



## MINUTES - APRIL 2021

<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Date:</b> 12/04/21, 6pm-8pm
<b>Chaired by:</b> Chris Price Minuted by Johnny Bean (Secretary)	<b>Location:</b> Zoom

<b>Present and Apologies</b>		
<b>Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Kat Hilton	✓	
Chris Price (Chair)	✓	
Lee Reeve		✓
Dan Spencer		✓
Natalie Thomas	✓	
<b>Others present</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Johnny Bean (Secretary)	✓	
Sian Jay (Big Local rep)		✓
Joe Robinson (Community Development Worker)	✓	
Yak Patel (LTO)		✓
Jayne Safari (Observer)	✓	
Glen Duckett (Observer)		✓
Philip Blundell (Observer)	✓	
Carolyn Downs (Observer)		✓

### Agenda:

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Apologies
3. MOLM/Outstanding Actions
4. Development Worker Update
5. Co-op Building
6. Digital Inclusion
7. Recruitment
8. AOB

#### **Item 1.0: Welcome & introduction from the Chair**

**Discussion:** The Chair welcomed everyone to the group, outlined the agenda and confirmed there was no urgent business to deal with this evening.

<b>Item 2.0: Apologies</b>
<b>Discussion:</b> The secretary gave the apologies received from those not present.
<b>Item 3.0: Minutes of the Last Meeting/Outstanding Actions/Matters Arising</b>
<b>Discussion:</b> The Minutes of the Last Meeting were circulated prior to the meeting.
<b>Decision:</b> The minutes will need circulating again for agreement via email.
<b>Action:</b> The Secretary to circulate the draft minutes (March) for agreement via email.
<b>Item 4.0: Development worker Update</b>
<b>Discussion A) Egg Cup:</b> The Egg cup store opened around Xmas time on Albert Road. The Development Worker answered the question asked last meeting regarding sustainability – The number of members at which the project becomes self sustaining financially without the need for further funding is 350 (each members pays £4 p.w. so at 350 members the turnover becomes £72,800 p.a.). Daniel from Egg cup has extended an open invitation to WEM to show any interested partnership members around the project.
<b>Discussion B) Mental Health:</b> The Development Worker is working with BMG on what a job description might look like for a potential social prescriber to work exclusively in the West End and exclusively on the topic of mental Health. This connects well with something that Yak (our LTO rep) has recently established called “Morecambe CAN” (Morecambe Community Action Network) which is meeting via Zoom to connect health provision groups and individuals to discuss improving mental health provision in the West End. Two meetings have been held to date. Yak feels that in the coming months and years government money for mental Health will be coming into the West End and the group hopes to get a game plan together to coordinate use of those funds before they come. This makes CAN the ideal group for WEM to talk to about what would be a good way to tackle mental health. As such we have paused the social prescriber discussions. A short discussion took place.
<b>Decision:</b>
<b>Action:</b>
<b>Item 5.0: Century House (Co-op building)</b>
<b>Discussion:</b> Philip asked to declare a potential conflict of interest, as he is currently a Director of The Good Things Collective (formerly The Exchange Creative Community) who are leading the Co-op building redevelopment. The Chair clarified the rules, and confirmed that as no decisions were being taken tonight, there was no COI. Philip gave some background on the Co-op building project and redevelopment vision as a community hub. WEM have earmarked £100k for the project, which enables them to leverage further funds. Big Local have found us a Business Plan worker (Niamh Coggin) who is acting on our behalf to assist the GTC with developing a business plan. The chair updated the meeting with the latest update from Jo Bambrough of the GTC which showed that the Good Things Collective (GTC) are looking for a long-term lease from LCC, which they need in order to fundraise further and embed long-term sustainability. The council had previously agreed to do the initial emergency repairs (e.g. roof and electrical rewiring), but unfortunately, Covid-19 has caused LCC to put plans on hold.
<b>Decision:</b>
<b>Action:</b>
<b>Item 6.0: Digital Inclusion</b>
<b>Discussion:</b> The Chair reported that Digital Inclusion is currently a hot topic and he has been in conversation with Lancaster University on the subject. It’s a subject we have already invested in and it remains a big problem in the West End. Availability and affordability of broadband or data access is very problematic in the area. As yet we have not polled the extent of the problem in the area, and we have no plan yet for moving ahead under the West End Online project banner. Nationally, the problem seems to fall into 3 areas a) those who are socially excluded, b) those who have not kept up to date with IT

developments and c) the availability of public access points (e.g. libraries). A short discussion took place.

**Decision:**

**Action:** The Secretary to pull the conversation together into a short report.

**Item 7.0: Recruitment**

**Discussion:** We have recently invited 4 potential new members to observe at partnership meetings with the intention that after attending 2 meetings they can decide if they would like to join the partnership.

**Decision:** One potential recruit has now attended two meetings and the Chair will follow up after the meeting to progress. The remaining observers will be invited to a second meeting.

**Action:** Chris to follow up recruitment conversation with Philip B.

**Action:** The Secretary to ensure all other potential recruits are invited to the next meeting.

**Item 8.0: AOB**

**Next Meetings:**

- Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm-8pm via Zoom
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 6pm-8pm via Zoom

**Summary of Actions:**

1. **Action:** The Secretary to circulate the draft minutes (March) for agreement via email.
2. **Action:** The Secretary to pull the conversation together into a short report.
3. **Action:** Chris to follow up recruitment conversation with Philip B.
4. **Action:** The Secretary to ensure all other potential recruits are invited to the next meeting.