**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 23rd August 2017**

**1) Present:** Stuart Brown (Chair);Ivor Butchard, George Bond (Secretary) Ann Hale, John Kilby, Fiona Anderson, Janice Hepburn, Christy Cunningham, Iain Smith, Neil Kitching, Laura Paton, Alba Escala, Catriona Glen, Izzy Henderson

**2) Apologies:** Ian Brown

**3) Minutes:** from 12th July 2017 approved with one amendment:

Page 2 Line 8 - delete “£15000” insert “£1500”

**4) Matters Arising:**

Covered under relevant item below

**5) High School Activities:**

DHS reported that recent contact from Chambe High School in July had proposed a schedule for email exchanges. It was intended to maintain this contact with the current DHS representatives handing over to a new ‘team’ shortly. Details would be forwarded as soon as available

**Action: DHS to notify names of new contacts for Likhubula matters.**

The DHS team intended to arrange a visit to Malawi in 2019, details would be provided in due course. The Committee offered to assist with any advice and guidance to DHs to help them set up the arrangements.

Ann advised that it was intended to keep in touch with Ruth Shakespeare on the Nurse Project - details had been forwarded to Ian for inclusion on our website - and to try to get some evaluation of the success of this intitiative in due course. Fiona suggested that contact should be made again with Ruth in December.

**6) Budget**

Neil reported no significant changes in Budget projections. Current balance stood at £7615 including £2K restricted funding for girls education.

Money would be required in Likhubula shortly to cover sponsorship costs for the new total of 25 Bursars. Stuart would make an assessment.

**Action: Stuart to assess estimated funding required for Likhubula Bursars support and advise Neil to arrange transfer**

Coffee morning fundraising was scheduled for 4th November. Janice proposed that the Guild could possibly help with further fundraising in Easter next year.

Stuart noted that the fertilizer distribution had been made and a list of beneficiaries received. Although provision was lower that last year because of available funding this remained a very valuable activity for Likhubula. Neil stated that it would be good to try and make some assessment of the actual benefits/outcomes from this support.

**7) Bursars**

The Committee discussed at length the disappointing End of Term reports recently received for the Bursars and in particular what action could be taken to improve overall performance including more personal coaching, motivational talks from Gift/Christina, The Committee noted the Likhubula intentions to remove Bursars if they failed three terms in a row.

Iain advised that he was in contact with an Edinburgh organisation who were running two successful school projects in Malawi – he would establish any differences their approach.

More information was still required on the reasons for the girls poor performance whether that was poor attendance, family commitments, lack of role models, health etc. It was noted that Likhubula felt that boys were simply more motivated to achieve more.

**Action: Iain to discuss reasons for successful approach with Edinburgh contacts**

The Committee discussed Davie Mvula’s request for support to attend motor vehicle mechanic training. Although some doubts were expressed about affordability it was agreed to consider further how to support this worthwhile request.

**Action: George and Iain to discuss means to support Davie Mvula**

Fiona had forwarded the latest Bursar’s letters to Ian for action/response

**Action: Ian to arrange replies to Bursar’s letters**

The Committee noted Audrey Cooper’s resignation and thanked her for her efforts and support over recent years.

**Action: Stuart; Ian, Fiona and Janice to lead on Bursar’s issues**

Further consideration would be given to how to best utilise the Francis Dunbar bequest of £2K for girls education

**8) 2018 Malawi Visit:**

George presented an updated draft of the Likhubula visit programme to show a better balance between work and leisure activities (copy attached).

Further possible ideas were discussed:

* Visit to local farm
* Visit with Ann Gloag’s organisation
* Visit to nurses at local medica centre

George agree to update the draft programme and circulate to our committee and to Likhubula for comment

**Action: George to update Visit Programme and circulate for comment**

**9) Updates:**

**Mvano: -** Janice recapped on the latest Mvano communication. It was agreed to ask Mvano in her reply about the reasons for girl’s poor performance at school.

**Fistula Project** – nothing further to report

**Goats** – two new goats had been purchased and provided to Likhubula

**10) Publicity and Communications:**

**Likhubula Service -** Response was awaited form the Minister.

**Article for The Wire -** The Wire had agreed to offer to half-page insert for Likhubula news/visit.

**Action: Ian to prepare article for the ‘Wire’ - and ‘Cathedral News’**

**Cathedral Display –** Update of photographs and presentation material was required

**Action: Fiona would lead on updating the presentation boards in the**

**Cathedral**

**Janice agreed to empty the Mary’s Meals ‘cup’ on a regular basis and**

**forward monies to Iain Smith.**

**AOB :**

Stuart thanked the DHS girls for their dedication and support for the Likhubula work over many years and wished them every success in their university courses and future careers.

**Dates of Next Meetings:**

4th Oct – Fiona to chair

15th Nov – Ivor to chair

10th Jan – Stuart to chair