**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 11th Jan 2017**

**Present:** Fiona Anderson**,** (Chairperson), Stuart Brown, Neil Kitching, Ann Hale, Ian Smith, John Kilby, Audrey Cooper, Alba Escala, Christy Cunningham, Laura Paton, Catriona Glen Kitty McKee, Izzy Henderson, Veryan Farr, George Bond (by phone)

**Apologies:** Ivor Butchart, Ian Brown, Janice Hepburn

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 23rd Nov 2016 were approved.

Izzy Henderson and Veryan Farr were welcomed to the meeting. Izzy will represent and be link teacher for Dunblane High School.

**Matters Arising:** Draft report for sponsors on projects and developments to be circulated. Stuart looking for feedback.

Bursars – Email to go from George to Often and Likhubula Committee.

**High School Activities**

**Chambe Secondary School –** The “Likhubula Ladies” reported that a reply had been received from Chambe S.S. with a willingness to continue and improve the school partnership. Mr Mahanda has replaced Mr Makina as the new Head Teacher. There is a new email address which the girls will provide to the committee.

**Action:** The girls will send a reply to Chambe School with information about the involvement of new High School pupils in the school partnership.

**Nurse Project:** Following the final go-ahead from Mulanje Mission Hospital in mid Dec,the sum of £4235 was sent to Mulanje Mission Hospital for provision of a school nurse to schools in Likhubula and Chambe. Fiona is in contact with Ruth Shakespeare who is tracking down the arrival of the money.

Ruth Astbury has asked for feedback on how the project may improve the health and welfare of pupils, particularly girls, in the selected schools.

The Girls are aware of the need to plan for the future and develop fundraising strategies and would like to keep control of their Nurse Project. They have also expressed a desire to visit Likhubula and to see how the nurse project is going. The Responsible Safari Company have been recommended. It was pointed out that Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities have strong links with Malawi and organize visits there.

A number of younger pupils in Dunblane High School have registered their interest in participating in the School Partnership projects. Izzy Henderson is taking on the role of facilitator and support of pupils in DHS. Communication with Chambe Secondary School and support for the bursars will be priorities for fundraising in the school.

**Housing:** A breakdown of costs has been asked for.

**Action** – To chase up a response (G.B)

SMP have been informed of the problem with Philip and this has been followed up.

**Bursars:** Audrey prepared and circulated details of the candidates selected for this year’s bursaries (6 boys and 4 girls) and also an end-of academic-year report on test results of existing bursars.

Concern was expressed on attendance/non-attendance record and poor performance of some girls. More information is required as to reasons.

The DVD “Shout”, brought to the last meeting by Ian, answers many of the questions relating to girls educational performance.

There is up-to-date information about the bursars on the Partnership Facebook site.

**Vocational Skills:**

Eagles Nest information – approx. £190 per term per student but fees are a fraction of the total cost. Course lasts for 7 terms. Concerns expressed over expense. No endorsement yet.

Questions asked: How useful would the qualifications be to the community? Could the Forestry people provide useful employment? Are the courses good value for money generally? What opportunities are available post-school to our bursars?

**Action:** Audrey to request information on what the bursars have gone on to do after leaving school. What are they doing now?

John to gather further information about what skills are needed by the community.

The Housing project showed up a shortage of local building skills. Are there opportunities for local apprenticeships?

**Finance and Budget:** Neil provided an up-to-date report on income, expenditure, balance and rolling annual budget for the year ahead.

Money from Likhubula Day for bursars and Nurse project has been received from DHS.

Discussion about the use of the legacy of £2000 received via Linda McIntosh for bursaries. For girls only? To address the reasons for poor school performance of girls? What are the needs of girls and how can they be addressed? Need to investigate further. Legacy does not have to be spent straight away. Agreed that money should be used to encourage girls to develop and thrive within the community and decision postponed while considering options. Ian urged that Linda McIntosh be informed of decisions regarding the expenditure of the legacy money.

**Action:** Audrey and Janiceto investigate further the needs of girls in schools and community.

Neil indicated depletion of Partnership funds this year and expressed concern over complications of further restricting funds to specific projects.

Current commitments are 25 bursaries @ £150 per head + 3 tertiary bursars. Also ongoing Likhubula Committee expenses.

**SWOT Analysis for Visit to Dunblane:**

Recognition of need for appropriate fundraising if visit is to go ahead.

World Mission have offered £1820 to fund flights for 2 people.

Need for clarity of purpose for a visit. Need to sort out details and activities for visit before commitment is made. Need for community support as well as fundraising.

Fiona, George and Ian B are fully in favour of a visit following their conversations with the Steering Committee this summer. Emphasis on importance of partnership and our relationships with partnership personnel in Likhubula. Fiona emphasized a “moral”commitment.

Stuart is in agreement in principal but expressed concern whether fundraising for a visit can be “sold” to the Dunblane Community.

Izzy would like an educational focus for a visit and will discuss with the school if and how they can be involved.

It was agreed that more time is needed to plan a visit to Dunblane and Spring or Summer of 2018 would be a more realistic time for it to go ahead but planning should start now.

**Medical Facility provision:**

Message from Ruth Shakespeare that there is no District Hospital plan for a medical facility in Likhubula.

**Mvano:** Letter from Janice to go to Mvano.

**Goats:** Purchase of goats locally: Realistic? How much will it cost? No more goats until questions to the community are answered.

**Publicity**: Sub-committee needed to plan Likhubula Cathedral Service and provide information to the community for a forthcoming visit.

Updates for sponsors and community – see under Matters Arising.

N.B. First Item at next meeting should be fundraising ideas.

Next meeting – Wed. March 1st.