**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 8th July 2015**

**1) Present:**

Jenni Barr (Chairperson**),** Stuart Brown, Tom Smith, George Bond, Anne Hale, Ann McKewan, Neil Kitching, Colin Renwick, Ian Brown, Fiona Anderson, Jean Rutherford.

The Committee also extended a very warm welcome to Carol Finlay from the Church of Scotland World Mission.

**Apologies:** Audrey Cooper, Colin Renwick, Fiona Anderson, Catriona Glen, Christy Cunningham, Alba Escala

**2) Minutes** of the meeting held on 27th May 2015 were approved with one amendment

- Para 4 – second last line – Delete ‘£1000’ insert ‘£500”

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

a) Jenni confirmed that the new camera had now been collected from Mulanje by the Likhubula committee.

b) One million children have now been fed by Mary’s Meals in the week that Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow’s book “The Shed that Fed a Million Children” was launched – this included 1700 children at Nansato.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Bursaries | 1,440 | school paid 3 years in advance |
| Nurse project | 3,618 | from the High School |
| Guild | 235 |  |
| SMP grant | 2,250 | 3000 grant received, less 750 advance paid |
| Appeal fund | 2,600 | 8600 received, less 6000 food aid paid |
| Unrestricted | 5,129 |  |
| Bank balance | 15,272 |  |

c) Funds required by the Likhubula Committee for expenses had been dispatched

d) Our stall at the Dunblane Fling was a useful opportunity to highlight the work we do to the local community. Fiona proposed that more advance thought about a ‘Theme’ would help in future. £53 was collected for our Committee funds.

**4) Finance:**

The Committee welcomed the successful application to the Beit Trust for £3K for construction of 6 houses by 30th September to replace those lost in the recent floods and discussed the intention to ring-fence a further £3K for housing should the current programme prove to be a success.

The Committee noted that Philip Ngoliwa has undertaken to construct these houses without personal remuneration other than expenses.

**5) High School Activities**

Anne McK updated the Committee on the Nurse Project noting she would send the letter to MMH on behalf of the DHS girls and that this would be despatched very soon. Jenni undertook to re-establish links to facilitate this communication.

**Action: Anne McK to despatch letter on Nurse Project to MMH; Jenni to help establish communication links**

Carol Finlay advised the Committee on issues surrounding this type of support in Malawi (eg cost of transport, advantage of nearby primary health care facilities etc) and offered to informally discuss possibilities when she visited MMH.

Anne advised that whilst the DHS girls are very keen to keep fundraising for the Nurse Project it was likely that they would have less time in the forthcoming years to concentrate on the mechanics of this work. They had asked if the Dunblane Committee would take over this project.

The Committee were generally supportive of this request noting that further discussion can take place once Carol Finlay had returned from Malawi and we can take her advice on practical implementation and requirements for this project.

**6) Updates on Activities**

**a) Bursars.** Jenni noted that an End of Term report is expected soon from Mr Nyambalo and would be circulated to the Committee on receipt

**b)Christina and Gift.** The Committee agreed to ask Christina and Gift to provide a report on their Further Education activities to date. Carol Finlay also advised that any Accountancy course should be checked out to ensure that the Qualifications offered were fully recognised in Malawi.

**7) Letters to Malawi**

Carol Finlay offered to hand-carry letters out to Malawi for

* Mvano. Jean R handed over a letter and DVD
* Bursars. The Committee agreed to write a letter to each Bursar. Fiona undertook to draft a standard letter with Ann H, Jean R and Jenni helping to write out each letter.

**Action: Fiona to draft out standard letter, Ann H, Jean R and Jenni to help write**

**8) 2016 Visit to Malawi.**

In response to the action at the last meeting for volunteers willing to visit Malawi next year three names have been notified -

* Jenni Barr
* Fiona Anderson (as part of the planned trip with Boy’s Brigade)
* George Bond

Fiona described the current plans for the Boy’s Brigade to visit Likhubula during the early part of 2106 and proposed that, during this trip, she and Ian Brown (who will also be visiting as part of the BB trip) would make time to have discussions and meetings on our Committee issues and topics.

To recognise this task for herself and Ian she proposed that the Committee should donate a total of £2000 to the BB fundraising efforts. The Committee noted that thiswould represent,in effect, a very cost-effective means to get two of our members out to Likhubula and agreed the proposal with details of the donations to BB to be set-up in due course.

The Committee also agreed that George B should plan on visiting Likhubula at the same time as the BB subject to availability of funding.

Carol Finlay updated the Committee on a number of World Mission activities –

* The Twinning/Partnership programme that has been very successful over many years and has changed many lives for the better both here and abroad
* The World Mission Council which should be used as needed
* The ‘Faith Share Visitors Fund’ which provided two grants per annum (covering air fares, visas and medical insurance) for people to visit Malawi - or vice versa.
* The planned World Mission Resources Day in about Feb/March on short-term visits to Malawi as well as World Mission Resources Day on 12th September in Bridge of Allan
* The World Mission facebook group and magazine which always welcomed success stories such as our recent 10-Year Service in the Cathedral.

In response to a question from Stuart B about how to measure the success of visits, Carol emphasised the need for good pre-planning of the visit programme, selecting the ‘right’ people and preparing well-defined objectives. The value of face-to-face meetings, the chance for people to ‘tell their stories’ and building personal relationships all contributed substantially to the success of partnership programmes.

The Committee expressed its heartfelt thanks to Carol for taking the time to visit us and for her offer of assistance during her forthcoming visit to Malawi.

**9) Publicity & Communications**

a) Stuart B undertook to check the latest position on briefing to Sponsors

b) Ian B would put the Likhubla Service CD on our website during the summer

d) Jenni reported on the 28th June service for Mary’s Meals.

**Action: Stuart to check on Sponsors Briefing**

**Ian to put Likhubula Service CD on website**

**10) Date for AGM**

It was agreed to hold the AGM immediately after the Committee meeting scheduled for 19th August

**11) Dates of next Meetings:**

* 19th August 2015 – Tom to Chair
* 30th September 2015