

## DECISION NOTICE

### Western Area Licensing Sub Committee

#### Decision made on 13 October 2021

Application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue – Venom Nightclub, Quartermaster Road, West Wilts Trading Estate, Westbury made by Mr Barrie White

#### Councillors:

Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Stewart Palmen and Cllr Tim Trimble.

#### Decision:

The Western Area Licensing Sub Committee **RESOLVED** to **GRANT** the application for a **Sexual Entertainment licence** (for the standard period of 12 months) in respect of **Venom Nightclub, Quartermaster Road, West Wilts Trading Estate, Westbury** to provide the following forms of ‘relevant entertainment’:-

- **Lap dancing, stage striptease and strip shows with full nudity.**

The days/hours granted are as follows:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	21:00 to 06:00
Thursday	21:00 to 06:00
Friday	21:00 to 06:00
Saturday	21:00 to 06:00
Sunday	Closed

And subject to the standard conditions for Sexual Entertainment Venues (attached as Appendix 1 to this Decision Notice).

#### **The Applicant**

The Applicant, Mr Barrie White stated to the Sub Committee that he had been running these types of events for 22 years and in that time, there had been no cause for any Police involvement, nor had there been any complaints from the entertainers or customers of his premises.

Previously the Applicant had been able to host up to one such event per calendar month without the need for a separate licence (under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 3) and the Applicant now wished for the ability to hosts these events more frequently in order to recover from being closed during for the prolonged period due to Covid. The Applicant had previously hosted these events to raise money for local charities and had hosted gentleman's evenings where they would have cabaret stage shows and then dancers available for lap dances etc. The Applicant wished to highlight that no representations from any responsible authorities or members of the public had been submitted.

### **Responsible Authorities**

There were no representations from any Responsible Authorities.

### **Representations**

There were no other representations received.

### **Reasons**

The Sub Committee heard evidence from the Applicant and viewed the internal plan submitted to the Sub Committee by the Applicant and were satisfied that the Applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a licence, that the location of the premises was appropriate and not in an inappropriate proximity to the prescribed locations.

In reaching their decision the Sub Committee took into account the relevant provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009, the Home Office Guidance on Sexual Entertainment Venues in particular paragraphs 4.19 to 4.21, (relating to the human rights issues to be considered when determining applications) and the Council's Sex Establishment Licensing Policy and the submissions made by the Applicant, Barrie White.

### **Right to Appeal**

Refusal on any other grounds can be appealed to the Magistrates Court within 21 days of notification of the decision. A Responsible Authority or an Interested Party may apply to the Licensing Authority for a Review of a Sexual Entertainment Licence.

## STANDARD CONDITIONS

### SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

These regulations are made by Wiltshire Council under the conferred powers of paragraph 13(1) of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

The grant of a licence for a Sex Establishment shall not be deemed to convey any approval or consent which may be required under any enactment bye-law order or regulation other than Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended.

In the event of a conflict between these Regulations and any special conditions contained in a licence relating to a Sex Establishment the special conditions shall prevail.

Definitions: -

**'Sex Establishment', 'sex cinema', 'sex shop', and 'sex article'** shall have the same meanings ascribed to them in Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

**'Premises'** means a building or part of a building and any forecourt, yard or place of storage used in connection with a building or part of a building which is the subject of a licence for a sex shop granted under the said Schedule 3.

**'The Council'** means Wiltshire Council.

**'Authorised Officer'** means any person authorised in writing by the Council. These conditions may be dispensed with or modified by the Council in any special case. Where there is any reference in these conditions to the consent of the Council being required, such consent may be given on such terms and conditions and subject to such restrictions as may be so specified.

If the Licence Holder wishes any of the terms of the licence to be varied any application must be made to the Council.

## **SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES**

### **1. Exhibition of a Licence**

- a) A copy of the licence and any special conditions attached shall, at all times, be displayed in a conspicuous position on the premises so as to be available for inspection by the police, the fire authority and authorised officers of the Council.

### **2. Hours of Opening and Closing**

- a) The premises shall not open outside of the permitted hours stated on the licence.

