

**LARGER PRINT COPY AVAILABLE
PLEASE TELEPHONE: 01493 846325**

HOUSING APPEALS COMMITTEE

To be held in the Supper Room, Town Hall, Great Yarmouth
on Wednesday, 16 January 2008 at 10.00 am

A G E N D A

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

You have a PERSONAL INTEREST in a matter being discussed at a meeting IF

- It relates to something on your Register of Interests form; or
- A decision on it would affect you, your family or friends more than other people in your Ward.

You have a PREJUDICIAL INTEREST in a matter being discussed at a meeting IF

- It affects your financial position or that of your family or friends more than other people in your Ward; or
- It concerns a planning or licensing application you or they have submitted
- AND IN EITHER CASE a reasonable member of the public would consider it to be so significant that you could not reach an unbiased decision.

If your interest is only PERSONAL, you must declare it but can still speak and vote. If your interest is PREJUDICIAL, you must leave the room. However, you have the same rights as a member of the public to address the meeting before leaving.

1. MINUTES

... To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2007 (pages 1 - 3).

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

In the event of the Committee wishing to exclude the public from the meeting, the following resolution will be moved:-

“That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 Part I of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act.”

***3. APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF MUTUAL EXCHANGE**

. . . The Area Housing Manager's report and associated documentation is attached (pages 4 - 13 , green paper).

***4. APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENT**

. . . The Appeals and Policy Team Manager's report and associated documentation is attached (pages 14 – 116, green paper).

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HOUSING APPEALS COMMITTEE

14 November 2007 - 10.00 am

PRESENT:

Councillor Cook (Chairman); Councillors Ames, Blyth, Burroughs, M Coleman, Easter, Field, B Taylor, D Thompson and Weymouth.

Mr G Devon (Area Housing Manager) and Mrs C Webb (Member Services Officer).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cunniffe and Jeal.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2007 were confirmed.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12(a) of the said Act.

3. APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF MUTUAL EXCHANGE

The Committee received the Area Housing Manager's report and letters of appeal relating to an application for a mutual exchange. Members were informed that the application had been refused, as the move would result in under-occupancy of one of the properties and would not agree with the recommendation of the Council's independent medical advisor.

The Area Housing Manager explained the circumstances of the case and reported that the decision had been taken in line with Council procedures for dealing with such cases and was consistent with Homeselect policy.

Members of the Committee considered all the information that was available to them. A vote subsequently took place in favour of upholding the Area Housing Manager's decision, the reasons being that it was in line with Council policy and to ensure consistency of future decision.

RESOLVED:

That the Area Housing Manager's decision to refuse the application for a mutual exchange be upheld.

4. APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF EXCHANGE

The Committee received the Area Housing Manager's report, letters of appeal and supporting letters. Members were informed that the application had been refused, as one of the parties would under-occupy a three bedroom property. The Area Housing Manager explained the circumstances of the case and reported that the decision had been taken in line with Council procedures for dealing with such cases and was also consistent with Homeselect policy.

A lengthy discussion ensued in respect of the tenants of the house whose daughter had learning difficulties. A supporting letter had been received from the John Grant School.

Members sympathised with the applicant's case and recognised the importance of the provision of a garden area for the child with learning difficulties. They discussed the merits of the applicant applying through the Homeselect process but agreed that the timescale would not be appropriate in this case.

Members considered all of the information available to them and a subsequent proposal was made to uphold the tenant's appeal. A vote was taken, with the majority in favour of the proposal.

RESOLVED:

That the appeal against the refusal of exchange be upheld.

5. APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF MUTUAL EXCHANGE

The Committee received the Area Housing Manager's report and letters of appeal relating to an application for a mutual exchange. Members were informed that the application had been refused, as the move would result in the over-crowding of one property and the under-occupancy of the other property.

The Area Housing Manager explained the circumstances of the case and reported that the decision had been taken in line with Council procedures for dealing with such cases and was consistent with Homeselect policy.

Members of the Committee considered all of the information that was available to them. A vote subsequently took place in favour of upholding the Area Housing Manager's decision, the reasons being that it was in line with Council policy and to ensure consistency of future decisions.

RESOLVED:

That the Area Housing Manager's decision to refuse the application for mutual exchange be upheld.

6. APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF MUTUAL EXCHANGE

The Committee received the Area Housing Manager's report and letters of appeal relating to an application for mutual exchange. Members were informed that the application had been refused, as the move would result in the under-occupancy of a three bedroom property.

The Area Housing Manager explained the details of the case and reported that the decision had been taken in line with Council procedures for dealing with such cases and was consistent with Homeselect policy.

Members of the Committee considered all of the information that was available to them. A vote subsequently took place in favour of upholding the Area Housing Manager's decision, the reasons being that it was in line with Council policy and to ensure consistency of future decisions.

RESOLVED:

That the Area Housing Manager's decision to refuse the application for mutual exchange be upheld.

7. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 10.20 am.