



TAXI AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT BRYN MEADOWS GOLF HOTEL AND SPA,
MAESYCWMMER, AND THEREAFTER AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD
MYNACH, ON FRIDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER 2017 AT 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Simmonds – Vice-Chair (Presiding)

Councillors P.J. Bevan, D. Cushing, K. Etheridge, J. Ridgewell, R. Whiting, L.G. Whittle,
W. Williams

Together with:

K. Hopkins (Senior Licensing Administrator), R. Furmage (Licensing Administrator), S. Mock
(Solicitor), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

Representing the Applicant

Mr G. Bolton (General Manager - part of meeting)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, M. Davies, W. David,
Ms J. Gale, D.C. Harse, D.W.R. Preece (Chair) and Mrs D. Price.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that prior to the meeting, Councillors M. Davies and Ms J. Gale had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application (Councillor M. Davies being a member of the golf club at the resort, and Councillor Ms J. Gale having a family member who is employed by the hotel) and therefore were not in attendance. There were no other declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. 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 – BRYN MEADOWS GOLF HOTEL AND SPA

The meeting had been convened to determine the suitability of a number of intended wedding ceremony rooms at Bryn Meadows Golf Hotel and Spa 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 Chair opened the meeting and introductions were made.

Mrs Kathryn Hopkins (Senior Licensing Administrator) presented the report of the Licensing Officer, together with the details of the application, and advised Members of the purpose of the site visit and meeting. It was explained that three of the rooms scheduled for inspection (Beacons Room, Barn Room and Captain's Room) were already licenced for the solemnization of marriages and the formation of civil partnerships, and that the premises were now seeking to extend the licence to their new Marquee/Fairway Suite facility which is nearing completion. Therefore the applicant had submitted a new application to include all the intended ceremony rooms and would surrender their existing licence if the new licence was granted for all four rooms.

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 Mr Gavyn Bolton (General Manager) had been named as the responsible person on behalf of the applicant (Mr Stephen Mayo) and would be required to be on-site one hour before the proceedings and during the ceremony itself.

Each of the intended ceremony rooms were inspected and particular attention was paid to disabled access, toilet facilities and car parking provisions. Mr Bolton provided details of the set-up arrangements for the types of weddings that are held in each of the licensed rooms and confirmed the fire safety capacity levels for each room. Officers also responded to a number of general queries from the Committee relating to procedural matters for marriage/civil partnership ceremonies.

The Committee highlighted a lack of disabled access to the upstairs Beacon Room and Mr Bolton confirmed that this is clearly advertised on the Bryn Meadows website so that parties have the opportunity to select an alternative room that meets their requirements. The Senior Licensing Administrator explained that the local conditions of application only place a requirement on a premises to have "satisfactory disabled access" and that this condition would be met as there are alternative rooms available. Reference was made to equalities legislation and it was explained that this is separate to licensing legislation. The Committee also noted that no representation/objections had been received from the Fire Officer, Health and Safety or the Local Superintendent Registrar in regards to the application.

It was confirmed that the Captain's Room is assigned as an interview/contingency room when it is not being used as a ceremony room and that a guaranteed car parking space is made available for the Local Superintendent Registrar. The Committee noted that the largest ceremony room (the Barn Room) is due to be decommissioned in March 2018, with the intention of relocating wedding ceremonies held in this room to the new Marquee/Fairway Suite facility.

Following inspection of the premises, the meeting was adjourned at 11.00 a.m. and Members reconvened in the Council Chamber, Penallta House at 11.30 a.m.

The Senior Licensing Administrator summarised the details of the application and all parties present were afforded the opportunity to ask questions. In response to a Member's query, Mr Bolton confirmed that in addition to himself, the premises also has a deputy manager and three duty managers, and so there is a management presence at Bryn Meadows at all times.

Having considered the report fully, it was moved and seconded that the application be approved. 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, the application in respect of Bryn Meadows Golf Hotel and Spa 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.

The Committee thanked Mr Bolton and his staff for making the necessary arrangements for the site visit.

The meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.