**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 11th May 2016**

**1)Present,** Tom Smith(Chairperson), Neil Kitching, Ann Hale, Anne McEwan, Jean Rutherford, Fiona Anderson, John Kilby, Ivor Butchart, Jenni Barr

**Apologies:** George Bond, Stuart Brown, Ian Brown, Ian Smith, Christy Cunningham, Alba Escala, Laura Paton, Fiona Glen

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 30th March 2016 were approved with minor alterations.

**Matters Arising:** Committee photo to be taken at next meeting.

**Finance:** A copy of the Budget update has been circulated to the committee and was summarized by Neil.

£700 has been sent to Phillip to finish the houses.

£500 was sent to the Likhubula Steering Committee for various expenses.

£1,252.29 received from Dunblane High School has been paid into the Partnership account.

There is an existing balance of £11,500

**Bursars:** Up-to-date reports on all bursarshave been received from Mr Nayambalo. The criteria for selection of bursars has also been sent to Tom Smith by Mr Nayambalo. These were discussed by the Committee. It was felt that the criteria could be simplified to two or three main points.

**Dunblane High School Link with Chambe Secondary School:**

Disappointment was expressed at the decision by Chambe SS to cease its link with DHS. Comments were made relating to possible reasons for the decision, our reaction to the decision, the impact on the bursar scheme and the nurse project and where we should go from here. Anne McEwan read out a message from the High School girls indicating their concerns and hopes that the link might be restored. The girls would like to meet with George, Fiona and Ian B to discuss the forthcoming visit to Likhubula. The girls are keen to maintain a link with Chambe and would like a representation to be made to the school on their behalf.

Letters have been sent to the Mission and District Hospitals to allow progress to the next stage of the Nurse project.

**Housing Project:** There is uncertainty about progress with the houses. A letter should go out requesting a clear update on completion, internal and external, and occupation of the houses.

A request can also be made to the SMP representative, as an independent 3rd party, for an up-to-date report on progress. (Expenses can be covered).

**Action:** Stuart Brown and Ian Smith

**Visit to Malawi:** An opportunity to review what has and is being achieved by the Partnership. What our representatives come back with will help us decide how to proceed from then on.

Jenni has signaled that she is coming off the Partnership Committee but will stay as part of the post-visit discussion.

**Mvano:** Jean has met with Carol Findlay who has delivered the letter from the Guild to Mvano. This is the third attempt to communicate with Mvano. So far there has been no response to any of the letters. In spite of this, the Guild would like to send out a gift of money to Mvano via Fiona. They do not wish to attach any conditions to the gift.

Jean commented that perhaps we should listen to and respect the decisions made in Likhubula, even if they disappoint us, as in the situation with Mvano and Chambe.

**Fistula Project:** Thank you to Ian for circulating the report on progress with the Fistula project.

**Data Protection Requirements:** No progress as yet.

**AOB:**

Jenni has delivered a letter to Session regarding a Service in the Cathedral in September incorporating the BB and our representatives.

Preparation and planning for the Fling: stall and activities. A tent/gazebo is being provided. Help is requested on the day. 9.30am erect gazebo and carry boards down from the Cathedral.

Fiona has prepared a list of hoped-for-meetings to send to the committee in Likhubula, asking them to prepare a schedule for the visit, allowing meetings with key people and organisations.

Jenni is meeting with Will Leschen. Could he be a conduit of information to and from Malawi?

After some discussion it was felt that a June meeting is unnecessary. It would be more useful to have a post-visit meeting in mid-August. It would be useful to have a one-item meeting in September to discuss the single issue of Review of Core Tasks and the future direction of the Partnership.

Dates to be decided. George to coordinate.