



**Distington Big Local
Partnership, Board & General Meeting
Held on Friday 23 April 2021 at 11:30 am, via Zoom**

Attendees: Rhoda Robinson (RR) Chair), Norma Pritt (NP), Sue Hunter (SH), Alison Boyd (AB), Josephine Greggain (JG), Annette Whitehead (AW), Julia Powley (JP), Ingrid Morris (IM), Pete Duncan (PD), Jayne Entwistle (JE) from Local Trust

Apologies: Vic Askew (VA), Elaine Ismay (EI)

Not Present: Karen Hodgson (KH)

45.21 RR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

46.21 Conflict of Interest None

47.21 Minutes of Board Meetings on 15 April 2021, 20 April 2021 and AGM 2021 Minutes were passed as a true record

48.21 Update on Resignations KH advised that she would probably resign, at this stage she was not sure if she wants to join the new board. IM advised that a resignation would need to be in writing.

49.21 Response to Statement 2 Issued Three people got in touch to say that they are interested in becoming board members. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Our Community Benefit Society accepts members & board members, the existing board can accept or reject members, e.g. if they object to the rules re the provision of housing. Our rules require 5-12 members & can include co-optees and employees. Three people need to be present to form a quorum. If numbers fall below 3, the board can continue without a quorum for 6 months.

50.21 Next Steps after Meeting with HLP & H21 The board unanimously voted to pause the planning application to allow for time to seek legal advice.

51.21 Local Trust Support Jayne Entwistle (Head of Area Support) attended the meeting. Local Trust are shocked and stunned by what is happening and have a dedicated team of people to support DBL. A 3 month notice period needs to be given to tie up the loose ends of the LTO, which takes us to 15 July 2021. If another board is formed, they will need to find a new LTO, there's the question as to whether they will want staff. PD will be given extra hours to provide support. Another LT representative, Simon Underwood (SU) will come on board, mainly to support any new group that comes forward to replace the existing board. Funding may be available from LT or taken from DBL funds to pay the lead worker for a 3 month period to complete necessary work. Some current board members will need to stay on longer than 15th May. They have to work to the rules of Local Trust, Distington Community Trust and the Locally Trusted Organisation (LTO). PD will look into getting legal advice from Anthony Collins whom LT use. JE unclear at this stage who will pay for advice DBL or LT? JP stressed importance of keep land in the village and ensuring remaining funding isn't lost JE left the meeting. SH is prepared to stay on longer to wrap things up (aware it's easier for

her as no longer living in the village). JP will help IM with use of SAGE (finance programme). IM & PD temporarily left the meeting so that the board could talk freely.

Board members keen that LT should issue a statement to say that they have not been lining their own pockets. PD doesn't think LT will want to make statement to refute claims, as it adds fuel to the debate.

52.21 Staffing IM not yet spoken to CVS, the relevant staff member is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

53.21 AOB - Community Chest Applications The application received from Distington in Bloom needs to be withdrawn. They were awarded the full amount available in October 2020 and therefore cannot apply for another grant until October 2021. RR will let them know. The grant from DAAH was approved.

54.21 Date of next meeting Thursday 29 April 2021 at 4pm via Zoom

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.