

MINUTES

of the

LICENSING COMMITTEE HEARING

held on 9 October 2020 at 11am

Present:

Councillor L.A. Mascot (Chair of Hearing)

Councillors, A.E. Davidson, D.G. Jones and L.A. Millane

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Declaration of Interests

All Members were reminded to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary interests or other registerable interests where appropriate in any items of business on the meeting's agenda. None were made.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 25 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Licensing Act 2003 – Application for a New Premises Licence – Land adjacent to the Margaretting Road, Chelmsford, Writtle, Essex, CM1 3HJ

The Committee considered an application for a new premises licence relating to Land adjacent to the Margaretting Road, Chelmsford, Writtle, Essex, CM1 3HJ by New World Muzic pursuant to section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003. The application was for the following licensable activities:

The provision of plays:

Thursday to Sunday 11:00 till 23:00

The provision of Live Music:

Thursday to Sunday 11:00 till 23:00

The provision of Recorded Music:

Thursday to Sunday 11:00 till 23:00

The provision of Performances of Dance:

Thursday to Sunday 11:00 till 23:00

The provision of anything of a similar description to like music, recorded music or performances of dance:

Thursday to Sunday 11:00 till 23:00

The sale of alcohol:

Thursday to Sunday 11:00 till 23:00

It was noted by the Committee that there were three options namely;

1. Grant the application, on the terms and conditions applied for
2. Grant the application, on the terms and conditions applied for, modified to such extent as considered appropriate to promote the Licensing Objectives.
3. Refuse the application in whole or in part.

The following parties attended the hearing and took part in it:

Applicants – Mr Clowser, Mr Baird and Mr Kelly

The Chair advised that the written representations had been read and considered by the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting.

The Chair invited the applicant to introduce their case. The applicant was represented by Mr Baird and Mr Kelly from the event management company and they addressed the Committee. The Committee were informed that the company had extensive experience with similar scale events and had run some in the Essex area. The Committee were taken through the four points that had been raised by the sole objector, Writtle Parish Council and the applicants provided a response to all four areas. In terms of the environmental impact, it was noted that the event would first be run as a one-day event before potentially expanding in future years. The Committee heard that this would let the applicant see how the event works and they also highlighted that any building works would take place in the daytime only. The applicant also stated they would be happy to share the full production schedule with the Parish Council and wished to have ongoing conversations with the relevant authorities and local residents.

The applicant addressed the crime and disorder points that had been raised by the Parish Council. It was noted that they would be using a reputable provider as the DPS with professional contractors for the sale of alcohol and general security matters. They informed the Committee there would be robust crime management plans in place to ensure this Licensing objective was adhered to. It was also noted that an event control function would be on site and ongoing work with the responsible authorities would continue along with welfare and first aid teams on site. The Committee also heard that alcohol and drug management plans would be in place.

The applicant confirmed that a traffic management plan would be produced by a professional company closer to the event and this would be a bespoke plan. The Committee also heard that no walk-in traffic would be allowed as this would ensure greater control for the organisers. It was also noted by the Committee that the applicant was planning to speak with the Highways department closer to the time regarding a temporary lower speed limit on nearby roads.

In terms of noise issues raised by the Parish Council, the applicants confirmed they would work with local residents and authorities including the nearby Hylands Park. The Committee was also informed that a noise consultant would be on site throughout the event with noise issue numbers provided to local residents by form of a letter drop.

The Chair informed those present that the Committee would now retire to deliberate on the matter. It was noted that unlike previous meetings where everyone was present, this would be held remotely and a decision would be provided to the relevant parties via email within in a few days. The decision made is detailed below and was circulated to the relevant parties.

The Committee has given careful consideration to the relevant representations both written and made in the course of the remote hearing.

RESOLVED that the Director of Public Places be authorised to grant the application as applied for with the pre agreed conditions from Essex Police and Environmental Health.

Reasons for Decision

The Committee had due regard to the representations made by Writtle Parish Council but were satisfied with the steps that the applicant proposed to take to promote the licensing objectives. Any decision to refuse the licence has to be evidence based and there is no evidence of prospective harm. In particular, the Committee was mindful of the fact that the two Responsible Authorities concerned, Essex Police and Environmental Protection were not objecting to the grant of the licence subject to the imposition of the additional agreed conditions.

The meeting closed at 11.22am.

Chair