



**Distington Big Local
Partnership, Board & General Meeting
Held on Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 2 pm, via Zoom**

Attendees: Rhoda Robinson (RR) Chair), Norma Pritt (NP), Sue Hunter (SH), Alison Boyd (AB), Josephine Greggain (JG), Annette Whitehead (AW), Ingrid Morris (IM), Pete Duncan (PD)

Apologies: Vic Askew (VA), Julia Powley (JP), Karen Hodgson (KH), Joy Jones (JJ), Elaine Ismay (EI)

Not Present:

26.21 RR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

27.21 Conflict of Interest None

28.21 Minutes of Previous Board Meeting N/A

29.21 Resignations IM stated that Jean Skelly contacted her yesterday (6/4/21) to advise she has decided to come off the Board (non voting member) due to all the negative comments on Facebook regarding DBL and the housing development. Paula resigned from the board (non voting member) today 7/4/21, stating the reason that she didn't think she was 'a good asset to the big local'. But offered to help in future in any way she could.

30.21 Facebook Campaign There is an organised campaign on Facebook to get planning refused on the housing scheme. Comments are being made on Distington Old and New and DBL pages. These ongoing personal attacks have been increased and ramped up in the last week to 10 days. There have been negative comments about DBL in the past but nothing as bad as this. Comments were made about SH not being a Distington resident. SH used to be a resident until she moved in February 2020. At the meeting on 12 December 2019 the board unanimously and gratefully agreed to accept Sue's offer of remaining on the board to continue chairing the Land Development group. Local Trust rules state, that a minimum of 51% of board members need to be resident. A decision was made to ask people to submit questions in advance of the AGM, as well as there being opportunities to ask questions at specific times during the AGM. The public can comment and object or support the planning application the planning portal on CBC's website

31.21 Objections We need to let H21 and HLP know that there will be objections to the scheme raised at the AGM. IM to action.

32.21 Online AGM Discussions were had on details of how to run the AGM via Zoom. (NB following this meeting [REDACTED] It was decided at the AGM run through on 9/4/21 to record the meeting for minuting purposes, NP/AB/JG have said they will take minutes as well. RR will be present in the office with IM during the AGM).

33.21 Nomination of New Members Once our new organisation Distington Community Trust was set up, membership and board membership nomination forms were emailed out to all volunteers on sub groups and non voting members. Nomination forms were put on social media and our website. We had a response back from Nathan Martin nominating himself onto the board. A vote will take place at the AGM. IM to contact Elaine Ismay and Joy Jones to ask if they would like to take this opportunity to join the board. (Since the meeting EI confirmed her wish to join and JJ explained that she was unable to commit at the moment as she doesn't want to let anyone down, but all being well she would like to join at a later date.

34.21 News Article The headline in the Whitehaven News on 7/4/21 featured an article stating that the planning application for DBL 35 unit apartment block and 11 bungalows has been withdrawn. This is not true. IM spoke to a reporter from the Whitehaven News on 6/4/21 who had been in touch about the planning application. IM explained that a new application with the redesign was submitted on 19 March and the old one withdrawn. IM explained about the scheme, the background to it and benefits of it, funding received and so on. The reporter read back some notes to clarify points. The factually incorrect article was published the next day by a different reporter. IM contacted the original reporter, he realised another reporter was writing the story so left it to him. He agreed that he should have passed the information from the conversation with IM on to his colleague. IM asked him to ensure a correction was issued. He said he would contact his line manager as it would be her decision. We put a comment on our social media to say the article was incorrect. This comment then appeared in the comment section of the online paper, presumably inserted by the paper.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.