

HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 March 2010 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-Meeds	Budgens	713734
	Lynda Mossman (Membership Sec)	Past Caring	713771
	David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858

Before the Annual General Meeting Mary Alexander spoke about the special identity enjoyed by Holt as a Georgian town with special reference to the sense of proportion and building materials used in many of its original buildings and the need to preserve its identity and character.

PRESENT: John Lintott (Chairman), Alan Godfrey (Treasurer), James Adcock, Mary Alexander, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Di Dann (Town Clerk), Joshua Dyball, Lindsay Furniss, Philip High, Mark Humberstone, Chris Lambert, Rhu Bruce Lockhart, David Makinson, Ray Moore, Sarah Petegree, Paul Rogers, Rachael Strange.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Duncan Baker, James Glennie, Linda L'Anson, Kay Loombe, Harry Morshuis, Carol Pennington, Rodney Smith, Sandra Taylor-Meeds, Clare Wheeler.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: John Lintott outlined the year's activities and pointed out that despite having the threat of a serious recession and an outbreak of swine flu hanging over the nation there had been much to celebrate in Holt. After much hard work, and a last minute improvement in the weather, the Holt Summer Festival was very successful. An organizer, committee and most of the programme are already in place for 2010 and the event is now on a much sounder financial footing. Equally the Christmas Lights Committee responded to feedback offered and excelled themselves once again on the night. Thanks were given to Esme, Alison and all the Lights Committee members. Both events were very well attended and John thanked all those who had worked so hard to ensure their success. Despite numerous hurdles real progress has been made towards the provision of a car park on Thornage Road. Again thanks to Graham Chapman and everyone who has supported the initiative over the years. Hopefully a judicial review will not be applied for at the last minute and work will soon be able to commence on its construction. The first Beer Festival was equally successful and raised funds for the Community Centre. Thanks go to Duncan Baker and his team. Equal effort had been expended to find funding to support long term visioning for Holt and thanks were expressed to Rhu Bruce Lockhart for his sterling energy in pushing forward the initiative with the support of the Town

Council. Thanks were also given to Howard Heathfield for voluntarily running our website and to Joshua Dyball for taking on the task of re-designing the same. After overcoming problems with restrictive clauses, progress can now finally be made on re-opening the Church Street toilets – hopefully in about two months' time. Heavy snow at Christmas inevitably caused major accessibility problems for Holt and ways are being discussed to prevent a re-occurrence of the risk to the safety of pedestrians and drivers. Though it had been an up-hill battle, Lynda Mossman, together with other members of the Chamber, had worked hard to promote membership of the Chamber and thanks were given to everyone for their efforts and to the committee for their support.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Alan Godfrey gave a full and useful analysis of the accounts both for the present period and as a comparison to the figures for 2008-2009. Expenditure over the past year had largely consisted of a donation to the Christmas Lights, secretarial expenses, and costs in maintaining and planting out the planters in the High Street. The total income to date for the current year stands at £2,445.19 with expenses of £418.00. The closing balance in the bank is £4,107.97. Thanks were given to Byfords for the use of the cellar for meetings and the provision of refreshments, and to Hayes and Storr and Gresham's School, who cover the major part of stationery costs.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE: All members of the committee were willing to stand for re-election. The committee was re-elected en bloc - proposed by Alan Godfrey and seconded by Caroline Carter. John Lintott, however, reminded those present that he was only acting as a 'caretaker' chairman until a replacement could be found. Joshua Dyball was also elected on to the committee – again proposed by Alan Godfrey and seconded by Caroline Carter.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Philip High up-dated those present on the situation regarding the Thornage Road car park and pointed out that the possibility of a judicial review would expire on 23 April 2010. Reference was also made to the improvements made to the Albert Street toilets. Members were asked to support the War Memorial Appeal. Feedback from the 'Winter Action Group' will be given at the next meeting.

At the end of the meeting Joshua Dyball showed the members two options for the re-designed Chamber logo and spoke of the decisions to be made before any more progress could take place on the re-designed website. It was decided to drop the idea of a forum at present and that Caroline would act as a 'go-between' to decide on any presentation issues on the website where a committee decision at the next meeting would cause an unnecessary delay.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next committee meeting would take place on Wednesday 5 May 2010 at Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.