve the amplification on stage. All shops are encouraged to participate in the Georgian costume dress theme. Roads leading into Holt will be closed from 4.30pm and Di Dann is organising road closure/barriers/manning. A "Park and Ride" will operate from North Norfolk Railway with buses running at regular intervals.

Joshua Dyball has set up a website for the Lights to publicise information regarding the night. This has been successful in reducing telephone enquiries and is updated on a regular basis. The Chamber thanked Josh for operating this website on a voluntary basis. Esme requested that all businesses return their green Holt Christmas Lights form regarding business involvement to Anny Hare at Mark Elliott ASAP.

Rodney Smith said that the Photographers Gallery would be running a photographic competition. This would be judged by David Tipling and Andrew Midgley. The prize will be a bottle of champagne. The right to use the chosen photographs for future Lights publicity will be retained.

Carol Pennington of the Last Picture Show said that they would be promoting the area around Peacock Lane as Peacock Corner, from now on.

Great efforts have been taken to promote all areas of the town. Duncan Baker will publish a list of the entertainment taking place on the night, on the website, and “acts” will visit all the Yards, including bagpipes, the Town Crier and jugglers. The churches will be open from 5pm. North Norfolk Radio will do a live broadcast. The Greshams’ choirs will be singing in the Yards. On stage, there will be performances from the Cromer Pier team, the First Academy of Dancers and the Singing Farmer. A fire engine and busker will be situated near Mark Elliott, the climbing wall on Shirehall Plain and the flight simulator and snowman outside Sarti. Mother Christmas will be sitting in a car provided by Thurlow Nunn. Appleyard will have a jazz band and stilt walking.

Esme suggested that flashing novelties could be situated in Chapel Yard or Lees Yard. It was decided that they would be positioned in Chapel Yard. Lee Chilcott will also have flashing novelties in the Community Centre.

Collecting boxes for the Holt Lights in aid of this year’s charity, East Anglian Air Ambulance have been circulated by Lindsay Furniss. These will be collected by LF and Carol Pennington in the second week in January. LF requested that any business who would like a collecting box and has not yet received one, contact her on 01263 711500.

John Lintott will confirm the fundraising position with Alison Rose.

THORNAGE ROAD CAR PARK: A transport assessment, requested by the Council, has still to be arranged.

HOLT TOWN GUIDE: Sophie Jewery apologised for the delay in submitting a proof to the Chamber. She will send the proof to John Lintott shortly for distribution. JL will ask Sophie about anticipated print date.

Rhu Bruce-Lockhart showed the Chamber prints of paintings of areas of the town which he had commissioned. He suggested these could be used to publicise those areas of the town and incorporated into a map. Each area of the town would need to share the cost of production which was estimated at £1500. He suggested that a representative from each area should be appointed in order to coordinate this.

HOLT FESTIVAL: Tony Brittan presented proposals for the Holt Festival. He runs a film company and has extensive involvement in the music and art world. Derek Purnell has a dance background and was Director of the Birmingham Royal Ballet. Both Tony and Derek are happy to use their expertise and contacts to create a Holt Festival, but require voluntary help for administration, finance etc.

The aim is to create a Festival to promote the arts, dance and music in Holt, but to complement, rather than compete with other more music based festivals in the area. The offering should be primarily professional standard acts, but there may be a few amateur additions. The timing, immediately before the Edinburgh Festival, should be beneficial – performers would appreciate a “dry run” and should therefore offer performances of a highly professional standard at a reduced rate. It is proposed that the Festival should incorporate drama (eg Ibsen’s Dolls House), One Man Shows (eg Elizabeth Mansfield), Comedy, Dance (eg Ballet Boys), Music, Jazz, Chamber Music, Art (eg Pop Art Bus/Bircham Gallery), Outdoor Screenings, Literature, Cooking, Fireworks etc. All ideas welcomed.

It is estimated that the Festival will cost £55,000 to produce. Derek Purnell will apply to North Norfolk District Council and the Arts Council for £20,000 ticket sales should generate £15,000 leaving a shortfall of £20,000 to be provided by sponsorship. In order to hold the first Festival in August 2009, sponsorship needs to be in place by January. It is hoped that local businesses/individuals will provide this sponsorship. Costs will include payment for acts (£1,000-£1500 approx each), food/accommodation for acts etc. Other areas for consideration are parking/transport, ticket sales (Alan Godfrey to approach Paul Hands regarding the help of the Auden Theatre Box Office). There will be up front expenses. Rhu Bruce Lockhart said that the financing would require careful planning.

It is proposed that the Festival is set up as a Community Interest Company initially. This will require directors, but will provide a VAT no. etc. The Festival could then apply for charitable status at a later date. John Lintott offered Hayes & Storr’s assistance for the legal aspects. Individuals providing donations could do so using Gift Aid. Accountancy support and advice will be required.

The Festival will be Holt based, using the Community Centre (perhaps for stand up acts), the churches (brass bands). It will use the Auden Theatre and perhaps the Theatre in the Woods. The Festival has provisionally booked the first week in August at the Auden Theatre at a cost of £1,000. The experience of the Arts of Greshams magazine for publicity purposes would also be appreciated.

Tony Brittan emphasised that the Holt Festival is for the town and requires the support of the town for its success.

CROMER ROAD: The view was expressed that parking at the junction of the Kelling Road with the Cromer Road was causing a hazard due to reduced visibility. It has been proposed that the yellow lines should be extended here for this reason. Mike Baker raised the point that extending the yellow lines would reduce the parking available for shoppers in the town. Alan Godfrey expressed Gresham's view that the extension of yellow lines on the Cromer Road should be supported on safety grounds. Lindsay Furniss supported this safety issue.

HOLT SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETING: This was attended by the Community Safety Officer. Issues covered included parking, lighting, anti-social behaviour. Alan Godfrey attended the last meeting and expressed the view that there were not enough real issues for the town on the Agenda. John Lintott will liaise with the Community Safety Officer, PCSO Cassie Doubleday. Rhu Bruce Lockhart suggested that a meeting should be organised with himself, Mike Baker and Ian Wilson to discuss this further. The next meeting of the Holt Safer Neighbourhood will be at the Holt Youth Centre.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

John Lintott sent a message of support in September to Sheringham Chamber of Commerce on their victory over Tesco.

Duncan Baker said that he hoped the Holt Round Table would be able to organise a beer festival. Funds raised from this would be donated to the Holt Community Centre.

Rhu Bruce Lockhart would report back on the progress of the Holt Town Centre Planning Group.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 3rd December 2008 at Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hours.