### **3. Management of Licensed Premises**

- a) The licence holder or some responsible person, being 21 years of age or over, nominated by him/her in writing shall be in attendance at the premises at all such times as the premises are open to the public and any nomination shall be produced to any Police Officer or Authorised Officer of the Council or Police and give the name and address of the person nominated.
- b) The name of the person responsible for the management of the premises, whether the licensee or the manager, shall be displayed in a conspicuous position within the premises throughout the period during which he is responsible for the conduct of the premises.
- c) All members of staff shall be easily identifiable as such. If required by the Council in writing the Licence Holder shall ensure that during the hours the premises are open for business every employee or person working in the license premises wears a badge of a type approved by the Council indicating his name and that he is an employee or person working in the premises.
- d) The licence holder shall exhibit in a conspicuous place inside the licensed premises and at the point of access to the licensed premises a notice stating that persons under the age of eighteen years are not permitted on the premises.
- e) No other notices unless pursuant to these Regulations may be exhibited.
- f) The licence holder shall not display in any position visible to persons outside the premises any matter which does not comply with the Indecent Displays (Control) Act 1981.
- g) The licence holder shall not display any advertisement which is visible to persons outside the premises except as permitted by these Regulations or under the Act and no advertisements shall be displayed wherever visible which depict any sex article as defined.
- h) The licence holder shall maintain a daily register in which shall be recorded the name and address of any person who is to be responsible for managing the sex establishment in the licensee's absence and the names and addresses of those employed in the sex establishment. The register is to be completed each day

within 1 hour of the premises opening for business and is to be available for inspection by the police and by authorised officers of the Council and police.

- i) The licence holder must submit a set of “House Rules” to the Licensing Authority as part of the application process; these rules will form part of the licence and must be complied with. All performers must sign an agreement to adhere to these House Rules.
- j) Where the licence holder is a body corporate or an incorporated body, any change of director, company secretary or other person responsible for the management of the body shall be notified in writing to the Council within 14 days of such change and such written details as the licensing authority may require in respect of the change of personnel shall be furnished within 14 days of a request in writing from the Council.

#### 4. **Operation of the Premises**

- a) The Licence Holder shall ensure that the public are not admitted to any part or parts of the premises other than those which have been approved by the Council.
- b) The licence holder shall not permit any person other than persons employed by him, his servant or agent, statutory undertakers or, if applicable, his landlord to enter upon any part of the premises which are not available to the public in connection with the display, sale, hire, exchange, loan, or demonstration of sex articles.
- c) No person under the age of 18 shall be admitted to any part of the premises which is used as a sex establishment or be employed in the business of the sex establishment.
- d) All persons working in the premises, including performers, shall be aged not less than 18 years old.
- e) Neither the licence holder nor any employees or agent shall personally solicit custom for the sex establishment outside or in the locality of the premises.
- f) The licence holder shall not permit the display outside the premises of photographs or other images which indicate or suggest that relevant entertainment takes place in the premises.

External advertising of relevant entertainment shall not include any of the following:

- Any depiction of full nudity
- Any depiction of partial nudity
- Any depiction of overtly sexual or violent images or any other images which may give rise to concerns in respect of public decency or protection of children or vulnerable persons from harm

- g) No sex articles shall be used, displayed, sold, hired, exchanged, loaned, or demonstrated in a sexual entertainment venue or sex cinema.
- h) The licence holder shall not knowingly allow the licensed premises to be the habitual resort or meeting place of reputed prostitutes, whether the object of their so resorting or meeting is or is not prostitution.
- i) The licensed premises shall not be used for any purpose other than the business of a sex establishment.
- j) The licensed premises shall not be open for the purposes of which a sex establishment licence is granted on any occasion when the Council may signify in writing to the licence holder, occupier or other person having at the time the care and management of the premises, that the same should not be open.

## 5. **External Appearance**

- a) A notice stating that no person under the age of 18 shall be admitted to the premises must be displayed on the outside of the premises.
- b) The licence holder shall ensure that the interior of the sex establishment is not visible to persons outside the premises.
- c) The exterior of the licensed premises shall be of a design and materials approved by the Council. The exterior of the premises shall consist of material and colours of a discreet nature appropriate to the character of the locality and shall be in keeping with the appearance of other premises in the vicinity.

