**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 4th March 2015**

**1) Present:**

Audrey Cooper (Chairperson**),** Iain Smith, Ann Hale, , Christy Cunningham, Alba Escala**,** Catriona Glen, John Kilby, Jean Rutherford, Fiona Anderson, Ian Brown, Dr Jenni Barr, Ivor Butchart, Peter Ludgrove (Morrison’s Academy).

**Apologies:** Rev Colin Renwick, George Bond, Tom Smith, Anne McEwan, Neil Kitching

**2) Welcome & Introductions**

The committee extended a very warm welcome to guest Peter Ludgrove (Morrison’s Academy).

**3) Minutes** of the meeting held on 7th January 2015 were approved.

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

All covered under the relevant Agenda item below.

Thanks to all those involved in the preparation and participation in the Likhubula Service held in the Cathedral. With special thanks to Jenni Barr.

**5) Finance:**

Current bank balance is believed to be in the order of £4300 with £1000 to be sent allowing a possible sum of £3300 to be spent on water improvements.

The sum of £1100 actioned at the last meeting has been sent to Malawi since the last meeting.

Following the recent Likhubula Service it was noted that 16 people had expressed an interest in the partnership and at least 2 standing orders are expected.

It was requested that committee members should review their own giving.

**6) Recent Flood Event:**

Following the recent flood event in southern Malawi requests for help have been received from Likhubula. In response, £1004 has been sent for initial repairs to the water supply and it was confirmed that improvement works had started.

**Mary’s Meals** have written to organisations who raised funds for the installation of each kitchen to request that they consider raising further funds to cover the operational costs for “their kitchen”. Based on the numbers attending the Likhubula Kitchen they have requested that we raise £21,450 per annum (Costs are understood to be based on a global figure of £12.95 per head per annum- cost of provision per head in Malawi is believed to be closer to £9.00)

Action: Iain Smith to respond to Mary’s Meals outlining the support that the community as a whole give to Mary’s Meals

**Food Aid** – A request for additional food aid has not been received from the Likhubula Committee yet, however, in anticipation of a request Iain Smith has contacted Mary’s Meals in Likhubula to ascertain if they could help transport additional food supplies to Likhubula. It will be possible to get additional maize to the area, however Mary’s Meals have confirmed that they would help as much as possible, however they would not be able to help with distribution.

Maize can currently be purchased from a single government agency at 4000MK but trades on the open market at up to 10000MK.

Historically we have had a responsible person in the area to oversee distribution of food. Consideration could be given to using the Mary’s Meals Kitchen at the weekend, however this may be unfair on the outlying villagers. We should ask the Likhubula Committee for their suggestion as to fair distribution.

An update as to the situation regarding food requirements should be sought from the committee, Mary’s Meals and also from Philip (Contractor repairing water supply).

There are reports that people made homeless from the floods are sheltering temporarily in the new church.

**Showers** – a request for showers (believed to have been raised by government inspectors) to be built at the school for the older girls estimated at £1000 was considered to be of low priority. This will be reviewed when funds become available.

**Fundraising strategy**- A sub-group reviewed our fund raising activities and had made suggestions within an e-mail distributed on 26th February. They recommended that we should aim to raise our annual income by around £2500 to enable us to have more flexibility with our expenditure arrangements. It was agreed that we should initially consider arranging a 2nd coffee morning and holding a fundraising meal with raffle. In addition we should promote ourselves more to the community through the “Wire” and “Allanwater News” perhaps by including a standing order form within any article (if permitted by the editors).

**6) High School Activities:**

DHS forwarded a cheque for £250 from an event organized recently to raise funds to support aid following the floods in Malawi.

DHS updated the committee on the fundraising and associated plans for their Likhubula Nurse project, which they believe that sufficient funds have been raised to take the project further.

A draft letter outlining the project for submission to the District Health office in Mulanje had been prepared for comment. It was suggested that indicative costs to support a nurse (part-time and full-time) are obtained from Malawi before considering how it would be funded. Given the need for the scheme to be sustainable it was highlighted for example that support for a part-time nurse operating 2days/week over three years would generally be more beneficial to the community than supporting a full-time nurse for only 1 year.

It was agreed that the letter should be forwarded to Judith at the District Health Office at Mulanje Hospital and copied to Ruth Shakespeare and Christina.

Meetings are planned with the Primary 7s from Newton, St Mary’s and Dunblane to introduce them to the school’s Likhubula partnership with the aim of getting the pupils progressing to High school to join the group.

Alba Escala was thanked for representing the Partnership at the recent Carers Service held in the Cathedral.

A World Thinking Day Guiding event was held in the High School.

The committee offered their warm congratulations to DHS for all their efforts on fundraising and their ongoing commitment to the partnership.

