**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 15th April 2015**

**1) Present:**

Iain Smith (Chairperson**),** Ann Hale, Alba Escala**,** Fiona Anderson, Ian Brown, Jenni Barr, Ivor Butchart, Stuart Brown, Tom Smith, George Bond

**Apologies:** Audrey Cooper, John Kilby, Jean Rutherford, Anne McEwan, Neil Kitching

**2) Minutes** of the meeting held on 4th March 2015 were approved.

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

Iain advised that he had responded to Mary’s Meals on the question of funding the local kitchen outlining the support the community as a whole gives to Mary’s Meals.

Fiona updated the committee on her family’s role to help raise awareness for Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow's book “The Shed that Fed a Million Children” - the story of Mary's Meals - which is due to be launched on 21st May.

**4) Finance:**

Current bank balance stood at approx. £9000 following receipt of a number of large donations after the Likhubula service and in response to the Flood Appeal.

One-off donations had been received from individuals, the Gloag Foundation and via Virgin Giving. Standing Orders now accounted for approx. £5,700 pa most of which were Gift-aided.

This increased income now allowed further distribution of food aid supplies and it was agreed to ask the Likhubula committee to provide a second list of recipients.

**Action: Stuart to contact Likhubula for a second list of recipients for food aid**

A new Flood Appeal poster was now available for distribution and Committee members were encouraged to help distribute these locally – copies would be available from the Cathedral Office from Friday 17th April.

**Action: Committee members to distribute Flood Appeal posters.**

The Committee expressed its very grateful appreciation to Chris McCulloch for his invaluable help in organising local distribution of food supplies in Likhubula and also to Rev Colin Renwick for the Likhubula Service.

**5) High School Activities:**

Alba advised that the letter to the District Health Office at Mulanje Hospital seeking local support for the Nurse Project would be despatched shortly. Anne stated that it would be important to have a designated person at DHS who would be responsible for monitoring the funding for the Nurse Project

DHS attended a recent event at the Scotland-Malawi Partnership to meet the Youth Ambassador from Malawi – this was a useful opportunity to hear directly about local issues and it helped to emphasise the value of direct contact between DHS and Chambe school pupils.

The committee discussed the possibility of providing a mobile phone for bursars and agreed to consider this in more detail at a later date

**6) Coffee Morning 25th April 2015:**

Posters for the coffee morning would be available for collection from the Cathedral Office on Friday 17th and committee members were asked to help distribute these round the usual places. Tickets had been emailed earlier to committee members to print off and sell.

**Action: Committee members to distribute Coffee Morning posters**

Jenni proposed that we should take the opportunity during the coffee morning to give a couple of short talks about our work with Likhubula.

Six pupils from the QV school would also be available to help during the morning.

**7) Dunblane Fling**

A stand had been booked for the Dunblane Fling on 30th May 2015 from 12noon to 4pm. It was agreed to ask John Kilby to help provide the stand and committee volunteers would be sought to man the stand for one-hour slots.

**Action: George to seek volunteers for the Dunblane Fling stand**

**8) Updates**

**Bursars**

The committee agreed to proceed with finding a further 5 bursars to meet our target of 20 in total.

**Mvano**

Nothing new to report

**Fistula Project**

Nothing new to report

**Goats**

Iain advised that he would defer sending his letter about the goat project until things had returned to normal following the floods.

**9) Publicity & Communication:**

**a) Briefing to Sponsors**

Stuart confirmed that he was finalising the briefing letter to sponsors and that this would also include those who had donated recently via Virgin-giving.

**Action – Stuart to finalise and distribute briefing letter to sponsors**

**b) Handling of Enquiries**

Ian B confirmed that he had set up a separate email address to cover this requirement

**c) Radio 4 Listening Project**

Jenni and Ian B had contributed to this Radio4 series about their experience in Likhubula. It was expected that the programme would be broadcast next year.

**d) Likhubula Service CD**

It was agreed that the CD of the Likhubula Service would be included on our web-site

**Action – Ian B to include CD on web-site**

**e) SMP Video Request**

Ian B advised that he had been approached by the Scotland-Malawi Partnership to provide a 2-minute video as part of their project on Partnership principles. Fiona also volunteered to help if required.

**Action – Ian B & Fiona to follow-up Video preparation with SMP**

**10) 2016 Visit to Malawi**

Fiona Anderson stated that the Boy’s Brigade visit to Likhubula in 2016 under the “Classrooms for Malawi Project” as still under consideration.

The committee agreed that we should also make provision in next year’s budget for our own visit noting that this would then be three years since the last visit.

**11) Any Other Business:**

Likhubula had recently reported problems with their camera. It was agreed to provide a replacement and find someone to courier it to Blantyre.

**12) Dates of next Meetings:**

* 27th May 2015 – Stuart to chair
* 8th July 2015 – Jenni to chair
* 19th August 2015
* 30th September 2015