

HOLT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TRADE

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 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), Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Duncan Baker, Rhu Bruce Lockhart, Di Dann (Town Clerk), Joshua Dyball, Mark Humberstone, Chris Lambert, David Makinson, Lynda Mossman, Rodney Smith, Sandra Taylor-Meads, Sarah Tribe.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Lindsay Furniss.

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

MATTERS ARISING: The planters had been prepared for autumn but the money owing for the planter which was moved has still not been forthcoming. The planter will therefore be moved back to its rightful place.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Seventy-two members have now paid their subscriptions of £40 which together with donations and interest makes an income for the period 1 February to 30 September 2009 of £2,951.13. Expenditure for the same period stands at £1,950.30. The closing balance for the period stands at £3,657.93 of which £3,577.93 is on deposit.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: The only new member this month is Brian Sullivan who is Manager to both the Holt and Holkham retail branches of Adnams. Lynda queried the fact that despite ongoing efforts which had enlisted 30 new members, our membership still seems to stay at approximately the same total. The treasurer pointed out that unfortunately we were still awaiting payment from 16 current members and if they do not pay they are removed from the membership list so redressing the balance downwards once more. Members will, in future, be encouraged to pay by direct debit and it is hoped that an article can be placed in The Chronicle once more stating the advantages of membership, the aims of the Chamber, what it has achieved, and the membership list.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT: Ninety-six members of the public turned up to object to proposal H15 for the building of 120 houses at the bottom of Cromer Road citing potential problems with traffic, sewerage and the distance from town. Subsequently, after a re-vote, (8 for, 1 against and 1 abstention) it was decided to withdraw support for this proposal and give support to the Brown Site proposals H9/12/21 (land at Heath Farm/Hempstead Road). Some Chamber members present felt that this was unfortunate as there were undoubtedly other members of the public who supported the original proposal but were not present to make their feelings known.

The recent litter pick was successful and fortunately the problem of litter had lessened but there is a problem on the private land outside the premises previously occupied by Grovelands. Young people tend to meet here in the evenings which may be exacerbating the problem.

Spouts Common volunteers were congratulated on their work at the Common which has resulted in a Bio Diversity Award. Congratulations were also expressed for the recent EDP Pride in Norfolk under 5000

population Community Award presented to Holt and the Lottery Award of £388,700 won by the Holt Youth Project.

HOLT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Esme distributed a printed summary of arrangements and plans. The charity collection boxes are in place and the Christmas trees have been ordered. There will be a short (3 mins) firework display to music from Gresham's Pre Prep field as the lights are switched on. The Chamber agreed to donate £1,250 as last year and Di will speak to Rodney and Carol re the siting of the barriers at the east end of the town. Full details of arrangements for the Holt Christmas Lights Evening can be found on www.holtchristmaslights.org.

HOLT FESTIVAL: Annual sponsorship of £28,000 is now in place through the Board of Trustees which enables arrangements to be made well in advance and plans are already being made for the 2010 programme. Next year's Festival will run from 1-7 August. It is hoped that more flexible arrangements can be made for sponsors in future so that they can support several different events and have more choice on publicity options. Also it is aimed to offer concessions to under 18s, over 75s, and volunteers, and to expand the range of events for young people.

WEBSITE: Possible developments include a photo gallery of events, stronger linking to other websites and a blog. A new name for the website was considered and it is hoped that the website can be more effectively used as a marketing tool to encourage new members. Joshua will present a costing for developing the website, at the next meeting.

HOLT CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: It was agreed that the Chamber would decorate a tree for this years event.

HOLT PLANNING GROUP: Unfortunately financial support has been refused by the NNDC to implement improvements. Rhu will lobby them further.

THORNGAGE ROAD CAR PARK: John has spoken to Graham Chapman who remains positive regarding progress.

BUSINESSES OPENING AND CLOSING: Bakers and Larners are opening a Raleigh Cycle Life Centre which will offer both a retail and repair facility. Mini Milou Baby Boutique will be opening soon in Appleyard and a butchers has taken over the Sausage Shop premises in Bull Street.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: John has written to Dick Copas to congratulate the **Holt Youth Project** on their recent **Lottery Award**. The Holt Society are holding a '**Keep Holt Special**' launch party on 20 October at Greshams at 1830 hrs. The first event at the **Community Centre cinema** was very successful. Members are encouraged to support this initiative. **Beer Festival** – 16/17 October. There will be 15 different real ales on offer plus other refreshments, and a jazz band on Friday night. The Holt Area Conservation document will be reviewed due to some incorrect data but it is likely that the **conservation areas in Holt** will be reduced and the Town Council are against this proposal. The **defibrillator** is now in place at Budgens. Traders are warned that when business premises receive their five-yearly **rateable value assessments**, there are indications that these may be increased by 35-40% despite the current recession. **Chris Lambert** of Smith and Pinching is running a **tombola** in aid of the **East Anglian Ambulance** and would be grateful for the donation of any prizes. These can be taken to their offices or he will collect if you wish.

NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 4 November 2009 at 1800 hrs in Byfords Cellar Bar.