

Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet BA4 5BT, on Wednesday, 13 December 2023 at 10.00 am

**Present:**

Councillor Tony Lock (Chair)

Councillor Andy Soughton

**Other Members present remotely:**

Councillor Tony Robbins

**Also Present:**

Oliva Denis

Licensing and Business Support Officer

Debbie Widdows

Democratic Services Officer

Lesley Dolan

Principal Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer

**Other Persons:**

Parish Councillor Jim Reeves

St Cuthbert's Out Parish

Lisa Pool

St Cuthbert's Out Parish Clerk (Online)

Michael Churches

Glastonbury Wedding & Events Venue

Jenny Churches

Glastonbury Wedding & Events Venue

**Applicant:**

William Gooden

Garslade Farm (Online)

**16 Appointment of the Chair - Agenda Item 1**

Councillor Tony Lock was appointed.

**17 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 2**

Apologies were received from Councillor Simon Coles.

**18 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

**19 Procedure to be followed when considering Licensing Applications under the Licensing Act 2003 - Agenda Item 4**

The Licensing Sub-Committee noted the procedure to be followed when considering Licensing Applications under the Licensing Act 2003. The Chair introduced the members of the Sub-Committee and the Officers present at the hearing.

The Chair announced that he would be changing the order of speaking so that the Applicant, would follow the Licensing Officer. The Responsible Authorities and Other Persons would follow in that order.

The Chair confirmed that the Officer's report relating to the case, the procedure to be adopted during the hearing and the documents which the authority is required to provide under the Regulations had been received by all Parties in advance of the meeting.

**20 Consideration of an Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence in respect of The Three Wishes Fairy Festival, Garslade Farm, Godney - Agenda Item 5**

The Licensing and Business Support Officer introduced the report in respect of The Three Wishes Fairy Festival, Garslade Farm, Godney highlighting that the reason for the application was for the grant of a premises licence by William Gooden on 24 October 2023.

The Licensing and Business Support Officer advised that the application was for a family friendly event and there would be educational workshops, music and activities provided, with music, activities that included workshops and performances, food and drink and a Fairy Market. Licensable activities would include; the Supply of Alcohol, Regulated Entertainment and Late-Night Refreshment.

She further advised that the proposed licensable activities would be:

Live music & Recorded Music (Outdoors)	Thursday	11:00	23:00
	Friday – Saturday	09:00	12 Midnight

	Sunday	09:00	23:00
Performance of Dance (Outdoors)	Thursday – Sunday	08:00	23:00
<b>Provision of Late-Night Refreshment</b>	Friday – Saturday	23:00	12 Midnight
<b>Supply of Alcohol (On the Premises Only)</b>	Thursday	11:00	23:00
	Friday – Saturday	11:00	12 Midnight
	Sunday	11:00	23:00

Non-standard timings and seasonal variations: None

The event was proposed to take place over one weekend, once a year beginning on a Friday until Monday, usually in August. The demographic of the people on site would be a range of ages and would include children.

The application was applied for a capacity of up to a maximum of 4,999. It was expected in the first year (2024) capacity to be around 1,500.

The application could be found at **Appendix 1**, the licensed area plan can be found at **Appendix 2**.

The premise was set to take place on the Somerset Levels in the village of Godney, surrounded by the Mendip Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the Wetland Meadows. Garslade Farm was a working organic farm. The current owner runs an organic sheep business with traditional lambing taking place during the winter months, then making way for a campsite and B&B during the summer season.

Two further licensed events were held at Garslade Farm; The Godney Gathering and The Goodentime event.

It was worth noting that during the representation period agreement was reached between the applicant, Avon and Somerset Constabulary and Somerset Council's Environmental Protection Team for additional conditions to be attached to the licence, should it be granted. These can be found at **Appendix 3**.

The reason for the hearing was that 2 representations had been received relating to all four of the Licensing Objectives. A copy of these representations can be found at **Appendix 4 and 5**.

The Council had not received any representations from any Responsible Authority.

The Chair thanked the Officer for her report.

In response to questions from the representatives and committee members, the Licensing and Business Support Officer confirmed that:

No planning permission was needed as the hearing was only to consider the license for this event under the licensing act and it was separate to additional applications such as planning. However, she assured everybody that it was possible to issue a licence without planning permission. She further assured everyone that the planning officers do receive a copy of all applications for licenses and if planning permission were required, they would have let the licensing team and the applicant know.

