



**Distington Big Local
Partnership, Board & General Meeting
Held on Tuesday 20 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), Elaine Ismay (EI), Julia Powley (JP), Ingrid Morris (IM), Pete Duncan (PD)

Apologies: Vic Askew (VA),

Not Present: Karen Hodgson (KH)

35.21 RR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

36.21 Conflict of Interest None

37.21 Minutes of Board Meetings on 7 April 2021 were passed as a true record. **15 April 2021 and AGM 2021 Minutes** needed slight amendments and will be re-issued for signing off [REDACTED]

38.21 Resignations We have received resignations from all board members apart from KH.

39.21 Response to Statement Issued Several responses on DBL and Distington Old and New FB pages, nearly all of them negative. One of the most active opponents' tone is now conciliatory. The person who contacted Local Trust offering to be reconciler / mediator had put accusations on FB that the Board have been using DBL funds to pay off their mortgages.

40.21 Partner Responses HLP are being very supportive & understanding. They need to protect their professional reputation and their fees and advised they stand to lose a substantial amount of money. In effect they have 2 clients DBL & H21 and recommended that the planning application be paused rather than withdrawn. The planners have advised application can be paused. They suggest that DBL to take legal advice before withdrawing the application. PD to see what legal advice LT can offer, including who would pay for it. H21 are also very understanding but advise not to withdraw the planning application as it has taken a lot of hard work and money to get it to this stage. Getting planning approval would add value to the land. CVS have sent an email with an offer of help, asking to be kept informed and stating their concern. Other partner organisations have offered their support. Next step is to meet with H21 and HLP.

40.22 Local Trust update LT will work with any new group that comes forward so that the remaining funding is not lost. They will provide extra support (through at Rep) especially while PD is on leave 1 to 8th May. PD asked if Board members can offer more time as it will need more than additional LT support. PD advised he will do all he can.

41.21 Transfer of Land What happens to the land if the Community Benefit Society is closed down? Our rules state that 'Any property that remains, after the CLT is wound-up or dissolved and all debts

and liabilities dealt with, the members may resolve to give or transfer to another charitable body with objects similar to that of the CLT'.

42.21 Legal Advice See above

43.21 Staffing [REDACTED] IM to contact CVS for staffing support

44.21 Date of next meeting Friday 23rd April 2021 at 11 am

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.