

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Minutes from the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Wednesday, 30th March, 2022 at 10.30 am in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: Councillor E Nockolds (Chair)
Councillors C J Crofts and C Manning

OFFICERS:

Marie Malt – Senior Licensing Officer
Craig Pease – Licensing Enforcement Officer
Jo Furner – Legal Advisor
Octavia Holman – Observing
James Shilling – Health and Safety Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There was no declarations of interest.

4 TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR THE 100 ACRES, COWLES DRIVE, HOCKWOLD CUM WILTON

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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared that the Sub-Committee was sitting to consider an application for a premises licence in respect of The 100 Acres, Cowles Drove, Hockwold Cum Wilton.

The Sub-Committee, Borough Council officers and the Legal Advisor were introduced and their roles explained.

All parties were introduced and confirmed that fifteen minutes would be sufficient to present their case.

5 PROCEDURE WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED AT THE HEARING

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At the request of the Chair, the Legal Advisor outlined the procedure which would be followed at the Hearing.

6 **REPORT OF THE LICENSING OFFICER**

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At the request of the Chair, the Licensing Officer presented her report to the Sub-Committee as included in the Agenda.

She referred to the additional information which had been circulated to interested parties in advance of the meeting which included the Decision Notice from a previous Hearing relating to the site.

The Licensing Officer responded to questions from all parties and clarified that the application was for licensable activity to take place for five consecutive days during each September. No further applications would be required for future years, should the application be granted. The Licensing Officer reminded those present that Responsible Authorities and Interested Parties had the power to call in an application for review which would result in a further Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing being held. Reference was also made to the site and it was explained that should the site need extending in the future, it would be subject to another application.

7 **THE APPLICANTS CASE**

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At the request of the Chair the applicant, Rachel White, presented her case explaining that the intention was to hold a festival for five consecutive days each September. There was no intention to hold other events.

She felt that last years event was successful in terms of promoting the licensing objectives and there were no major issues and was surprised by the Norfolk Constabulary representation. Additional conditions which could be attached to the licence had been discussed and agreed with Norfolk Constabulary for future events.

Rachel White addressed the concerns made by Norfolk Constabulary relating to the medical use of cannabis, how this would be managed in the future, and the incident relating to a DJ who had been recorded on social media as 'pulling on a spliff' on stage and the offsite arrest. Information on the uses of hydroponics was also provided. Rachel White indicated that she was willing to work with Norfolk Constabulary to mitigate concerns, similarly to last year.

Rachel White referred to the representations made by Interested Parties and explained that they were similar concerns to those raised last year, however the Sub-Committee were minded to grant the application last year, so they must have been satisfied that the applicant had addressed concerns. She referred to positive resident feedback and a positive comment on the event which had been published in the EDP.

It was acknowledged that the Sedge Fen area had not been considered last year, but since then work had been carried out with the Community Safety and Neighbourhood Nuisance Team on conditions to mitigate concerns, for example speaker orientation and wind direction.

The applicant responded to questions from all parties relating to the maximum number of attendees, sales forecasts and the potential to grow the event in the future. It was acknowledged that there were issues with staffing last year because of Covid and conditions could be imposed on the licence to increase the number and efficiency of searches upon entry.

Rachel White responded to questions from Interested Parties relating to an ambulance being called, to which Rachel White commented that she was unaware of this incident, the images that were being used for marketing purposes and noise limits for personal music in the campsite.

Chris Brooks referred to the police representation and information was provided on accredited security staff, marshals and provisions suggested for future events. It was explained that this could be conditioned, or could form part of the Event Management Plan.

Rachel White responded to questions from Members of the Sub Committee relating to the use of cannabis and how artists would be made aware that illegal activity, or the promotion of illegal activity on the site would not be tolerated. It was also clarified that food and drink vendors would be required to replenish their supplies at certain times so as to not clash with day visitors entering or exiting the site. Information on food safety checks was also provided.