The applicant was then invited to speak. He highlighted other events he had held in previous years and the amount of people who attended, namely, The Godney Gathering, once a year, which was attended by approximately 7,500 people and The Goodentime event, also once a year, where approximately 600 people attended. He held licences for both those event.

He further pointed out that both these Premise licences were granted for a maximum capacity of 9,999 persons.

The applicant confirmed the reason that the licence application was from Thursday to Monday was that there was a slow ingress and a slow egress. He pointed out that not everyone would arrive at the same time. People would arrive over two days and leave over two days. A lot of people would leave on the Sunday and would not camp. He verified that there would not be a large surge of people arrive or leaving at one time.

In response to questions from the representatives and committee members, the Chair confirmed that:

The event management plan still had to be submitted 18 weeks before the event and this would include how traffic was going to be managed. He further pointed out that if the traffic management was not up to the satisfaction of the authority, then the

license would be revoked.

In response to questions from the representatives and committee members, the Licensing and Business Support Officer confirmed that:

One of the conditions on the licence, should it be granted, was that an Event Safety Management Plan (ESMP) would be agreed with the Avon and Somerset Constabulary and Environmental protection, 18 weeks and 12 weeks respectively prior to the event. She also confirmed that this had already been discussed with the traffic management authority who had said that there was no need to implement any one way systems or diversions for this event.

It was further confirmed that the dates on the Licence may not necessarily coincide with the dates advertised on the Three Wishes Fairies website as it changed from year to year. The dates were open ended merely because of the calendar year and the Licensing and Business Support Officer confirmed that just one Friday and one Saturday in July only would be granted and the licence would have these conditions.

The event was ticketed in advance or could be purchased on the date at the gate but still via the website. The tickets were then exchanged for a non-removable bar-coded wrist band scanned at the gate and these provided more information, such as if the ticket holder was a child or a trader etc, and this was how the people at the event would be monitored whilst on site.

The Licensing and Business Support Officer clarified that the red area on the map was the licensable area and the camping site was not within the licensed area.

The representatives were then invited to speak.

St Cuthbert's Out Parish Councillor Jim Reeves presented a comprehensive letter pointing out that the residents of the adjoining Parishes of Godney and Wookey were that they appreciated that the festival might bring tourism to the area.

He mentioned, however, that the main complaint was traffic management and namely an elongated one-way traffic management system.

Mr Michael Churches, of Glastonbury Wedding and Events Venue, Godney Farm, presented his representation. He drew attention to the 4 objectives referred to in the report which needed to be considered by the licensing committee, as he disputed some facts. Namely, that the event was advertised as a family festival but the

application requested the late night sale of alcohol and loud music, along with smoke and vapour effects which was not ideal for minors.

He also mentioned that there was no contingency plan for wet weather on the site, such as no emergency exists and the like. There was only one exit through a 14ft gate and it is on a field.

In response to questions from the representatives and committee members, the Licensing and Business Support Officer confirmed that under the licensing act they did not have to give notice to the parish council but they did notify them by way of sending them a copy of the public site notice that the Applicant completed. The Licensing and Business Support Officer confirmed that this was sent to all 3 neighbouring parishes. There was also a publicly displayed notice and it was mentioned in the local newspaper.

The Licensing and Business Support Officer further confirmed that the licensing would be ongoing and it could be reviewed in the future if there were problems arising in the future.

All parties confirmed that they were satisfied with the conduct of the hearing.

Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee, the Legal Officer and the Democratic Services Officer, attending in an advisory capacity only, remained in the meeting and all other officers and applicants withdrew to allow the members of the Sub-Committee to consider their decision in private.

Members of the Sub-Committee considered their decision in private session and were mindful of the advice given to them by the Legal Officer.

On reconvening, the Chairman informed those present at the hearing of the decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee:

**RESOLVED:**

On the evidence before it, having considered all the circumstances, the Sub-Committee grants the application for a Premises Licence as applied for, for one event in August from Thursday to Sunday, subject to the conditions agreed with the Police, and Environmental Protection (Appendix 3 of the agenda papers) being endorsed on the licence together with the conditions set out in the Operating Schedule (section M of the Application). For the avoidance of any doubt this festival will not go ahead unless the Event Safety Management Plan and the Noise Management Plan are approved by the Police and Environmental Protection 18 weeks and 12 weeks respectively, before the event, together with all other plans and matters that are required in the agreed conditions.

**The meeting ended at 11:35**

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**CHAIR**