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MINUTES OF NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Friday 24th January 2014 in Newton Village Hall at 9.45am



Present: Councillors Roy Gardner (Chairman), Lee Parker, Rita Schwenk, Alan Vince and Deborah Williams.

Attending: Gregg Dodds (Orwell Housing Association), Isabel Wright (Hastoe Group), Kim Best (Babergh District Council) and D Crimmin (Clerk).

14/022 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Presland and Taylor sent their apologies.

14/023 Declaration of Interests

None were declared.

14/024 Requests for councillor dispensation

None were received.

14/025 Minutes of meeting held on the 14th January 2014

Following the change of the date to the 20th July 2014 for the Midsummer Munch, the minutes of the meeting were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14/026 Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

14/027 Appointment of Registered Provider for Local Housing Scheme

Gregg Dodds, New Business Manager of the Orwell Housing Association, gave councillors the background to why OHA should be chosen as the Registered Provider for the proposed Newton scheme. OHA is a registered charity which currently manages 3,500 dwellings of which around 5% were unoccupied. In the last year OHA had developed 100 new dwellings to the CSH Level 3 standard.

Isabel Wright, Senior Development Office at Hastoe Group, gave councillors the background as to why HG should be chosen as the Registered Provider for the proposed Newton scheme. HG is an Industrial Provident Society which currently manages 4,000 dwellings of which 2 - 3% were unoccupied. In the last year HG had developed 300 new dwellings to the CSH Level 4 standard.

The councillors then considered the presentations given, and the responses of each provider to the questions asked by the councillors, in assessing which provider would best suit the needs for the Newton scheme. The councillors resolved to appoint Hastoe as NPC's Registered Provider.

14/028 Statement of Community Involvement Consultation

Following a review of Babergh's consultation draft on their Statement of Community Involvement, the councillors resolved to send the following response with regard to section 2.4 Duty to Co-operate. "NPC consider that BDC should work closely with county and district councils outside Suffolk in order that cross county boundary issues are resolved collaboratively. This is of particular relevance to the Sudbury area where the issue of cross border highway needs is still unresolved."

14/029 Questions to the Chair

The councillors moved the Autumn Clean date to Saturday 25th October 2014 after hearing that the Village Hall was in use on that date.

14/030 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th March 2014.

The meeting closed at 11.59am.

Signed _____

Date _____

Newton Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence on the 11th July 2012.