Detailed proposals for the external appearance of the premises shall be agreed with the Council's Delegated Officer within 14 days of the notification of the determination of a grant of the application for a new premises licence. The approval shall be subject to ratification by the Council's Licensing Committee.

- d) The interior and exterior of the licensed premises shall be kept in good repair and condition.
- e) No illuminated signs or exterior lights shall be affixed to the licensed premises unless approved by the Council's Delegated Officer and shall be subject to ratification by the Council's Licensing Committee.
- f) The external doors of the licensed premises shall be fitted with self-closing mechanisms and such mechanisms shall be maintained in good order. Doors and openings, other than exits, which lead to parts of the premises to which public are not permitted to have access shall be clearly marked "Private".
- g) No external doors shall be fixed in an open position at any time during the permitted hours.
- h) The entrances, windows and openings to the premises shall be of a material or covered with a material which will render the interior of the premises invisible to

passers-by.

## **6. Internal Layout and Condition of Premises**

- a) The licence holder shall maintain the premises in good repair and condition as well as carrying out his duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and other related legislation.
- b) No access shall be permitted through the premises to any other premises adjoining or adjacent except in the case of an emergency.
- c) Lighting shall be in operation continuously during the whole time that the sex establishment is open to the public.
- d) Any alterations or additions to the premises shall not be made without prior written consent from the Council. A variation application will be required to make any such changes to the internal or external look of the building.
- e) No fastenings shall be fitted to any booth or cubicle within the Sex Establishment. Appropriate fastenings are permitted on toilet doors.

## **7. Provision of Relevant Entertainment**

- a) Any person who is providing relevant entertainment must be briefed verbally or in writing by the licence holder or his deputy about the conditions that relate to the premises and any code of conduct.
- b) Any person providing relevant entertainment shall be made aware that their activities will be recorded on CCTV.
- c) The performer(s) shall sign in a register that they have received briefings and these shall be retained for 12 months and made available for inspection by any Police Officer or authorised officer of the Council.
- d) During any performance of relevant entertainment there must be no physical contact between the performer and any member of the public. The only exceptions are the placing of money or tokens in an item of clothing worn by the performer or in the performer's hand.
- e) There shall be no penetration of a performer's genitals or anus by any means.
- f) Performers shall not engage in masturbation and/or oral sex.
- g) No customer shall participate in any relevant entertainment except at the consent of the performer and must remain seated at all times.
- h) No customer shall be required or encouraged to participate in any relevant entertainment against their will.
- i) No customer shall have any clothing removed during any relevant entertainment.

- j) On completion of relevant entertainment performers shall dress immediately and leave the performance area.
- k) Performers are not to solicit, exchange contact details, addresses or telephone numbers with customers, or arrange to meet customers off the premises.

8. **Safety and Security**

- a) The licence holder shall maintain good order in the premises at all times and shall ensure that persons entering or leaving the licensed premises conduct themselves in an orderly manner and do not cause annoyance to residents and persons passing by.
- b) Relevant entertainment may only take place in 'designated areas' marked on the plan of the premises which was submitted as part of the application process.
- c) The licence holder shall have in place a policy concerning the safety of performers arriving at and leaving the premises, which shall be made in writing and made available to the Police or authorised officer of the Council or Police on request.
- d) The licence holder or deputy shall be present on the premises at all times whilst the relevant entertainment is taking place.
- e) The licence holder shall take all reasonable precautions for the safety of the public, employees and other persons working in the premises.
- f) A CCTV system shall be installed in the premises to the satisfaction of the Council's Licensing Officer. The system shall efficiently record the operation of the licensed premises and shall automatically indicate the date and time of the events recorded to a standard that would be acceptable as evidence in court.

All CCTV recordings shall be securely retained for a minimum of 28 days and shall be made available at the place licensed for inspection by a police officer or an authorised officer of the Council or police.