**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 5th October 2016**

**1) Present,** Stuart Brown(Chairperson), George Bond, Ann Hale, Neil Kitching, Janice Hepburn, Fiona Anderson, John Kilby, Ivor Butchart, Laura Paton, Catriona Glen

**Apologies:** Anne McEwan, Ian Brown, Iain Smith, Audrey Cooper

**2) Minutes** of the meeting held on 24th August 2016 were approved.

**3) Matters Arising:**

Covered under the relevant Agenda item below.

**4) High School activities:**

The planned meeting with Mr McKay had not happened and to date no teacher had been appointed to take the lead on Likhubua matters at DHS. Ann stated that she had previously proposed to the former headteacher, Mr Lennon, to make it part of one of the teaching posts and hopefully Mr McKay would be more receptive to this idea. Ann undertook to contact Mr McKay to try and fix a date for a meeting and to include one of the girls.

**Action: Ann to write to Mr McKay to seek a date for a meeting**

Post Meeting Note: A copy of Ann’s letter is attached.

Catriona advised that an email had been drafted to send to Mr Mkina, headteacher at Chambe. She will forward this Fiona to pass on to Chambe

**Action: Fiona to send DHS email to headteacher at Chambe when received.**

Fiona stated that she was awaiting a response from Ruth Shakespeare at Mulanje Mission Hospital on a costed proposal for the Nurse Project. She would send Ruth a hastener.

**Action: Fiona to hasten Ruth Shakespeare for response on Nurse Project**

DHS reported that the recent Likhubula Day at the school was very successful with £1200 raised. The Boys Brigade video had raised a lot of interest and some 15/20 of the younger pupils wanted to become part of the Likhubula Youth Partnership. The girls were co-ordinating bi-weekly meetings to get them involved and to engage pupils in Year 5 for planning Likhubula Day next year.

The £1200 would be held by DHS for the moment until a final decision was made on made on allocation of the monies between the Nurse Project and Bursars.

The Committee expressed their admiration and congratulations to the girls for such a successful outcome on what was their final Likhubula Day before leaving DHS.

**Action: DHS to advise allocation and arrange transfer of the £1200 in due course**

Fiona advised that the Responsible Safari Company (who supported our recent visit to Malawi) was looking to organise a trip for 16-18 year olds next year based on Global Millenium Goals. She would keep the Committee informed of developments.

**5) Finance:**

Neil summarized the Budget position:

* Currently £7300 in bank account of which £3000k was restricted funding. This included a recent (unrestricted) donation of £300 from the Women’s Guild

- Regular income (including Gift Aid) was static at approx. £6600 per annum

with average committed expenditure of some £4000 plus £1000 for misc costs.

* Ivor handed over a cheque for £1000 which had been donated to the Partnership following a recent wedding in the Cathedral. Neil undertook to send our very grateful thanks for this generous donation.

The Committee noted that with 25 Bursars at a cost of approx. £120 per child per annum it would require some £10,000 to support them all through school should we decide to cease the Partnership at any time. It was noted that this was feasible within current budget projections.

**6) Emergency Support- Housing:**

George advised that recent reports from Likhubula reflected good progress on the six houses under the new contractors and active management by the Likhubula committee. The Dunblane committee noted this improved position and looked forward to completion of this work.

To date no monies had been returned by Philip Ngoliwar.

**7) Bursars:**

The Committee discussed the latest selection of 6 boys and 4 girls for the Bursar scheme and approved the increased number of girls selected this time round. It was agreed to seek clarification for background information on how the Bursars were ‘allocated’ to the local schools

**Action: Audrey to seek clarification on process of allocation of Bursars to local schools**

The request from Likhubula for a further 150,000 Kwatchas for the development day was approved noting that solar torches had cost more than planned. The Committee also noted the Likhubula plan to purchase maize now to take advantage of lower prices and good availability. Mr Nyambalo would hold this for later distribution to Bursars.

John proposed to seek information from the Likhubula committee about vocational skills training and to consider how we could best support such training in the future for the benefit of the community.

**Action: George to forward John’s query to the Likhubula Committee for comment.**

**8) 2016 Malawi Visit Recommendations:**

Recommendation 5 - Exchange visit to Dunblane in 2017.

The Committee noted the varying views about the benefits and practicalities of a visit from Likhubula representatives to Dunblane next year. It was agreed to set up a Working Group to consider the issues in detail and report back. George noted that applications for travel support from the Church of Scotland World Mission were due at the end of October - it was agreed that these should be forwarded now without commitment and pending a final decision on whether to proceed with the proposed visit.

**Action: George, Fiona, Ivor and Ann to consider Likhubula visit in 2017 and**

**report back to the Committee**

**George to forward applications to World Mission for travel support**

Recommendation 6 – New supply of Fertiliser in Sept.

