

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th December 2018 in the Old School, Batcombe, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present - Councillors: John Sommer – Chairman, Mary Comley, Jayne Cox, Wiff Cox, Ian Sage, and Justin Witcombe.

Also Present: The Clerk – Rob Sage.

4648 – Apologies for Absence: Chris Wildridge and Dick Skidmore – District Councillor.

4649 – Declarations of Interest: None.

4650 – Licensing Application – Shindig Weekender Music Festival at Gilcombe Farm – May 2019: An extraordinary meeting had been called as representations had to be made to South Somerset District Council by December 28th.

Concerns were raised about the increase in the size of the festival from 6,500 to 10,000 people which was three times the population of Bruton. It was felt that the site was not large enough to cope with such a large festival and neither was the local infrastructure. There were concerns for safety with the additional cars and people wandering around the area and with the nuisance to local residents.

There were also concerns at the extended hours that live and recorded music would be played and that the larger numbers of people and music venues would result in additional noise. It was noted that Batcombe was only a mile from the site which was on top of a hill and so noise naturally flowed down the valley when the wind was in the wrong direction. Batcombe had been lucky this year because of the wind direction but in 2017 the festival had caused severe disruption. It was felt that South Somerset District Council should monitor the noise themselves and respect should be shown for local people so that they can sleep at night. It was noted that many people still have to get up to work even on a weekend.

The Clerk was asked to make a representation to South Somerset DC on the basis of noise, traffic and safety, making reference to the disturbance in 2017 and asking the Licensing Authority to impose appropriate conditions to ensure that local people and businesses are not affected by the festival.

4651 – Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th January at 7.30pm in the Old School Rooms, Batcombe.

John Sommer
9/1/19