**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

**A Scotland-Malawi Partnership - Scottish Charity Number SCO 38877**

**Steering Committee Minutes - 27th August 2014**

**1) Present:**

Fiona Anderson (Chair) Tom Smith **,** Jenni Barr, Christy Cunningham, Alba Escala**,** George Bond**,** John Kilby, Jean Rutherford, Neil Kitching, Ivor Butchart, Audrey Cooper, Colin Renwick, Stuart Brown, Ian Brown,

Apologies: Iain Smith, Anne McKewan, Ann Hale

**2**) ‘**Light Up Malawi’**

Julie Wilson from ‘Keep Scotland Beautiful’ presented the aims and objectives of the ‘Light Up Malawi’ project. Under the broad headings of Climate Justice and Energy Poverty she described the energy, education, well-being, social innovation, business models and campaigning skills that the project will embrace including the fund-raising target of £2,020,000 by the year 2020.

The committee noted in particular the considerable advantages that solar lights bring to a household. The involvement of schools was an important part of this programme and the committee suggested that DHS should be involved.

The committee was very appreciative of Julie’s presentation and thanked her for taking time to explain this programme

**Action – Jenni to check with Shona Wallace about the possible involvement of DHS**

**3) Minutes** of the meeting held on 4th June 2014 were approved.

**4)** **Matters Arising**:

All covered under the relevant Agenda item below.

**5) Finance:**

Current bank balance stood at some £3,000 including recent donations of £300 from the concert and £340 from the public. £678 had also been raised for Mary’s Meals from public donations in the Cathedral.

Construction of the school toilets came in at £11000 – slightly higher than estimated due to fluctuating exchange rates and final additions to the specificiation.

Neil presented the Income and Expenditure forecast for the next 12 months which provides an estimated £6k available for disbursement. It was noted that total income was very dependent on regular standing orders from individuals.

The committee endorsed the financial support proposed for Christina and Gift and agreed that the short-notice requirement required urgent decisions to allow Christina to pursue her teacher training. The committee discussed the general issue of support for tertiary education and the associated funding implications and agreed that : -

* as a general principle support to individuals would not be provided by individual memebrs of the committee (but noting that individuals were entitled to do so in a personal capacity outwith the committee)
* a clear policy on support for tertialry education needs to be articulated for committee consideration/approval and a small working group would take this forward

**Action: Stuart, Audrey, Fiona and Tom to prepare policy proposals on support to tertiary education**

The committee noted that the second round of International Development Small Grants programme was now open with applications due by end Nov. It was agreed that we should prepare an application for funds based around a ‘Healthy Home’ theme.

**Action: George to lead on application preparation with assistance of Iain, Jenni, Fiona and Audrey**

**6) High School Activities:**

DHS advised that communication with Chambe High School had been re-established.

The proposed Ceilidh had been postponed due to pressure of work but the Likhubula Day was planned for 25th Sept at the school and a staff coffee morning to help raise awareness. The 15th November Coffee Morning in the Cathedral Halls was still on schedule and detailed planning for that event would start shortly

DHS would respond to the Girl Guides thanking them for the £800 contribution to the Likhubula Nursing project.

Jenni noted that the headteacher was very enthusiastic about the Likhubula work but he had emphasized the important need for sustainability over the longer term.

**7)** **2015 Visit to Malawi**

The committee discussed the relative merits of a proposed visit to Malawi next year to maintain a two-yearly frequency. The pros and cons of such a visit were discussed including the optimum time to include DHS representation. It was agreed to re-visit this topic at the next meeting.

**8) Toilets:**

The committee noted that the construction programme had been completed satisfactorily and the new toilets were now in use. It was proposed to update the cathedral congregation on the successful conclusion of this work.

**Action: Ian B to update the cathedral congregation**.

**9) Fistula Project:**

Iain had circulated an update on this work to the committee and there was nothing further to report at this time.

**10) Link with Mvano:**

The committee discussed the recent communication from Likhubula CCAP and how best to reply to their proposals. It was agreed that a response directly from the Dunblane Guild would be the most appropriate ‘route’. It was noted too that the Guild still retained funds which were intended to be given to Mvano and would normally be taken out ‘by hand’ to Malawi

**Action: Jean to respond on behalf of the Guild to the Likhubula CCAP and to discuss with the Guild transferring available money to the Dunblane Likhubula general funds.**

**11) Bursars and Further Education:**

The committtee noted there was nothing new to report on Bursars at this time.

Fiona advised that she had recently written to Mary’s Meals to seek advice on how best to arrange extra food distribution and was awaiting a response.

**12) Goat Project**

Nothing new to report at this time

**13) Publicity & Communication:**

**New SMP website**

George advised that the launch of the new SMP web-site had been postponed and no new target date was available. He would continue to monitor developments with the SMP.

**Dunblane-Likhubula Web-site**

Ian noted that the web-site was working satisfactorily and invited comments from the committee. It was proposed that the means to donate funds could be made more visible on the site

**Action: Ian to look at making donation ‘button’ more visible.**

**New Brochure**

Audrey asked ‘owners’ of the Brochure distribution ‘points’ to check on a regular basis and replenish stocks when necessary. She noted too that a further print run may be needed in the near future

**14) Any Other Business:**

Non advised

**13) Dates of next meetings:**

* 1st Oct - Stuart to chair
* 12th Nov - Iain
* 7th Jan - Tom