



**Distington Big Local**  
**Partnership, Board & General Meeting**  
**Held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 12 noon, 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), Jayne Entwistle (JE), Simon Underwood (SU)

**Apologies:** Vic Askew (VA), Pete Duncan (PD)

**RR welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

**66.21 Declarations of Interest** None

**67.21 Minutes of Previous Board Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021**, an amendment has been made by JE. IM to circulate updated minutes to all.

**68.21 Update on Resignations** KH resigned from the board on 5/5/21 with immediate effect as due to work, she is unable to attend daytime meetings.

**69.21 Initiative by ACT** The board agreed ACT's offer to build bridges with the community should be taken up, as its important that the CBS doesn't fold so the land can stay in the community. JP & RR offered to represent the board in this. SU & EI offered to assist as required. ACT are not providing legal advice, they are offering remote support only. Meeting face to face in church or the community centre might help, a Zoom link to ACT might be possible. When would be best to do this? If we do it soon there is the danger that ACT would get embroiled in the planning aspect of things. The board will discuss when best to bring in ACT at their next meeting.

**70.21 New Membership Policy & Process** SU outlined the Community Land Trust (CLT) rules that relate to membership, which form the rules of our CBS. Rule C1 states "All members agree to be bound by the obligation on them as set out in these rules. When acting as a member they shall act at all times in the interest of the CLT and the benefit of the community, as guardians of the objects of the CLT." The objects are specific about housing but not exclusively about housing. The board sets the policies and objectives on admitting new members who need to apply in writing, they have absolute discretion on who to accept or reject as new members. CBS needs between 5 & 12 voting board members, Local Trust (as a condition of funding) require a minimum of 8. If there are not enough voting members the board can fill those vacancies but only until the next AGM. Currently there are 8 board members, which leaves potentially up to 5 vacancies at the moment.

Members need to agree to standards of conduct. If the new board members don't meet their obligations within one month of membership, they shall immediately cease to be members. The board needs to draw up a membership policy which could include recruitment priorities. The board could delegate the application process to a smaller panel of board members, which then goes back to the full board for a decision. The board could consider the applications of the 3 people who have expressed an interest and bring them onto the board now, or wait until there has been a cooling off

period. The board advised that they need more information from SU and time to consider things. SU to circulate further information to the board.

The question was raised whether the current board need to be involved in the appointment of the new board members. JE suggested that the conciliation process with ACT might be the starting point for current and new members to come together, first and foremost as people living in the same community, before getting into the technical aspects of membership. This would help to address comments on social media that conversations are continuing behind perceived closed doors. JE stressed that it's DBL's decision whether to take the opportunity to reach out through ACT, the offer is being made to DBL not to Local Trust. JP felt this was the way forward if we want new members to join the CBS. The CBS could be dissolved and a new organisation set up.

SU & IM will make contact with the new applicants on the board's behalf.

**71.21 Wording for 3<sup>rd</sup> statement** Issuing of the 3<sup>rd</sup> statement was deferred until the board is ready to do so. JE advised that LT have received a complaint by a community member which has triggered a LT review. They will now follow due process in their communication with the complainant.

**72.21 Local Trust Spend Report** The spend report for the £50,000 land development plan was due on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Given the current circumstances, the spend end date has changed to 31 July 2021, with the spend report due shortly after

**73.21 Staffing** [REDACTED]

**74.21 AOB Change of board resignation date** The community are not yet aware that the current board will not now resign on 16<sup>th</sup> May, but will remain in place until 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 due to LT and other commitments. This change will be made clear in our next statement.

**Positive Newsletter** Several board members have decided to put together a newsletter outlining how money has been spent so far and on what. This type of information has gone out in the past. IM to provide facts, figures, photos etc needed. LT may also be able to help with this. JE advised community members in other big locals have also claimed a lack of awareness of the work of the programme, this is not just an issue for DBL.

**Meeting with CBC & H21** This is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> May, IM & PD to attend and report back to the board.

**Date of Next Meeting** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 10:30 am.

PD & SU will be attending on behalf of LT. JE will be available as and when needed before and after the meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.