

# MINUTES OF THE LICENSING (HEARING) SUB COMMITTEE

HELD ON 21 December 2015

**APPLICANT:** Humble Grape Limited

**PREMISES:** 1 St Bride's Passage, London, EC4Y 8EJ

## PRESENT

### **Sub Committee:**

Marianne Fredericks (Chairman)  
The Revd. Dr. Martin Dudley  
Jamie Ingham Clark

### **City of London Officers:**

David Arnold – Town Clerk's Department  
Gemma Stokley – Town Clerk's Department  
Paul Chadha – Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department  
Peter Davenport – Markets & Consumer Protection Department

### **Applicant:**

Represented by Neill McCann, Joelson Wilson LLP  
James Dawson, Owner, Humble Grape Limited

### **Those making representations:**

Henrika Priest CC – Resident  
William Gardiner – Resident

## **Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005**

- 1) A public Hearing was held at 10:30AM in the Committee Rooms, Guildhall, London, EC2, to consider the representations submitted in respect of an application for the premises '1 St Bride's Passage, London, EC4Y 8EJ'.

The Sub Committee had before them a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection, which appended copies of:-

Appendix 1: Copy of Application

Appendix 2: Conditions consistent with the Operating Schedule

Appendix 3: Representations from other persons

Appendix 4: Map of subject premises together with other licensed premises in the area and their latest terminal time for alcohol sales

Appendix 5: Plan of Premises

- 2) The Hearing commenced at 10:30am.

- 3) The Chairman opened the Hearing by introducing herself, the other Members of the Sub Committee, the officers present and the nature of the application.
- 4) The Chairman sought confirmation from the applicant regarding a description of the proposed new premises. Mr Niall McCann, the solicitor representing the applicant, advised that the proposed premises would be a modern wine shop, bar and restaurant. The bar and restaurant would serve food and imported fine wines for up to 160 covers. All bar and waiting staff would be qualified to at least intermediate level by the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET) to ensure that corporate and private wine-tasting events were delivered to a high standard. Wine from the shop at the front of the premises was intended to be for off-sales only, not for consumption in the bar or restaurant.
- 5) Mr McCann added that the applicant was currently in discussions with the landlord with a view to provide an outdoor seated eating and drinking area in the courtyard located at the rear of the premises. If negotiations with the landlord were successful, the courtyard would provide seating for 20 – 30 people.
- 6) In response to concerns regarding late night dispersal on busy nights, Mr McCann advised that signage would be placed at exits to remind patrons to keep noise levels down and the Maître d' would instruct all leavers to exit straight onto New Bridge Street to avoid local residences. Staff would also be on hand to order taxis whilst patrons remained inside the premises whilst they waited. Gradual dispersal was anticipated as corporate events were expected to end by approximately 8:00pm whereas private patrons may stay later into the evening. The Chairman noted that the applicant had not yet provided a dispersal policy, which would be required as soon as possible.
- 7) In response to a Sub-Committee Member's question regarding the provision of corporate wine-tasting events, Mr James Dawson (applicant – owner of Humble Grape Limited) advised that they were expected to take place approximately two to three times per week as there was a high demand for these types of events in the City of London amongst local businesses. Mr Dawson added that the events would be held in a separate private room for anywhere between 10 – 50 people.
- 8) Mr William Gardiner and Ms Henrika Priest, Common Councilman for the Ward of Castle Baynard, advised the Sub-Committee of the concerns outlined in their previously submitted representations.
- 9) Ms Priest noted that it was useful to have been provided with a statement of case from the applicant but it should have been provided sooner, which Mr McCann acknowledged and accepted. Ms Priest welcomed the condition to restrict outside drinking proffered in the statement of case but added that hers and Mr Gardiner's concerns regarding late night dispersal and noise levels caused outside drinkers in the courtyard remained. The Sub-Committee were advised that late night dispersal would cause disruption to local residents as patrons were free to exit the large premises in any direction, despite being encouraged by the Maître d' to exit via New Bridge Street.

- 10) Ms Priest recommended that the terminal hours for the supply of alcohol should be kept at 00:00 or brought forward to 23:30 throughout the week and outside drinking should be completely restricted. Mr Gardiner suggested that the terminal hour for the supply of alcohol should be earlier than 00:00 or 23:30 on Saturdays as this was currently the only day of respite for local residents who weren't disrupted by post-work outside drinking.
- 11) The Sub-Committee considered these concerns and, in response to Members' questions, the applicant agreed to amend their application to include a terminal hour for the sale of alcohol and late night refreshments on Saturdays to 00:00. The applicant also agreed to no off-sales of alcohol except for in sealed containers and to return with an application for variation to the licence, if granted, to include the courtyard for on and off sales in future if the landlord agreed to its' use.
- 12) The Chairman thanked all parties and explained that the Sub-Committee would now retire to deliberate on the application. The Chairman explained that it was expected that the Sub-Committee would come to a decision that day and therefore invited all present to remain in the meeting room while the Sub-Committee considered its decision.
- 13) The Sub-Committee retired at 11.25am.
- 14) At 11.55am the Sub-Committee returned from their deliberations and explained that they had reached a decision. The Chairman thanked those who had remained to hear the decision of the Sub-Committee.
- 15) In determining the application, the Sub-Committee first and foremost put the promotion of the licensing objectives at the heart of their decision; in this instance the most relevant of those objectives being the prevention of public nuisance.
- 16) In reaching its decision the Sub Committee took into account the character of the area and the proposed business operations of the applicant. The Sub Committee concluded that, in discharging its duty to promote the licensing objectives, it was not necessary to reject the application.
- 17) The Chairman reported that it was the Sub-Committee's decision to grant the premises licence as offered by the applicant as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Current Licence</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Supply of Alcohol	N/A	Mon – Wed 11:00 – 00:00
		Thu – Fri 11:00 – 01:00
		Sat 11:00 – 00:00
		Sun 11:00 – 23:00
Late Night Refreshment	N/A	Mon - Wed 23:00 – 00:30
		Thu – Fri 23:00 – 01:30
		Sat 11:00 – 00:00

- 18) The Chairman went on to explain that the conditions to the grant of the licence were as follows:
- The premises shall install and maintain a comprehensive CCTV system. All entry and exit points will be covered enabling facial identification of every person entering in any light condition. The CCTV cameras shall continually record whilst the premises is open for licensable activities and during all times customers remain on the premises. All recordings shall be stored for a minimum period of 31 days with date and time stamping. A staff member who is conversant with the operation of the CCTV system shall be present on the premises at all times when they are open to the public. This staff member shall be able to show the police or the Licensing Authority recent data or footage with the absolute minimum of delay when requested. (MC01)
  - Prominent signage shall be displayed at all exits from the premises requesting that patrons leave quietly. (MC16)
  - There shall be no sales for alcohol for consumption off the premises in unsealed containers after 20:00. (MC18)
- 19) The Sub-Committee also requested that the applicant provide a copy of its dispersal policy, which it has previously supplied to the City of London Police, within 14 days of the date of the hearing.
- 20) The Chairman thanked all parties for their attendance and explained that written confirmation of the decision would be circulated to all within five working days.

**The meeting closed at 12.00pm**

-----  
Chairman

**Contact Officer: Gemma Stokley**  
**Tel. no. 020 7332 1407**  
**E-mail: [gemma.stokley@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.stokley@cityoflondon.gov.uk)**