

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2011

Councillors Present: Mollie Lock, Geoff Mayes and Andrew Rowles (Chairman)

Substitute: Manohar Gopal

Also Present: Alison Beynon (Solicitor) and Emilia Matheou (Technical Officer),

PART I

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4. Application No. 11/01380/LQN -Goring and Streatley Golf Club, The Club House, Rectory Road, Streatley RG8 9QA

The Sub-Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 2(1) concerning Licensing Application 11/01380/LQN in respect of Goring & Streatley Golf Club, Rectory Road, Streatley, Reading RG8 9QA.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Emilia Matheou (Licensing Officer, West Berkshire Council); Mr David Quayle (Solicitor representing the Golf Club) and Mr Michael Evans (Club Manager) speaking in support of the application, Nicola Swan (representing Streatley Parish Council) speaking in objection to the application addressed the Sub-Committee on this application.

Emilia Matheou introduced the report. She advised the Sub-Committee that West Berkshire Council Licensing Department received the application to grant a premise licence under the Licensing Act 2003 on 11 August 2011.

The applicant was Goring and Streatley Golf Club (as a recognised club), the Clubhouse, Rectory Road, Streatley, Reading RG8 9QA. The application was submitted by Slade Legal – Solicitors acting for the applicant.

The application was made to permit the following activities:

- Live music (indoors) Friday and Saturday from 20.00hrs to 01.00hrs and Sunday 20.00hrs to 23.30hrs.
- Recorded music, anything of a similar description and the provision of facilities for dancing (indoors) Sunday and Thursday 20.00hrs to 23.30hrs and Friday and Saturday 20.00hrs to 01.00hrs.
- Supply of alcohol both on and off sales. Sunday to Tuesday from 11.00hrs to 23.00hrs and Wednesday to Saturday 11.00hrs to 01.00hrs.

The consultation period ran from 12 August 2011 to 08 September 2011. Within the prescribed 28 day consulting period the Licensing Department received representation from DW Bending, Clerk to Streatley Parish Council.

The nature of representation related to the Prevention of Public Nuisance.

There was no record of mediation having been carried out.

Councillor Andrew Rowles (Chairman) asked the attendees for any questions.

No questions were raised.

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Mr David Quayle (Solicitor representing Goring & Streatley Golf Club) advised that he would make the submission on behalf of the Golf Club and that Mr Michael Evans (Club Manager) would answer any questions.

Mr David Quayle (Solicitor) proceeded to provide background information regarding the Golf Club. It was founded in 1895 as a 9 hole club that had 52 members before it was extended to 18 holes. He advised that the website provided a fascinating history of the 116 years of the Golf Club's existence. It had had five different club houses within that time with the final refurbishment being done in 2007. It currently had 745 playing members with a further 130 social members. The bar and function room have the capacity for 120 people and the club already has a valid club premises certificate.

At this point Councillor Andrew Rowles asked Ms Nicola Swan (the objector) if she had any objection to the current club premises certificate being circulated. She responded to say that she had no objection.

Mr David Quayle (Solicitor) went on to say that the current application before the Sub-Committee had very minor changes. The Golf Club wanted to be able to open its facilities to members of the public. They had no intention of increasing the number of functions, no intention of holding different types of events other than those they already hold and no changes in the hours or days; the only change was the ability to open their doors to the public at large. He went on to give an example of a wedding reception which currently would require the attendees to join the Golf Club as social members to enable the Golf Club to serve them with alcohol.

He drew the attention of the Sub-Committee to the fact that no objections other than those from the Parish Council had been received. No objections from the residents in Rectory Road and no objections from any responsible authority. He went on to say that in Mr Bending's representation there was no specific mention made that the Parish Council objected to the application and no mention that the Sub-Committee ought to refuse the application. It did not say that the Parish Council had the backing of residents and it did not mention any complaints or concerns that the Parish Council had received in the past. It did say that the golf club was welcomed in the village and it also accepted that the golf club was well run. Their concern was that they believe the application to be open ended and that was not justified.

Councillor Andrew Rowles (Chairman) asked if the members of the Sub-Committee had any questions.

