

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of an Extra Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th October 2022 in the Old School, Batcombe, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present - Councillors: Janet Jones – Chair, Jayne Cox, Peter Glaisher, Bryony Harling, Clare Kingston, Tom Price and Ian Sage.

Also Present: The Clerk – Rob Sage, Alex Wiltshire – County Councillor and three members of the public.

5311 – Apologies for Absence: None.

5312 – Declarations of Interest: None.

5313 – Response to the Consultation on Local Community Networks: Peter Glaisher reported on a meeting of Wanstrow Parish Council on the LCN consultation that had covered much the same ground as Batcombe's previous meeting. There were a lot of unanswered questions about LCNs and Wanstrow were particularly concerned about their being linked with Frome who might have their eyes on Wanstrow's assets.

Jayne Cox raised a number of questions about the parish council's relationship with its LCN such as what would be the role of the parish council; what would we have to give up; would we have to ask for money; who has the power? Clare Kingston asked questions about the impact on schools and school transport.

The Council then went through the questions on the online survey, answering them in turn. For the final open question there was a discussion as to whether the Parish Council would support Proposal A for an LCN based around Shepton Mallet or Proposal D for a LCN comprising only rural parishes that had been put forward by the Mendip Rural Parishes Liaison Group. The Parish Council would have supported Proposal D if it had been part of the consultation, but because it wasn't opted for Proposal A.

Concerns about being part of a LCN based on a town were included in the response. It was felt that the voice of rural villages would be swamped by the strength of the town parishes that wouldn't be concerned about rural issues such as agriculture, Conservation Areas or people without public transport.

5314 – Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd November at 7.30pm in the Old School Rooms, Batcombe.

Janet Jones

2/11/22