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

The High School had prepared posters for comment and these were approved subject to reducing font size for “Jenni’s Table”.

Tickets for distribution are to be forwarded by e-mail and committee members should print off and sell 10 tickets each. Committee members should also provide 12 scones/pancakes for the event.

The Cathedral hall has been booked for the event.

Ian Brown will arrange a rolling presentation for display throughout the event. There will not be brief updates during the morning but committee members present should be prepared to answer queries from the public.

Ian Brown and Jenni Barr agreed to prepare 2 small quiz sheets for the event.

Ann Hale agreed to obtain flowers for each table.

Planning shall take the form of previous events and Jean Rutherford agreed to arrange for all provisions except the following:-

Bacon (Bennett’s) donated – Tom Smith to request and collect

Rolls 60 (Tesco) donated – Christy Cunningham

Eggs (Ivor) donated – Ivor Butchart to collect

**8) Bursaries:**

Peter Ludgrove (Morrison’s Academy) spoke of his school’s link with Likhubula. The school had been approached 7 years ago by Bobby Anderson (World Mission) requesting support of a Saturday School at Likhubula House for the education of orphaned children by way of the salary of a teacher (Mr. Nyambalo).

In addition the school has a parent supported bursary scheme currently providing support to 4 pupils through secondary school and 5 through university and further education. Selection is generally on ability and not need. Supported pupils are generally boarders in schools in Zomba (St Mary’s Zomba and Zomba Boys School). People currently receiving support known to our own committee include Mr. Nyambalo’s son and Kingsley Mambo (paired with Ian Brown during the 2008 visit).

Visits to Likhubula by sixth year pupils from Morrison’s Academy are generally undertaken in October. During the last visit, the roof of Standard 3 classroom at Nansato School blew off but was repaired. Funds are held in a local account in Mulanje and monitored by Tiwonge and also David Zuzunane at Likhubula House.

With regard to our own bursary scheme, the statement regarding the committee’s policy on support for tertiary education has to be posted on the website.

Matters actioned at the last meeting (pen profiles of new bursars and recent exam results) have been hindered by the recent flood events and are still awaited.

**9) Tertiary Education Students:**

Transport costs for Gifte’s educational need have now been included.

An update regarding Christina is still awaited.

**10) Fistula Project:**

Iain had provided an update on the Rotary work with the Freedom from Fistula and the Midwife Training projects in an e-mail forwarded on 25th February. It should be noted that whilst the scheme are training fewer people than intended the training is for 3 years instead of 2 years and should result in a better standard.

It was agreed that the report should be posted on the website.

**11) Link with Mvano:**

The guild have still not received any contact from Mvano. An e-mail was sent regarding the effects the flooding has caused but no reply has been received. This may be partly due to communication difficulties arising directly from the flooding. Attempts to make contact with

Given the lack of contact between the Guild and Mvano it was requested that the Guild should consider not restricting further donations to the partnership for sole use by Mvano – it is likely that the next contribution could be used for flood relief.

**12) Goats Project:**

Iain Smith had forwarded a draft letter regarding the goat project for comment. It emphasizes the need for projects to be sustainable in order for continued support and it was agreed that this should now the be sent to Likhubula Committee for their response

**13) Publicity & Communication:**

**Minister’s letter for Cathedral Magazine**

Understood that this would be included within the April edition of the magazine.

**Briefing to Sponsors**

This has yet to be finalised by Stuart Brown and Fiona Anderson before being sent out.

**Dunblane Fling Table**

We agreed that we would take a table at the event to be held on the “Drying Green” on 30th May 2015 from 12noon to 3pm – however Ian Smith questioned the cost for booking a stall (£30) given the location is public open space.

**Dunblane-Likhubula Partnership Website**

Thanks were given for the work undertaken by Ian Brown in updating the website. In addition Facebook and Twitter accounts have been set up and these also tell the story of the 10 years of the partnership. The committee need to consider what happens to enquiries about the partnership and who these get forwarded to and this should be discussed at the next meeting.

**14) 2016 Visit to Malawi**

Fiona Anderson stated that the 25th Stirling (Dunblane) Boy’s Brigade are considering a visit to Likhubula in 2016 under the “Classrooms for Malawi Project”. If this proceeds, then it is likely that 2 committee members will be part of the group taking S3/S4 boys and raises the possibility that some partnership work could be undertaken as part of that visit.

A visit by the Dunblane High School pupils to Likhubula are at some time hoping to visit Likhubula however it is unlikely that they will be able to “piggy-back” on to the trip.

**15) Any Other Business:**

There were no further items for consideration.

**16) Date of next Meeting:**

• 15th April 2015 – Iain Smith to chair

Proposed future dates:-

* 27th May 2015
* 8th July 2015
* 19th August 2015
* 30th September 2015

George to book room and send out request for volunteer to chair