

Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held in the Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater TA6 3AR, on Wednesday, 19 April 2023 at 10.00 am

Present:

Cllr Leigh Redman (Chair)

Cllr Lance Duddridge

Cllr Connor Payne

5 Appointment of Chair - Agenda Item 1

To appoint Cllr Leigh Redman as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

6 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 2

There were no apologies for absence.

7 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 3

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

8 Avalon Priory - Agenda Item 4

Members of the Panel, officers and the following attendees introduced themselves:

Mr Mark Shipley – Environmental Health Officer

Mr Alexander Orion – Applicant

The Licensing Officer presented his report and confirmed that Mr Orion had the previous day submitted a noise management plan and an event management plan which had been circulated to the members prior to the hearing.

He also confirmed that the following Temporary Event Notices (TENs) had been applied for events at the premises:

- 6th - 8th August 21 – a family friendly, alcohol-free, folk music and education festival organised by Mr Orion.
- 23rd September 21 – a religious event to celebrate the equinox.
- 21st - 22nd December 21 – a music and yoga event.
- 31st December 21 to 1st January 22 – a vegan food and creative expression event.
- 2nd August 22 –, a vegan, non-substance festival event with workshops, music and dancing including DJs and acoustic sets.
- 2nd - 4th September 22 - an educational event,
- 18th - 20th November 2022 – a dance and self-empowerment retreat which was not granted following an objection having been made by Environmental Health Team as there had been previous noise complaints.

It was confirmed that the Applicant had only organised the first event and that no noise complaints had been received regarding this.

Mr Shipley, as part of his presentation and in response to questions, explained that:

- He had objected as there had been complaints of excessive loud music from past events.
- That discussions had been held with the premises owner and previous applicants that gave him no confidence that future events were going to be managed in relation to the prevention of public nuisance.
- The application for the TEN didn't have an event management plan or a noise management plan and did not include a plan showing the location of stage and orientation of the speakers.
- Past complaints were not solely about the regulated entertainment but the management of the campsite and music from breakout groups and the campsite.
- He'd discussed the reasons for his objections with Mr Orion.
- Mr Orion had the day before submitted an event management plan together with a noise management plan and whilst he appreciated the effort taken in trying to address his concerns, the plans were basic and not robust enough to give him assurance that public nuisance would be prevented.

Mr Orion handed out copies of his Noise Management Plan, Event Management Plan and a letter of support from the Mayor of Glastonbury.

As part of his presentation and in response to questions he explained that:

- He was a touring musician and since leaving university in 2014 he had spent most of his time campaigning for green, sustainable, ethical solutions.

- Avalon Priory was a house in multiple occupation providing the tenants with a vegan, alcohol free environment with the owner, who lived away in London, allowing non-alcoholic, vegan and holistic family-friendly events to take place within the grounds.
- From the 1st May the owner had asked him to take on the role of the house manager of Avalon Priory in order to help address all of the previous issues and prevent public nuisance during events.
- Following conversations with Mr Shipley he'd now hired both an experienced event manager and a steward manager who would be recruiting, briefing and training the stewards.
- The speakers from the solar powered stage area will be facing west and not towards the village of Chilton Polden, which had caused issues in the past. He will be visiting the houses along Bath Road to the West and will be making sound volume checks to ensure that the speakers were inaudible from their properties.
- There would be a no alcohol and no amplified music policy in the campsite which would be enforced by the stewards.
- He was proposing revised end times, as set out in his event management plan of: Friday 11pm, Saturday 11.50pm and Sunday 12 noon.
- They were expecting around 100 guests and they were providing compost toilets for the camp site as well as two toilets in the main building.

In summing up Mr Shipley stated that he appreciated that Mr Orion had engaged with the process and had taken on board his concerns and had attempted to address them. Mr Orion requested that the Sub-Committee consider his late submitted letter of support.

Having heard all the evidence, members of the Panel made their decision in private, in the presence of the Solicitor and the Committee Manager.

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

RESOLVED:

On 3 April 2023 the licensing authority received from Alexander Orion a temporary event notice (“the notice”) amended at the hearing on 19 April 2023, in respect of proposed temporary licensable activities due to take place between 12 – 14 May 2023 at Avalon Priory, Chilton Polden, Somerset. The licensing authority has received an objection under section 104(2) of the Licensing Act 2003 (“the Act”). The licensing authority has decided not to

issue a counter notice under section 105 of the Act.

Reasons for decision

The decision of the Panel was made following consideration of the evidence presented to the Panel by the applicant and Environmental Protection Team both in person and in writing. The decision was made in accordance with the Council's statement of licensing policy and the Secretary of State's guidance.

The Panel had considered all of the evidence both in writing and as presented on the day. It was unfortunate that Mr Orion had not liaised with the Environmental Protection Team prior to submission of the application and consequently they were right to object to the application given the lack of supporting information. However, it was clear from the evidence heard at the hearing that a lot of work and preparation had subsequently gone into this application and that Mr Orion had taken on board the concerns of Environmental Protection. Mr Orion did appear to be genuine in his desire to run a safe and well managed event and had been receptive to addressing the concerns of Environmental Protection. The Panel was satisfied that the event plan and noise management plan, although submitted late and limited in detail in some areas did address the majority of the concerns of Environmental Protection. The Panel trusted that Mr Orion will continue to work with them to make the event management and noise management plans more robust. The Panel was satisfied that with the additional evidence provided the event did now promote the licensing objectives.

9 Objection notice received in respect of a standard Temporary Event Notice for Yeovil Showground, Two Tower Lane, Yeovil, BA22 9TA (Bar 1) - Agenda Item 5

This item was withdrawn.

10 Objection notice received in respect of a standard Temporary Event Notice for Yeovil Showground, Two Tower Lane, Yeovil, BA22 9TA (Bar 2) - Agenda Item 6

This item was withdrawn.

(The meeting ended at 11.22 am)

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CHAIR