



TAXI AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT RIDGEWAY GOLF CLUB, CAERPHILLY,
AND THEREAFTER AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH, ON
FRIDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 10.00 A.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillors W. David, M. Davies, J. Ridgewell, W. Williams

Together with:

L. Morgan (Licensing Manager), T. Rawson (Solicitor), K. Hopkins (Senior Licensing Administrator), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

Mr B. Fitzgerald (on behalf of the Applicant – Golf In Wales Ltd) and Mrs Fitzgerald (Supporting)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Legal Advisor advised the Sub Committee that due to the unavailability of both the Chair and Vice-Chair for this meeting, they needed to elect a Member to preside as acting Chair. The Sub Committee unanimously voted to elect Councillor J. Ridgewell to preside as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, D. Cushing, K. Etheridge, Ms J. Gale, D.C. Harse, D.W.R. Preece (Chair), Mrs D. Price, J. Simmonds (Vice Chair), R. Whiting and L.G. Whittle.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

4. APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF A PREMISES AS A VENUE FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES AND THE REGISTRATION OF CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS UNDER THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND THE CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS ACT 2004 – RIDGEWAY GOLF CLUB

The meeting had been convened to determine the suitability of an intended Wedding Ceremony Room at Ridgeway Golf Club for the Solemnization of Marriages and for the Registration of Civil Partnerships in accordance with the Marriage Act 1949 and the Civil Partnerships Act 2004.

The Acting Chair opened the meeting and introductions were made.

The Legal Advisor to the Committee outlined the procedure for the meeting and reported that Members had previously familiarised themselves with the report of the Licensing Officer, the licence application and supporting documentation.

Mrs Kathryn Hopkins (Senior Licensing Administrator) then outlined the application and advised Members of the purpose of the site visit and meeting. The Committee were reminded that they must be satisfied that the building or rooms are a seemly and dignified venue for proceedings and be regularly available to the public for use by the solemnization of marriages or the formation of civil partnerships. The Committee should have regard to the Council's local conditions, which the Authority considers appropriate to ensure the facilities at the premises are suitable, and could:-

- Grant the application which is subject to the standard conditions and local conditions and were appended to the report, or;
- Refuse to grant the application and notify the applicant of the right to seek a review of its decision.

It was noted that there was no responsible person named on the application but that Mr and Mrs Fitzgerald had indicated that they would be carrying out this function on behalf of Golf In Wales Ltd and arrangements would be made for them to be added to the licence.

The intended ceremony room and adjacent rooms, including the wedding marquee, were inspected and particular attention was paid to disabled access, toilet facilities and car parking provisions. It was noted that the premises already host wedding receptions in the marquee but were seeking approval of the intended ceremony room to allow for the entire occasion to be held on-site. The applicant explained that it was planned to host the main part of the service in the marquee and for the legal formalities to be held in the intended ceremony room.

It was confirmed that the golf club's function room or the marquee would be assigned as an interview/contingency room and that a guaranteed car parking space for the superintendent registrar would be arranged. Members were advised that during wedding receptions, the function room and bar access would be shared with golf club patrons but that the marquee and ceremony room would be exclusively for the use of wedding guests.

During the course of the inspection, particular concerns were raised as to the disabled access for the premises. The Committee observed the steep gradient of the disabled access path leading from the car park to the side of the building, and a stepped doorway into the building that could be difficult for wheelchair users to manoeuvre. It was explained that the path could not be altered due to building regulations but that the applicant would give consideration towards installing a ramp to allow access to the side of the building. It was noted that works have been scheduled to re-tarmac the car park, and Members were also shown an alternative disabled access route occasionally utilised by the club, which leads around the rear of the building (in front of the driving range) to another entrance for the intended wedding ceremony room and toilet facilities.

Following inspection of the premises, the meeting was adjourned at 10.30 a.m. and Members reconvened in the Sirhowy Room, Penallta House at 11.05 a.m.

Consideration was given to the application and Members raised concerns regarding the current condition of the car park surface leading from the wedding marquee. Officers confirmed that although Mr Fitzgerald had indicated during the site visit that the car park is due to be resurfaced, the concerns of the Committee could be emphasised in the covering letter to the applicant if they were minded to grant the application. Members also expressed a need for their concerns regarding disabled access to the premises to be highlighted to the applicant, together with their expectation that improvements would be made in this regard.

Having considered the report fully, it was moved and seconded that the application be approved, subject to the foregoing concerns and expectations of the Committee being brought to the attention of the applicant. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to compliance with both the standard and local conditions as appended to the report:-

- (i) the application in respect of the Wedding Ceremony Room within Ridgeway Golf Club, as a venue for the Solemnization of Marriages and for the Registration of Civil Partnerships in accordance with the Marriage Act 1949 and Civil Partnerships Act 2004, be granted.
- (ii) the concerns raised during/following the inspection in respect of the car park surface and disabled access arrangements, and the Committee's expectation that action/improvements be undertaken in this regard, be drawn to the applicant's attention.

The meeting closed at 11.18 a.m.