Councillor Andrew Rowles said that alongside the licensing objective, the prevention of public nuisance, there was a further licensing objective – the protection of children from harm. Does the golf club have members under the age of 18 and how are they treated?

Mr Michael Evans (Club Manager) responded to advise that they do have members under the age of 18 and they are supplied with a swipe card which they use to make purchases. The swipe cards rejects if used to purchase alcohol. He went on to say that the golf club had received a UK wide accreditation award in this respect.

No further questions were raised.

Nicola Swan (representative of Streatley Parish Council) proceeded to address the points raised by Mr David Quayle (Solicitor).

She advised the Sub-Committee that all four Licensing Objectives were all about prevention. The Golf Club is accessed along a single track lane which is unclassified and very dangerous. Numerous applications had been made to West Berkshire Council to change the speed limit from 60 to 30 but they had been unable to change it. Golfers are not always on time and therefore speed down the lane and all these things affect the enjoyment of the lane by residents. The Parish Council objection was that a successful

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application would increase the day time traffic and increase public nuisance. The road was used by delivery lorries, catering vans, waste collections and at times the vehicles block the single track lane. She went on to say that they were a rural community that had had to change over the years, no one had objected to change, but they felt that the Golf Club's application was about increasing their turnover. They had already put their rates up and had reintroduced charging to previously no fee members. The fact was that the road could not cope with the additional vehicular use and the Parish Council had consulted with the residents in the road who were against the application and a number of those residents were members of the Golf Club. They were a small Parish Council who had tried to negotiate a cap and had had two meetings with the Golf Club. They had been told that the Golf Club was allowed 12 full licences a year and that they had only used 1 in the previous twelve months, they therefore felt that the Golf Club could cope with a cap.

Councillor Mollie Lock asked if reference to the end of the road was where the road joined the fast road with traffic lights?

Nicola Swan replied no.

Councillor Geoff Mayes asked if the Golf Club was directly on Rectory Road?

Nicola Swan replied yes.

Councillor Andrew Rowles asked how many houses were along the road?

Nicola Swan replied there were 58 before and about 50 after the Golf Club.

Councillor Mollie Lock asked how frequently the delivery lorries used the road?

Nicola Swan replied that there were lorries everyday – they delivered beer, collected rubbish, delivered catering and there were also pro shop deliveries.

Councillor Geoff Mayes asked whether there were any width/weight restrictions on the road?

Nicola Swan replied that there was a 7.5 ton weight restriction in the village.

Councillor Andrew Rowles asked if the Parish Council had received any complaints regarding the Golf Club?

Nicola Swan replied that there had been none other than noise.

Mr David Quayle (Solicitor) said that he was confused. Mr Bending's email referred/suggested late night activity, but Nicola Swan was raising issues with day time activity.

Nicola Swan responded to say that the Parish Council were concerned about all day activity.

Mr David Quayle (Solicitor) said that there were 108 residents in Rectory Road and not one had written in support of the Parish Council's representation.

Nicola Swan responded to say that the Parish Council did a good job, traffic on the road had always been an issue over at least the last 40 years and additional usage would spoil the quiet enjoyment of the road. The application would allow the Golf Club to increase its customers.

Mr David Quayle (Solicitor) said that the Parish Council had the power to ask West Berkshire Council to review the license if appropriate. Currently there was no evidence of complaints and no letters of support from the residents in the road.

Councillor Andrew Rowles (Chairman) asked Mr David Quayle (Solicitor) to sum up.

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Mr David Quayle (Solicitor) concluded that the Parish Council position was confusing. It appeared to be a fear of what might happen. The Parish Council is the only objection received and no other interested party or responsible authority had made any objection. The activities of the Golf Club were legitimate and the licensing officer had requested no conditions.

Regarding the issue of a cap – as things were working well at the moment there did not appear to be a reason to cap the premises license. Issues of public nuisance were in the hands of the residents and Parish Council. In the event of specific concerns the resolution was in the hands of the Parish Council and residents. They could express their concerns and apply to get the license varied or revoked. He reiterated that the Golf Club had no intention to increase the number of events. The current capacity of the Golf Club was 120 at any one time.

(The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and closed at 3.10 pm)

Chairman

Date of Signature

Name

Date of Signature

Name

Date of Signature