**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 1st March 2017**

1. **Present:**  Stuart Brown (Chair), Ivor Butchart, Neil Kitching, Ann Hale, John Kilby, Janice Hepburn, Izzy Henderson, Ian Brown (on Skype)

**Apologies:** George Bond, Iain Smith, Fiona Anderson, Audrey Cooper, Alba Escala, Christy Cunningham, Laura Paton, Catriona Glen, Kitty McKee

1. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 11th Jan 2017 were approved. (SB & AH)
2. **Matters Arising**

The DVD “Shout” provided by Iain Smith, was returned and passed to Janice Hepburn.

Other matters are covered under the relevant Agenda item below.

1. **Fundraising for the 2018 visit**

Approx. £3,500 is needed, in addition to the £1,820 from World Mission, to fund a visit by 3 persons for 2-3 weeks.

Ideas for fundraising:

* Coffee Mornings with awareness-raising sessions. Raffles and tombolas. Janice agreed to coordinate with a team of the usual suspects. Dates to be set and Hall to be booked.
* Ruth Bamforth could be approached with a view to holding a fundraising concert. (SB)
* Boys Brigade can be asked to help with fundraising activity. Stuart to speak to Paul Christmas. Ian B to link with BB.
* Ceilidh (Stuart and Ivor)

1. **High School Activities:**

An email message was sent in January to Chambe Sec School but as yet no reply has been received.

**Action:** Ask girls to send George a copy of the email sent to Chambe, for our information. (Izzy)

There is to be an inter-disciplinary project on Africa as part of a Health and Wellbeing Day in school. This could be a vehicle for information and ideas about Likhubula/Chambe. The girls will be meeting with junior pupils to discuss a means of communication between them and students in Chambe. A suggestion is for S2 pupils to write short letters to pupils in Chambe to establish pupil to pupil contacts. This was discussed.

The Nurse Project: Neil has received a brief message acknowledging receipt of the money sent over in December.

**Action:** Girls to find out what the start date is for the expansion of the school nurse service. Is it already underway? What is the timetable? Can a progress report be supplied via Fiona’s contact with Ruth Shakespeare?

1. **Finance:**

A Report and Financial Statement for the year 2016 has been distributed to the committee.

Recent items:

Success with Gift Aid claim - £1400 received.

£457 received from retiring collection at the Cathedral

£500 has been sent out to pay for bursaries up to July 2017

It was noted that there is no decision yet on how to spend the £2000 restricted fund for the education and welfare of girls.

Accounts to be signed off by Trustees and Examiner in Aug/Sept.

1. **Housing Project:**

Residential training, as suggested by the Steering Committee, is considered to be too expensive for us to fund just now and not sustainable. To be considered at a later date.

Izzy pointed out that her experience in Rwanda demonstrated that residential training courses were worth paying for in terms of positive outcomes for students.

**Action:** Approach Mount Mulanje Trust – Forestry Centre – to find out if they can provide opportunities for apprenticeship training (JK, SB)

Audrey is investigating what bursars are doing once they have left school and how are they benefitting from their secondary education. (See minutes of 11th Jan).

1. **Bursars**

It is the first year running with 25 bursars so too early to comment.

The Sue Ryder charity has identified that embarrassment is a factor preventing girls from attending school and have offered to supply underwear for girls to help them overcome clothing embarrassment and improve their school attendance.

Do we want to utilize this offer? Stuart to find out more.

1. **Malawi Visit to Dunblane:**

Fundraising necessary – see 4) above.

A programme for the visit to be discussed and arranged. – SB, FA, AH

1. **Mvano :**

Messages sent from Guild to Mvano via Fiona. No reply as yet.?

**Fistula Project:**

Success as young nurses go through training, qualifying and going out into rural areas to treat young women.

Update from Iain S at next meeting.

**Goats:** John is still waiting for practical answers from the steering committee to his questions which hopefully could lead us to a decision whether to support the project by breeding hybrid goats which could be more productive than the current breed.

1. **Publicity and Communications :**

* Awaiting feedback from Fiona re the Likhubula Service.
* Stuart was thanked for providing a draft letter updating sponsors on Partnership projects. Some small edits were suggested. Stuart requested suggestions of any further updates which could be included.
* Fiona’s article in The Scotsman in January was acknowledged and praised.

1. **AOB:**

The Dunblane Fling: Committee agreed to apply for a stall (NK) Offers from IB, AH and JH to man on the day.

Minute taking – Ivor and Stuart agreed to stand-in as minute takers if George or Ann were unavailable.

Dates of next meetings were approved.

April 19th – Ivor to chair

May 31st

P.S. We liked the Cockburn Lounge as a meeting place!