**Partnership Meeting Notes**

**17th January 2018, St Ambrose’s Social Club, 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm**

**Present:** Helen, Brenda, Adrian, Sarah, Vander, Jayne

**Apologies:** Siri, Bethany, Colby, (belated from Steve)

2. **Notes** from November meeting were reviewed but unable to agree as not quorate.

Brenda said the Job Description was to be forwarded to Vestia, with salary added, then returned to Sarah and Vander for final agreement. Adrian wanted it noted that there has been increased for Big Local visibility since Beth began her Social Media work.

3.. No **conflicts of interest** were identified

4. **Wyre Forest and Hagley Project (WHP)** – Unfortunately Stef Gregory sent her apologies as she was ill.

5. **The Draft Rules of the Ben Comm.** We spent time going through the DY10 Draft Rules. There was a discussion about preserving the ethos of Big Local and how, in the Rules we could ensure the character of the organization did not change.

The main points emerging were:

1) We want the Ben Comm to be for public benefit within the Big Local area and its close surroundings

2) We don’t want Corporate Members

3) Members buying share(s) must live, work or volunteer in the area.

4) The Partners re-evaluated the maximum share holding and decided to revert to £100.

5) The ‘1 vote per member regardless of number of shares’ should be repeated under ‘Voting’ para 43.

6) We want to remove the provision in 56. C) for up to 1 Director to be a local councillor .

7) We will need to have a solicitor to ensure the Rules deliver whet we want

These changes, ideas and fears will be discussed with Louisa and Kim at the February meeting.

6. **Friends of Big Local ?** Brenda raised the idea of forming a ‘Friends of Big Local’ as an independent, constituted group. As such it would be able to have a bank account and apply for other funding. If we proceed with Crowdfunding the Summer Activities we will need a Bank Account to take in the donations. The Partners thought the idea would extend the reach of the partnership and lead into the Ben Comm when the time came. It would be advantageous to have an Independent Chair. Jayne to look at Horsefair and Proud Constitution and prepare a modified version for the ‘Friends’ group.

7. **St Oswalds Mini-Bus** Big Local hadbeen approached by St Oswald’s School regarding their desire for a mini-bus and the possibility of Big Local being involved in some way to use it as a community asset. A discussion took place as to whether children should be driven around by people without extra training and special licenses. Reservations were expressed and it was agreed that the Partnership was not in a position to run a Community Transport Scheme and that maybe the School should look at a joint venture with Dial-a-Ride for example. Brenda to write to St Oswald’s to that effect.

8. **A.O.B.**

a) **Independent Chair**: A new Independent Chair is needed for the Grants Committee. Sarah to ask Jo Knight if she would consider the position.

b) **Visit to Leicester**: Brenda overviewed the way their Partnership, LTO and charity ran. She suggested that it would be a good idea for us to visit Wolverhampton to see how they run their Ben Comm.

c) **Revising the Plan** Helen asked about this. Brenda and Jayne have started the redraft. It will include a Sion Hill Key Priority. It was also noted that we may need another LTO while the Ben Comm grows enough to be able to fulfil that role.

d) Sarah wished for there to be a **Note of Thanks to Santa and his helper** at the Sion Hill Santa event (Dawn Anglin and husband her husband Stuart) It was a magical and amazing evening.

**NEXT MEETING: Please note earlier time again**

**Wednesday 21h February, 6.00pm at St Ambroses**

**FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**Meetings are 21st March**

**18th April**

**16th May**

**20th June**

**18th July**

**19th September**

**17th October**

**21st November**

**19th December (if required)**