



**Distington Big Local**  
**Partnership, Board & General Meeting**  
**Held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 9 am, via Zoom**

**Attendees:** Rhoda Robinson (RR), Norma Pritt (NP), Julia Powley (JP), Sue Hunter (SH), Alison Boyd (AB), Josephine Greggain (JG), Elaine Ismay (EI), Annette Whitehead (AW)

**In Attendance:** Ingrid Morris (IM), Pete Duncan (PD), Simon Underwood (SU)

**Apologies:** Vic Askew (VA)

**RR Welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

**94.21 Declarations of Interest** None

**95.21 Minutes of Previous Board Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021** were passed as a true record

**96.21 Reaction to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Statement** There has hardly been any comment about it on social media and no feedback to staff or board members to date. It was agreed that the Board would produce a final newsletter to residents setting out all their achievements over the past 8 years.

**97.21 Update on ACT Proposal** The ACT proposal is still on the table. JP advised that the Church may also be able to help with conciliation. SU to discuss next steps and best way forward with JP & ACT. JP agreed to contact Gary Hewer to establish his interest. Action: JP

**98.21 Membership & Policy Procedure** People coming forward would become members of Distington Community Trust (DCT) and would have to work in the best interests of DCT and Distington, they could be accepted onto the board when the current board step down on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The ethos of a Big Local Partnership is to be as inclusive as possible, the bar to become a member of DCT is set higher as it is a legal entity. In order not to lose people through red tape we need to make it as easy as possible to join, to ensure the land remains in Distington. Action: SU to progress

**99.21 Transition Plan** SU advised that his special assignment to work with DBL ends on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021, but this can easily be extended. PD's role as DBL rep also ends on 16<sup>th</sup> July but he has agreed with LT to give background support to a new rep until mid-September. It's important to get a new LTO in place which may take some time and could be an organisation out of area. Staffing could remain with CVS or move to the new LTO. LT are happy for the existing plan to be amended if the aims remain broadly the same, if not a new plan will need to be consulted on which will take some time. The best outcome is to be able to keep DCT so as not to lose the land, if that's not possible the hope is that an unincorporated Partnership can be set up to use the remaining LT funding that is allocated to Distington.

It was agreed that the Board would produce a final newsletter to residents setting out all their achievements over the past 8 years.

PD suggested that a Plan B might be needed to keep the CBS alive during the transition period and protect the Legion land as a community asset owned and controlled by the village. If new people coming forward were reluctant to come onto the CBS Board or more time was needed to recruit new members, the only way of doing this might be if a minimum of three existing Board members stayed on beyond July 16<sup>th</sup>, but purely in a notional, non-active, short-term capacity. JP, RR and SH agreed to stay on this basis if it was required.

**100.21 Staffing** IM left the meeting for this agenda item. RR and PD reported back on discussions with CCVS and the options for staffing after July 16<sup>th</sup> which were set out in a note circulated before the meeting. The Board discussed and agreed the options,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Action: RR to send an email and the note to CCVS.

**101.21 AOB - Response to Complaint** LT have accepted the response submitted by DBL, but are asking for more details on the consultation process. Board members expect to see support from Local Trust for DBL in the response to the complaint. PD said he would feed this back to LT.

Action : IM & PD to add more details to DBL's response before circulating to the Board for final approval. PD to speak to LT re the support issue.

**102.21 Legal Advice** LT have paid Anthony Collins for their legal advice. If DBL require more legal advice it will have to come out of the DBL Plan budget, with a spend variation request to LT. The general feeling was that further legal advice was unlikely to be needed.

**103.21 DCYP Funding** DCYP have asked if DBL is able to honour the funding it had committed to the club until end March 2023. LT have been unable to give a definitive answer to this as it depends on what happens once the current board steps down on 16 July 2021. Action : IM to talk DCYP based on LT's response.

**104.21 Big Tent Event Invite** SH has received an invitation to another event and was unsure now to respond given the changed circumstances. PD agreed to talk to LT and get back to SH.

**105.21 RH Last Day** IM will get information out on social media and in village notice board about RH's last day being 27<sup>th</sup> May. IM has been in touch with Age UK re gardening services for elderly people and is waiting to hear back from them.

**Date of Next Meeting Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10.30am.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.