

HOLT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TRADE

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 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), Duncan Baker, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Di Dann, Mark Humberstone, Rodney Smith, Duncan Wardale, Rhu Bruce-Lockhart.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Joshua Dyball, Linda l'Anson, Lynda Mossman, Carol Pennington, Sandra Taylor-Meads.

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

MATTERS ARISING: Caroline pointed out that there had been a very good attendance at the 'Simply Outstanding' event but unfortunately only two traders had sent publicity material to be displayed. This had been a missed opportunity for promoting local businesses.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Income for the period 1 February 2009 to 23 April 2009 stood at £1,970.52 (49 subscriptions plus one donation, and interest) against expenses of £187.99. The closing bank balance at 6 May 2009 was £3,490.07

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Two new traders had joined this month and members had been actively encouraging other traders to join with some further promises of membership. Difficulties had, however, been faced by members as the staff manning the local premises were often not the actual owners and therefore did not have the authority to make financial decisions. As the additional parking places at Gresham's School will not be available in the near future, it was agreed to remove reference to them on the promotional handout for the time being.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: The improvements to Albert Street toilets should be completed by the end of May and Franklin's Yard is being re-surfaced. A verbal complaint had been received relating to the ice-cream vendor outside Barclays Bank. The general feeling of the Chamber members at the meeting was that this could set an unwanted precedent but as the trader who complained is not a member, it was not felt that we could take any action on their behalf at present.

HOLT FESTIVAL UP-DATE: Members were provided with a programme up-date. Response to grant applications had been disappointing which may restrict the amount of 'free' entertainment that can be provided. The Elkie Brooks concert, however, is being underwritten by Mike Baker and can, therefore, go ahead. The website is now live (www.holtfestival.org) and this gives full details of events, sponsors and ticket prices. Susannah Thompson and Luke

Scott will co-ordinate events in the town centre. Brochures and leaflets will be circulated from the end of May and posters will start to be displayed in the near future. Tickets can be purchased by telephone, in person from the Box Office (based at Cockertons) or via email.

THORNAGE ROAD CAR PARK UP-DATE: The developer Graham Chapman, is still up-beat and the traffic assessment, which is the next step, should take place at the end of May/beginning June.

BUSINESS OPENING AND CLOSING: Discussion took place on various traders coming into the area, including the re-fit of the King's Head, the re-opening of The Railway Tavern and of Meadow Dairies.

SHOP RENTS: An article in the EDP had pointed out that local landlords had been forced to reduce shop rents considerably due to the 'credit crunch'. It was felt that rents would probably find their own level according to the prevailing local conditions.

PLANTERS: These will be re-planted towards the end of May and once again will be watered twice a week by Council staff. Local traders are asked to look out for any planters near their premises during really dry periods when, of course, they could dry out before the next watering session was due. The missing planter outside Brown & Co will be replaced.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: The Round Table Charity Beer Festival will go ahead at the Community Centre on 16/17 October 2009. All profits will be donated to the Community Centre. Entertainment will be provided and in addition to beer, wine and cider will be sold. They are hoping to provide 15 real ales and businesses are invited to sponsor a barrel of beer at a cost of £65. **Holt Planning Group** had a positive meeting with Steve Blatch and Mark Ashwell and it is hoped that a working party can be set up in the near future. **Byfords** would like to re-plant the Norwich Road roundabout and the Town Council clerk will check that NNDC would still be willing to continue to maintain it. The re-planting is unlikely to take place before the autumn. Congratulations were also given to Byfords for their recent success in the '**Enjoy England Awards for Excellence 2009**' where they were the **Silver Winner** in the Best Bed and Breakfast section. **Holt Conservation Area** will present a long-running and detailed public exhibition of their proposals in the library and in the community centre in autumn 2009.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held at Byfords Wine Bar on 3 June 2009 at 1800 hrs.