

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

25 NOVEMBER 2016

Present: County Councillor Jackie Parry(Chairperson)
County Councillors Goddard and Lloyd

28 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

29 : APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE - GREEK
CYPRIOT ASSOCIATION OF WALES COMMUNITY HALL

Applicant: Dean Atkins, Priest at St Mary the Virgin Church

Licencee: represented by Mr Petrides, Treasurer of Greek Cypriot
Association of Wales Community Centre

Application

An application for the review of a Club Premises Certificate was received in respect of the Premises Licence held by the Greek Cypriot Association of Wales Community Hall, Greek Church Street, Butetown, Cardiff, CF10 5HA.

A copy of the application was enclosed with the report. Brief details are:

It is alleged there is excessive noise, breach of permitted hours, crowds drinking alcohol in the street, disturbance to neighbours, drug use, litter, unsupervised events and verbal threats made.

At the commencement of the meeting the Licensing Officer stated that the Licensee was a Mr Constanda, not Mr Michael Michael, as stated in the Review Application papers.

Applicants Representations

Dean Atkins addressed the Sub Committee. Members were advised that the application for review of the Club Premises Licence has followed several years of negotiations between the Church and the Association regarding noise and the anti-social behaviour related to events at the premises. Dean Atkins stated that the conditions of licence were consistently not being adhered to, specifically, that a responsible person, representing the Association, should be on the premises at all times when events are taking place.

Dean Atkins stated that he has attempted to resolve these issues informally by contacting Members of the Association's Committee. However, despite speaking to Members of the Committee, the problems were ongoing.

Dean Atkins raised particular concerns regarding people consuming alcohol outside the premises, parties continuing until 0400 hours, loud music, crowds of people in the

street, unsupervised children being present when events are taking place, drug taking, litter, people engaging in sexual activity on the Church grounds and parking issues.

Members were advised that Dean Atkins had been intimidated and physically pushed out of the doorway of the premises when he attempted to address these matters during an event taking place at the premises.

It was reported that Ty Gobaith had telephoned South Wales Police in order to report that marijuana was being used at the premises during one of these events.

Dean Atkins stated that the parties at the premises were very disruptive and there was no way to contact the Association's Committee in order to resolve matters. The parties were irregular and were creating a very real problem. Concerns were expressed that Members of the Association were not willing to meet, or to take responsibility, and as a result the problems occurred over a lengthy period of time.

Responding to questions from the Sub Committee, Dean Atkins confirmed that all the complaints were related to activities taking place at the Greek Cypriot Association of Wales Church Hall. Complaints had been made to the 101 service and to Cardiff Council Licensing.

Licensee Representative

Mr Petrides addressed the Sub Committee. Mr Petrides stated that 18 months ago he had met officers from the Licensing Department on site and at this meeting the licence conditions were fully explained to him, as admittedly, there had been some misunderstanding around the requirements of licence conditions. The Licensee, Mr Constanda was a 90 year-old gentleman who has caring responsibilities. The Association was in possession of the necessary forms and intends changing the licence holder. An undertaking was given that all conditions were to be adhered to in the future.

Mr Petrides stated that he was in attendance at an event when Dean Atkins was said to be 'badgering' door staff. Mr Petredis asked whether music from the premises could be considered to be a problem when the Father of the Greek Orthodox Church lives adjacent to the Church Hall and he had never complained about the music.

Mr Petrides complained that on one occasion he was woken at 0030 hours by a telephone call from Dean Atkins complaining about an event at the Church Hall. By his own admission Mr Petrides indicated that he was not on the premises during the event.

Members were advised that on two occasions officers from Licensing attended the premises at 0400 hours. Mr Petrides said that the Association had been misled and let down by those renting the hall. As a result, the Association had stopped renting out the hall.

When asked why someone was not in attendance, Mr Petrides said that the Association was having some problems.

Members were advised that the Association was hoping to sell the leasehold soon. Mr Petrides made a number of unsubstantiated comments regarding the groups to which the Association rents the hall out to. He considered that Dean Atkins was using these issues to 'crusade' against the Association.

Summing Up

Mr Petrides stated that the Association was aware of the issues and was trying to address them. He stated that the complaints received were not consistent and that Dean Atkins only complains when members of a particular ethnic group are using the hall. Dean Atkins strongly objected to the assertion.

Dean Atkins clarified his position. Events at the premises were causing a number of problems and the conditions of licence were not being adhered to. When he tried to raise concerns during the events there is no responsible person present at the premises. Dean Atkins stated that he had no objection to the church hall being used for events, but the parties being held there were causing problems and the conditions of the premises licence were not being followed.

RESOLVED – That the Sub-Committee, having considered all the information and in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003, the Section 182 Guidance and the Licensing Authority's own Statement of Licensing Policy the Sub Committee resolved that having considered the evidence put before the Sub – Committee, Members took a decision to suspend the licence for a period of two weeks. This is in order for the Club Committee to put steps in place to ensure future compliance with conditions in the licence which support the objective of prevention of public nuisance.

The meeting terminated at Time Not Specified

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