The Committee noted the value and importance of providing Fertiliser. Stuart advised that some £3150 had been allocated last year for this purpose.

It was agreed that we could allocate up to £2000 from this years budget for Fertiliser. Stuart would review what could be provided for this money.

**Action: Stuart to review detailed options for provision of Fertiliser up to a value of £2000.**

Recommendation 7 – Gift of £500 to provide approx. 250 Chickens.

The Committee discussed the provision of chickens to Likhubula noting that an earlier provision had not been very successful. It was agreed to seek further information from Likhubula on how they would manage such a ‘project’ this time round.

**Action: George to seek further information from Likhubula on management of chicken ‘project’**

Recommendation 13 – Provision of new medical facility in Likhubula.

Fiona advised that she still awaited a response from Ruth Shakepeare on the District Hospital’s willingness to supply a dedicated medical practitioner for Likhubula. She would hasten a reply.

It was noted that the Likhubula community were moulding bricks in anticipation of provision of this facility and it was agreed to remind them that we still awaited information from the District Hospital about medical support.

**Action: Fiona to hasten advice from the District Hospital via Ruth**

**Shakespeare**

**George to remind Likhubula that we await further information about**

**medical support**

The Committee noted the Likhubula request for approx. £400 to arrange a water supply to Nakhonyo village. The Committee was supportive of this project but it was agreed to seek assurance from Likhubula that they have all the necessary approvals to tap into the public water supply

**Action: George to forward query to Likhubula**

**9) Updates:**

Mvano**:** Janice reported that the Guild was due to meet next Tuesday to consider how best to reinvigorate communication with Mvano. It was hoped also to sell some of the Mvano CDs

Fistula Project – There were now 60 midwives in training and renewed support from the Malawi Government. Rotary Clubs in Edinburgh had provided funds to purchase 4-wheel drive vehicles to reach outlying communities.

**10) Publicity and Communications:**

Likhubula Service – it was still the intention to hold a Likhubula Service in the Cathedral in the near future. Fiona undertook to follow-up.

**Action: Fiona to progress Likhubula Service**

Update for Community and Sponsors – it was agreed that an update to the local community and our sponsors on our actions and achievements in Likhubula would be beneficial

**Action: Stuart to issue letter to sponsors and the local community on**

**recent activities**

**11) Review of Core Tasks**

The Committee agreed that a separate meeting on Core Tasks was not necessary and issues would be covered at regular Committee meetings

**12) AOB:**

Goats: John proposed a renewed approach to kick-start the Goat project in effect to change the gene pool for a more hardy local goat. The Committee agreed to forward the proposal to Likhubula for comment

**Action: George to forward John’s proposal to Likhubula**

Lead Responsibilities:

The Committee agreed lead responsibilities as follows

BURSARS -  Audrey C & Ian B

VOCATIONAL TRAINING / ANIMAL HUSBANDRY -  John K

HOUSING – George B

COMMUNICATIONS WITH SPONSORS  - Stuart B

COMMUNICATIONS WITH LIKHUBULA – George B & Fiona A

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES / CHAMBE SECONDARY SCHOOL CONTACT  - Ann H & Anne McK

NURSING PROJECT – Ann H & Anne McK

INFRASTRUCTURE / SUPPORT PROJECTS  - Ivor B

**13) Dates of Next Meetings:**

23rd November – Fiona to chair

11th Jan 2017

Dear Mr MacKay

I am writing to you on behalf of the Dunblane Likhubula Partnership Committee to say how much we appreciated the efforts of the school in raising £1.200 on Likhubula Day towards supporting secondary school bursars in Likhubula and the School Nurse Project. It was a great effort by the young people who have been involved in supporting sustainable development projects in Malawi. As you are aware, a number of pupils participated in a Boy’s Brigade trip to Likhubula in the summer. As well as the BB Leaders they were accompanied by members of our Partnership committee.

Over the years the school has been involved in a school partnership with Chambe High School, funding bursaries, communicating with pupils and sending out resources. A group of senior High School girls have been active members and enthusiastic supporters of the Partnership and have served on our Committee. Anne McEwan and I have been supporting the group in implementing their own project and we would greatly appreciate being able to meet with you to provide you with information about the history of the school’s involvement with the Partnership and to discuss present and future initiatives. There are certain aspects of the school’s involvement which we would like to discuss with you. We are aware that Balfron High School have had connections with Malawi and we would be interested to draw on your own knowledge and experience.

We would be very grateful if you could make time to meet with us at a date and time convenient to you.

Thank you again for allowing and supporting Likhubula Day.

Yours sincerely

Ann Hale