

HOLT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TRADE

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 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), Alan Godfrey (Treasurer), Chris Harrison, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Sandra Taylor-Meads, David Makinson, Nick Searle, Mark Humbertstone and Di Dann.

APOLOGIES were received from Carol Pennington, Heather Ward, Lynda Mossman, Terry Hurlock and Linda Morris

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

MATTERS ARISING: Sheringham Offshore Windfarm: The proposed presentation by Scira is no longer proceeding.

The Holt Guide: John has advised Sophie Jewry that the Chamber is happy for her to approach all businesses in the town with a view to publishing a Guide. She responded by indicating that members would receive a discount.

NORTH NORFOLK BUSINESS FORUM: Ian Doughty the chairman of the Forum was welcomed to the meeting and invited to explain to us the benefits of joining. He gave details of the background of its formation and what it had been doing over the last eighteen months. It was independent and could assist with securing funding. Also it could assist with networking, services and access to information and also with Business Link. It was proposing to charge £25 per member. However, it was prepared to charge £250 to the Chamber which would then provide free membership to all Chamber members. One of the benefits of joining is that vouchers worth £100 would be offered to each member who joined. At present there were about 300 members. Committee members raised a number of questions as to how the Forum would benefit their businesses. Ian was thanked for his presentation. He then left the meeting and there was a further discussion on whether the Chamber should join the Forum for the fee of £250. The committee decided not to do so and it was left for individual members to join if they chose.

GREAT FIRE OF HOLT: Di Dann reported that the evening presentation on the 29th October had been a 'sell-out'. The event had been both very informative and enjoyable and had generated £286 profit, which will go towards the Commemoration Board to be erected in Shirehall Plain. It is very much hoped that people attending the event, from the 1st to the 5th May 2008, will dress up in Georgian or Victorian clothing. There may be a further presentation before the event next year.

A letter was received from Edward Hewitt, who is a member of the Street Games sub-committee, who enquired what the Chamber's views would be about the proposal to close the Market Place on Saturday the 3rd May when games would take place. The committee members were not happy with this as it was during a bank holiday weekend and suggested that the games may be better situated up Church Street.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Esme Bagnall-Oakeley was welcomed to the meeting and gave a detailed report of progress so far. Promises of funds had been very encouraging. Now collection was taking place. Many events had been arranged for the evening and she felt confident that it should be a great success. She and her committee were thanked very much for their effort to date.

TREASURER'S REPORT: It was hoped that Terry Hurlock would be present to receive our thanks for his hard work over the last few years for the Chamber. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend but the committee wished to record its great appreciation of what he had done and wished him well for the future.

Alan Godfrey produced up to date figures of the accounts. The £1,000 has been paid over to the Christmas Lights Committee. There was a closing balance of £2,582.40

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Following the resignation of Julie Smith, a successor is urgently required for this very important position. If any one would like to assist would they please get in touch with John. In the meantime, Caroline is assisting with this.

HOLT CAR PARK: John had spoken recently to Graham Chapman. It is hoped that his planning application for the access to the new car park will be dealt with and approved at the planning committee meeting in December. It was vitally important that all traders in the town, whether they are members of the Chamber or not, write to the District Council in support of the application. It must not be assumed that permission will be granted as a formality. It was agreed to give all members guidance with their letters. (Please see planning information at the end of these minutes)

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: Di Dann, in the absence of Howard Heathfield who was away, reminded the committee that there was a town council meeting on Monday the 12th November to be attended by Simon Partridge, Leader of the North Norfolk District Council. He has confirmed that he will only respond to written questions. A number have been received. This meeting has been well publicised and it was hoped that traders would attend to show their concerns about the proposed demolition of the toilets and that they would oppose the planning application for a residential property. It is believed that the NNDC is determined to go ahead with development of the site for residential purposes and if this cannot be halted then the Holt community must demand that it receives a very substantial share of the development proceeds. **(Please see planning information at the end of these minutes)**

NORTH NORFOLK LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: A letter was received from Cllr. Michael Baker in which he requested the North Norfolk District Council to reduce the maximum percentage of non-retail uses in the Market Place and High Street of Holt from 30 to 25. The committee agreed with his request and it was agreed to write to him in support.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: John reported on a presentation to which he was invited to hand over the keys of an equipped Ford Focus Estate to the Holt and Communities First Response Team. He had been immensely impressed with the responsibility and dedication that this team of volunteers shows.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 December at 6.00pm in the boardroom upstairs at The Feathers Hotel. This being our last meeting before Christmas, the committee have organised wine and nibbles and would be delighted to see members attend.

PLANNING MATTERS

The following planning applications have now been received by the Town Council and will be considered at their December meeting (Monday 10th December at 7.00 p.m. in the Community Centre). The Town Council comments are then forwarded to the District Council Planning Committee who has the final say in all planning matters.

A) Ref 20071747 Erection of 2 storey dwelling Public Conveniences Church Street. North Norfolk District Council.

Planning Officer: Mr M Gannon

Planning Reasons (of objection):

- The Highways Officer has raised no objection to this application stating that the road is a cul-de-sac serving only the prep school and the church. Both of these organisations generate considerable traffic movement, and there are other vehicles which of necessity need to park in this area e.g. funeral vehicles and vehicles servicing the library. Therefore we raise objections to the application on the grounds of unacceptable vehicular access.
- Part demolition of wall in conservation area
- This is a non residential area of the town, in which buildings are of a utilitarian nature.
- The proposal is not in keeping with the neighbouring properties and sited, as it is, within the heart of the conservation area of this historic town is incongruous.

B) Ref 20050518 PF Change of use of land to Car Park and formation of vehicular access, Thornage Road.

Planning Officer: Mr G Linder

Planning Reasons (of support):

- Reduce congestion caused by visitors searching for spaces
- Insufficient parking, as is at present, is significantly detrimental to the vitality and viability of the Town Centre
- The proposal is well related to the local highway network with easy access to all routes and would not generate additional traffic in already congested areas
- The application does not prejudice highway safety
- The application has no significant detrimental effect upon the appearance or character of the townscape

c) Ref 20071748 PF Erection of Extension Public Conveniences, Albert Street

Planning Officer: Mr G Linder

ALL MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO WRITE LETTERS OF OBJECTION FOR PLANNING APPLICATION (A) STATING ONE OR MORE PLANNING REASONS

ALSO PLEASE WRITE LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR PLANNING APPLICATION (B) AGAIN STATING ONE OR MORE PLANNING REASONS. LETTERS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO THE PLANNING OFFICER NOTED AND SENT TO: North Norfolk District Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN

e mail planning@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Letters can also be written to our North Norfolk District Cllrs (Cllr M Baker and Cllr P High) at the NNDC address; Cllr H Cordeaux, Chairman of the Planning Committee at the NNDC address.

The Town Council welcomes copies of all letters written concerning planning applications to help in its decision making.