It was confirmed that the Event Management plan was a live document to ensure that there was accurate provision and the aim was to be above minimum standards. It was hoped that security provision could be agreed within the Event Management plan, but it could be conditioned if necessary.

Information was also provided on the types of vendors and trades who attended the event, the guidance that had been received from the Fire Service in terms of how many and what types of extinguishers should be available and how there would be an access path through the campsite.

Reference was made to the shuttle bus service and it was explained that this had not yet been finalised so had not yet been promoted.

Information was provided on how residents would be kept up to date and event organiser contact details would be circulated, which would include residents of Sedge Fen.

8 **RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY CASE**

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At the invitation of the Chair, Chris Brooks from Norfolk Constabulary presented his case and provided detail of the Norfolk Constabulary representation. Norfolk Constabulary objected to the application, but should the application be granted they would like additional conditions, which had been agreed with the applicant, to be attached to the licence. These conditions related to drug amnesty bins, security staff and signage.

Chris Brook responded to questions from all parties and provided information on security staff and searches and police presence at the event.

9 **INTERESTED PARTIES CASE**

a) Mrs Randall – Hockwold Parish Council

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The Parish Councils objection was presented to the Sub-Committee and Mrs Randall explained that they were similar to the issues raised last year and related to traffic concerns, damage to Cowles Drove which was a public right of way, noise nuisance and position of the stage.

Rachel White explained that one of the conditions of the application was to ensure Cowles Drove was in a manageable state prior to the event and any damage was repaired after the event.

b) Mrs Williams

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Mrs Williams presented her case explaining that marshalling was a problem last year, with not enough marshals and that they finished at 10pm. Any future events needed to be properly resourced. She reported litter on her paddocks and that there was an ambulance called to outside her house as it could not access Cowles Drove.

c) Mrs Pountney

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Mrs Pountney presented her case and commented that she was pleased to see that some of the comments residents had raised last year had been addressed. She raised concerns relating to Health and Safety, marshalling at the event, lighting along Cowles Drove, the suitability of Cowles Drove and the impact the event had on livestock in the area.

d) Mr Pountney

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Mr Pountney referred to Public Health, the Human Rights Act and protection to Council Tax Payers. He commented that Interested Parties only received the Event Management Plan the day before the Hearing, so had no time to properly study it. He also referred to the timing of the lodging of the application, the ambulance which had been called to the previous event and how he was unable to contact event staff during last years event.

He commented that the site was surrounded by villages, a RSPB reserve and facilities for RAF Feltwell and how noise could travel throughout the Fen.

The Chair invited questions to the Interested Parties and Mrs Randall provided detail of the road traffic accidents in the area during last years event. Mrs Williams also commented that her driveway was used constantly during the festival.

10 SUMMING UP - LICENSING OFFICER

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The Licensing Officer summed up her case and reminded the Sub-Committee that they should consider all the information put forward at the Hearing today, along with the representations included in the Agenda.

11 SUMMING UP - THE APPLICANT

The Applicant had nothing further to add.

12 SUMMING UP - RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

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Chris Brooks commented that Norfolk Constabulary objected to this application, but should the Sub-Committee be minded to grant the application he would like the conditions put forward by Norfolk Constabulary to be attached to the licence.

13 **SUMMING UP - THE APPLICANT**

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Rachel White commented that she had been liaising and working with the Responsible Authorities and would be willing to put in place any conditions put forward by Norfolk Constabulary.

14 **OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

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The Legal Advisor outlined outstanding matters and provided detail of the Legal Advice she would be providing to the Sub-Committee Members whilst they retired to make their decision.

15 **DECISION**

In closing the meeting the Chair explained that the Panel would retire to make their decision in private, accompanied by the Democratic Services Officer for administrative purposes and the Legal Advisor for specific points of law and procedure.

After the Hearing the decision notice was circulated to all parties.

The meeting closed at 12.18 pm