**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

 **Steering Committee Minutes - 22nd January 2014**

**1)Present:**

Jenni Barr (Joint Chairperson**),** Tom Smith (Joint Chairperson)Stuart Brown**,** Neil Kitching, Ann Hale, Anne McEwan, Christy Cunningham, Alba Escala**,** George Bond**,** Catriona Glen, John Kilby, Jean Rutherford, Laura Patch, Kitty McKee,

 **Apologies:** Fiona Anderson, Iain Smith,

**2) Minutes** of the meeting held on 27th November 2013 were approved.

**3)** **Matters Arising**:

The committee noted that a fulsome and helpful reply had been received from Mary’s Meals in response to Fiona’s concerns about feeding arrangements during the last week of term. It was agreed that a suitable acknowledgement should be sent to Mary’s meals thanking them for their input.

**Action:** Fiona to reply to Mary’s Meals

**4) Finance:**

Neil presented the draft 2013 Statement of Financial Activities for review and consideration by the committee.

 • Total Income 2013 - £8,044

 • Total Expenditure 2013 - £13, 359

 • Funds to carried forward to 2014 - £11,067

 • Current 2014 commitments - circa £2K

 • Expected Donations 2014 – circa £5.5K - £6K

The committee approved the draft accounts, noting that the expenditure in 2013 included the cost of the visit to Malawi and the major donation in support of the Freedom from Fistula project.

**5) Bursars and Further Education**

The committee reviewed the helpful report from Mr Nyambala on the bursars and expressed the wish that he now be paid the honorarium agreed earlier.

Some further clarification on the report was requested -

 • to clarify the scores achieved by each of the Form One

 bursars and to confirm their ages

 • to obtain more information on the Form Three bursars

 • to confirm the report covers both Chambe and Malonga

 schools

The committee discussed Mr Nyambala’s concerns about the lack of food provided to bursars in the morning before they left for school and the long distances to walk to school. The committee’s view was that little could be done to help with walking to school but some possible ideas were discussed to help with the food issue. One suggestion was a bag of grain to each family in October. It was agreed, as a first step, to ask Mr Nyambala for his ideas on practical and manageable means for providing some food.

Stuart noted that the Likhubula Committee needed to be included in this communication and on any subsequent actions to help emphasise their lead role. There is still the outstanding question of a written end of term report from Chambe School.

**Action:** Tom to prepare draft for Jenni to respond to Likhubula and Mr Nyambala on the Bursars' report and food provision.

Jenni noted that action lay with Christina and Gift to pursue possibilities of obtaining a university place noting that no commitment had been given that the committee would fund their tertiary education.

The committee noted that the Book Fair was expected in February and that funding had been approved in principle for Mr Nyambala to obtain one copy of each textbook required. Details of the precise costs were awaited from Likhubula.

**6) Links with Mulanje Mission**

Jenni undertook to maintain contact with Dr Ruth Shakespeare to keep her in touch with the bursar results and progress.

It is confirmed that Jane Mwezemira is no longer at Mulanje Mission Hospital, though we do not know what circumstances led her to leave. To enquire who is heading up the goat project.

**Action:** Jenni to advise Dr Shakespeare of bursar progress and enquire re the goat project

**7) High School Activities**

DHS reported that they were the overall winners of the schools competition to win £500 from the Wood Family Trust for work in Malawi. Anne McK advised that the DHS team had demonstrated at the presentation that they had put a lot of thought into their proposal, were able to respond well to questions and proposed additional partnership links with other schools.

The DHS proposal was to support the provision of a nurse for Chambe secondary school. To help reach the full financial target other fundraising events are being considered for this year such as another coffee morning, quiz night and family ceilidh.

The committee warmly congratulated the DHS team on a very well-deserved win and suggested that a picture of the winning team would be very suitable for the Likhubula web-site.

Anne McK advised that contact with Chambe secondary school had been re-established and a further email was expected at the beginning of February.

Jenni stated that the camera for Chambe had been delivered to our committee for Chambe by Father Matthew and Anne McK undertook to alert the school in the next communication.

**Action:** Anne McK to notify the school to expect delivery of the camera in February.

**8) Water/Toilets**

The committee discussed the quotes obtained for provision of toilets - MK6.2million for pit latrines and MK9million for flush WCs. Although the committee agreed the need for these new toilets in principle some concern was expressed at the overall cost and the lack of information on maintenance plans, contingency provision, site location etc.

It was agreed not to pursue the flush WC ‘option’ and to obtain further details on the pit latrine proposal for further review at the next meeting

**Action:** John, Iain & Ivor to review the plans and report back to the committee.

**9) Visit from Likhubula**

The committee discussed the pros and cons of arranging a visit from Likhubula to Dunblane noting that there were a wide range of views on the benefits (or not) of such a visit to the Malawi visitors and that clear aims and objectives need to be defined

One possibility was to focus more on a school exchange visit. It was agreed that DHS would explore the feasibility of such an exchange noting that support may be available from funding sources such as Lord McConnell’s International Foundation.

Jean reported that no communication had been received from the Likhubula Guild (Mvano). Jenni undertook to alert the Likhubula committee to see if they could help.

**Action:** Anne McK to discuss possibility with Head DHS of exchange visit and report back to the next meeting of the committee.

 Jenni to advise the Likhubula committee about lack of contact with Mvano.

**10) ‘Fling by the River’**

The committee agreed that they should take a stand at the ‘Fling by the River’ on the 24th May. DHS indicated that they would be willing to support this event and consideration would be given to suitable activities (eg Likhubula Quiz). Rotary would be approached to help with provision of a stand.

**Action:** John to arrange provision of a suitable stand

**11) Any Other Business:**

Jenni advised that she had expressed interest to the Scotland-Malawi Partnership in preparing a one minute video about the Dunblane-Likhubula Partnership as part of plans by the SMP to celebrate its 10th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of Malawian independence.

Jean advised that the Guild would hold a table-top sale on 22nd February in the Cathedral Halls from 10am-1pm and invited the committee to be included in this event at a cost of £10. The committee agreed and invited all members to contribute bric-a-brac, home baking etc on the day.

**12) Dates of next Meetings**

 • 5th March – Stuart to chair

 • 23rd April – Iain to chair

 • 4th June – Tom to chair