

BY EMAIL ONLY

Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall Committee
Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall
West View
Wheelton
Chorley
PR6 8HJ

heapeyandwheeltonvillagehall@gmail.com

5th June 2015

Mr Stephen Culleton
Lead Licensing and Enforcement Officer
Chorley Council

Dear Mr Culleton

Re: Licensing Act 2003 Hearing (11/6/2015) - APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003, FOR THE HEAPEY AND WHEELTON VILLAGE HALL

I write in response to the representation made by Mr J Melrose (dated 1/5/2015) and in my capacity as Chairperson of Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall Committee.

As regards the 0730 start, the Hall is routinely used as a Polling Station in both local and General Elections (0700-2200) so we do require permission for early morning use.

With regard to Mr Melrose's point regarding the rear exit doors no longer being used as fire safety exits, I can confirm that this is indeed the case. I can also confirm that this is on the advice of the Fire Safety Officer, following a premises site visit, in which he observed that our legal right of access to the rear of West View terrace (& thence on to West View/Meadow Street) is blocked by Mr Melrose in the first instance. This right stems from the building's previous use as a Village School and is enshrined in the Conveyance between the Bradford Property Trust Limited and Lancashire County Council dated 1st December 1936.

The Fire Safety Officer's advice was that we should only use the 2 front doors that exit immediately onto the car park/Village Green as fire safety exits. All our signage/ alarm system/extinguishers and procedures are designed to comply with this advice. We were also advised that in an extreme emergency, were access through the front doors not possible for any reason, we should use our blocked legal right of escape through Mr Melrose's property. We replaced the dilapidated boundary gate between the two properties some years ago to ensure that access was possible if required.

The Committee Report (paragraphs 8-10) makes reference to this representation and to the ultimately unsuccessful attempt to use the Council's mediation process. With reference to paragraph 10 in particular, the Council/Committee might find it instructive to consult the local Police with regard to Mr Melrose & his wife's behaviour towards Nursery staff, children and parents and intrusions into Village Hall premises.

Please let me know should you require any further information to assist in the determination of this licensing application.

Yours sincerely

Kim Wisdom
Chairperson
for and on behalf of Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall Committee (Charity No. 515631)

