**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 23 Nov 2016**

**1)Present:** Fiona Anderson**,** (Chairperson), Neil Kitching, Ann Hale, Ivor Butchart, Stuart Brown, Ian Smith, , John Kilby, Janet Hepburn, Audrey Cooper, Alba Escala, Christy Cunningham, Laura Paton

**Apologies:** George Bond, Ian Brown

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 5th October 2016 were approved. (JK & AH)

**Matters Arising:** Anne McEwan’s resignation.Anne was thanked for her valuable contribution to the Committee and for all her work supporting the High School girls in their Nurse Project. She will be missed.

Fiona has made several attempts to contact Ruth Shakespeare and we are still awaiting her response to the letter regarding the Nurse Project.

**High School Activities:**

High School girls reported on their supportive meeting with HT, Stuart MacKay, and Ann Hale. Good news that Mrs I Henderson has agreed to be the Lead Teacher for the School link with the Partnership and with Chambe Secondary School.

An email and letter (recorded delivery) have been sent to Chambe Secondary School. **Action**: If no response received within 2 weeks then it can be sent to the Likhubula Steering Committee to be delivered to Chambe. (H.S. Girls)

Fiona provided information to the girls about The Responsible Safari Company. Girls to discuss and consider how to raise money for a visit to Malawi.

Nurse project: Fallback options if Mission Hospital plan is not accepted were discussed. The Responsible Safari Company have a similar project in Blantyre. The Fistula Project is another option.

**Housing Project:** Great photos of completed houses.An email message has been sent congratulating the Likhubula Committee on successful completion of the project. Completion forms have been submitted. N.B. Likhubula Committee need to be made aware and warned about Philip’s failure to complete and subsequent financial issues.

**Action:** Contact SMP requesting a site visit to inspect new houses. (SB?)

**Bursars:** Audrey submitted spreadsheet showing performance of individual bursars with useful comments. Satisfaction that bursars are passing G.E.C. exams.

Interest expressed in quantifying benefits gained by bursars after receiving their education. What do they do after they leave school?

**Action:** Check with George if email has been forwarded to Often and the Likhubula Committee for their records.

**Vocational Skills Training:** Update received from Likhubula Steering Committee re-opportunities for skills training.

**Action:** Questions to be asked of the Committee: Total cost of sending one person on an Eagles Nest course including travel, food, accommodation, fees, tool & equipment for chosen trade? Which trade would best benefit the community and provide earnings for the trained person? What qualifications required to get on courses? (JK)

**Finance:** Report submitted by Neil. Balance not as healthy as in the past. Approx 20% depreciation in exchange rate with Kw. Affecting our budget.

Payment of £440 (392000Kw) for water project agreed.

**Actions:**

* Request write-up by Christina re-her future plans, to be delivered to Committee and forwarded to us.
* Assess final balance for bursaries.
* Send money out for Development Day.
* Ask for set of accounts for Housing Project. (George)
* Discuss future fundraising effort.
* Neil to contact Jo Allan at DHS for transfer of money from Likhubula Day fundraising.

Fertiliser – Supplied. Photos received. Good communication.

Chickens – for meat or eggs? John to enquire further.

Goats – awaiting further information from Likhubula Committee.

Medical Facility – Nothing agreed as yet. Chiefs should be instructed not to fire any more bricks etc until more information is received and plans are agreed.

Visit to Dunblane – Thanks for George’s report. Discussion of reasons for and objective of reciprocal visit, concerns, benefits to communities, financial considerations, Partnership constitution. There was support in principal but financial concerns were expressed.

**Action:** Small group (GB, FA, IB & AH) to prepare a pros & cons analysis based on the opinions of the committee.

**Updates:**

Mvano – Letter written and approved by the Guild and will go out to Mvano, via the Steering Committee, with photos and request for a response.

Fistula – Ian Smith has attended an event and brought back a DVD “Shout” to be handed round Committee members. The Project is going well with 60-70 trainees going through to nursing degree level. Rotary are funding vehicles to reach remote villages.

Goats – Enquiries are being sent to the Likhubula Steering Committee regarding development of the goat project and associated costs.

**Publicity & Communications:**

Likhubula Service – Fiona to speak to Colin Renwick.

Updates for Community and Sponsors – being prepared by Stuart.

**AOB:** Kirk Session – Minister expressed appreciation of the work of the Committee. Thanks for a concise report from Fiona.

Invitation to meet the new High Commissioner to Malawi on Wed. 7th Dec. at 1.30pm.

**Action:** reply to David Hope Jones.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th January