MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH OCTOBER, 2021 AT NELSON TOWN HALL

PRESENT -

Councillor J. Purcell (Chairman – in the Chair)

Councillors:

M. Aslam

K. McGladdery

Officers in attendance:

W. Iqbal Licensing Officer (Pendle Borough Council)

H. Culshaw Head of Legal Services (Pendle Borough Council)

L. Rowland Committee Administrator

Observers:

J. Robinson Committee Administrator

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. Ansar, M. Hanif, D. Harrison and D. Lord.)

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th July, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14. APPLICATION TO AUTHORISE A HYPNOTISM PERFORMANCE – NELSON GOLF CLUB, KINGS CAUSEWAY, BRIERFIELD, NELSON, BB9 0EU

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report for Members to consider an application for consent to hold a performance by a Hypnotist at a private function at Nelson Golf Club, Kings Causeway, Brierfield on Saturday 16th October, 2021 between 20:30hrs and 22:00hrs.

The application had been submitted by Mr David Bolton, who was in attendance at the meeting. The application form, along with the Public Liability documents were submitted as an appendix to the report. Mr Bolton had confirmed his membership of a professional organisation being 'Federation of Ethical Stage Hypnotists and Equity' (FESH) and this had been verified.

RESOLVED

That the application for consent to hold a performance by Hypnotist Mr David Bolton at a private

<u>Licensing Committee</u> (13.10.2021)

function at Nelson Golf Club, Kings Causeway, Brierfield on 16th October, 2021 between 20:30hrs and 22:00hrs be granted subject to the following conditions –

1. Publicity

- 1.1. No poster, advertisement or programme for the performance, which is likely to cause public offence, shall be displayed, sold or supplied, by or on behalf of the licensee whether at the premises or elsewhere.
- 1.2. Every poster, advertisement of programme for the performance, which is displayed, sold or supplied, shall include, clearly and legibly, the following statement:

"Volunteers, who must be aged 18 or over, can refuse at any point to continue taking part in the performance".

2. Insurance

2.1. The performance shall be covered to a minimum level (to be set by the council) of liability insurance. The hypnotist must provide evidence of this to the council if requested; and it must be available for inspection at the performance.

3. Physical arrangements

- 3.1. The means of access between the auditorium and the stage for participants shall be properly lit and free from obstruction.
- 3.2. A continuous white or yellow line shall be provided on the floor of any stage at a safe distance from the edge. This line shall run parallel with the edge of the stage for its whole width. The hypnotist shall inform all subjects that they must not cross the line while under hypnosis, unless specifically told to do so as part of the performance.
- 3.3. Interaction with the audience shall be restricted to only one volunteer at any one time and that volunteer shall not be permitted to move more than 10 metres away from the hypnotist.

4. Treatment of audience and subjects

4.1. Before starting the performance the hypnotist shall make a statement to the audience, in a serious manner, identifying those groups of people who should not volunteer to participate in it; explaining what volunteers might be asked to perform; informing the audience of the possible risks from embarrassment of anxiety; and emphasising that subjects may cease to participate at any time they wish. The following is a suggested statement, which might be amended as necessary to suit individual styles so long as the overall message remains the same:

"I shall be looking for volunteers aged over 18 who are willing to be hypnotised and participate in the show. Anyone who comes forward should be prepared to take part in a range of entertaining hypnotic suggestions but can be assured that they will not be asked to do anything which is indecent, offensive or harmful. Volunteers need to be in normal physical and mental health and I must ask that no-one volunteers if they have a history of mental illness, are under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or are pregnant."

- 4.2. No form of coercion shall be used to persuade members of the audience to participate in the performance. In particular, hypnosis shall not use selection techniques, which seek to identify and coerce onto the stage the most suggestible members of the audience without their prior knowledge of what is intended. Any use of such selection techniques (e.g. asking members of the audience to clasp their hands together and asking those who cannot free them again to come onto the stage) should only be used when the audience is fully aware of what is intended and that participation is entirely voluntary at every stage.
- 4.3. If volunteers are to remain hypnotised during an interval in the performance, a reasonable number of attendants as agreed with the licensing authority shall be in attendance throughout to ensure their safety.
- 4.4. The audience shall not be able to listen to any induction process or to the removal of the hypnotic effects.

5. Prohibited actions

- 5.1. The performance shall be so conducted as not to be likely to cause offence to any person in the audience or any hypnotised subject.
- 5.2. The performance shall be so conducted as not to be likely to cause harm, anxiety or distress to any person in the audience or any hypnotised subject. In particular, the performance shall not include:
 - 5.2.1. Any suggestion involving the age regression of a subject (i.e. asking the subject to revert to an earlier age in their life; this does not prohibit the hypnotist from asking subjects to act as if they were a child etc.);
 - 5.2.2. Any suggestion that the subject has lost something (e.g. a body part) which, if it really occurred, could cause considerable distress;
 - 5.2.3. Any demonstration in which the subject is suspended between supports (so called "catalepsy");
 - 5.2.4. The consumption of any harmful or noxious substance;
 - 5.2.5. Any demonstration of the power of hypnosis to block pain (e.g. pushing a needle through the skin);
 - 5.2.6. The performance shall not include giving hypnotherapy or any other form of treatment.

6. Completion

- 6.1. All hypnotised subjects shall remain in the presence of the hypnotist and in the room where the performance takes place until all hypnotic suggestions have been removed.
- 6.2. All hypnotic or post-hypnotic suggestions shall be completely removed from the minds of the subjects and the audience before the performance ends. All hypnotised

Licensing Committee (13.10.2021)

subjects shall have the suggestion removed both individually and collectively and the hypnotist shall confirm with each of them that they feel well and relaxed (the restriction on post-hypnotic suggestions does not prevent the hypnotist telling subjects that they will feel well and relaxed after the suggestions are removed).

6.3. The hypnotist shall remain available for at least 30 minutes after the show to help deal with any problems which might arise. (Such help might take the form of reassurance in the event of headaches or giddiness but this does not imply that the hypnotist is an appropriate person to treat anyone who is otherwise unwell).

7. Authorised access

- 7.1. Where:
 - 7.1.1. A constable, or
 - 7.1.2. An authorised officer of the licensing authority, or
 - 7.1.3. An authorised officer of the fire authority

has reason to believe that a performance is being, or is about to be, given he may enter the venue with a view to seeing whether the conditions on which approval for the performance was granted are being complied with.

CHAIRMAN	
----------	--