**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

 **Steering Committee Minutes - 31st May 2017**

**Present:** George Bond (Chair), Ian Brown, Ann Hale, Janice Hepburn, Ian Smith, Stuart Brown

**Apologies:** John Kilby, Ivor Butchart, Neil Kitching, Audrey Cooper, Fiona Anderson, Izzy Henderson, High School Girls

Minutes from 19th April 2017 approved.

**Matters Arising:** Covered in items below.

**High School Activities** : Izzy’s summary of progress and suggestions have been forwarded to committee members.

Since no one is going out to Malawi in the near future, cards, questionnaires and other correspondence will have to be posted to Chambe Secondary School.

Effectiveness of IT communication with Chambe is unknown. Best to ask them if their IT works.

Nurse project – Ruth Shakespeare has acknowledged receipt of our message. She has been travelling and will send a message when she gets back to Mulanje,

**Finance:** Neil away so no budget update.

13th May - A message was received from Likhubula

* Request for 30,000 Kw for Christina’s final year teaching practice. **George to liaise with Neil to send money out.**
* Tayamika is doing teacher training. What are his school fees? How much needs to be sent out?
* Letters have been sent from bursars. Who were they sent to? **George to check.**
* Thanks from Likhubula committee for fertilisers provided last year. Greatly appreciated by recipients. 150 families helped. Do we want to repeat? If so, what amount do we send? November is the best planting time so Sept/Oct is the best time to supply fertilizer. **George to consult with Neil to see if we can afford to do this.**

**Fundraising Ideas :**

**Coffee Morning –** Hall booked for 4th Nov. A ceilidh to be held in Jan/Feb. Further ideas to be developed. Can the school help with this?

£3,500 is the target figure to be raised.

**2018 Malawi Visit:** A draft programme (copy attached) was provided by George, Stuart and Fiona, following their planning meeting. George emphasised this is very much a draft and he looked to all Committee members for views/opinions/ideas

Stuart has met with BB representatives and support and help has been offered.

A September 2018 date has been suggested for the visit

Accommodation – Churches House and McGregor’s B&B and volunteer hosts.

Three people to be selected in Likhubula. Suggested criteria for selection:

* Effective communication in English and able to speak to large numbers of people
* A committee member
* An interest in education
* At least one female
* Someone who has never been before.

Please communicate any further suggestions.

**Action:**

* **All Committee members to comment on the draft programme**
* **It was agreed to communicate with Likhubula Committee by end June, sending information and inviting them to select potential visitors.**
* **Ian Smith to contact SMP for advice on what the process should be for bringing people over – passports, visas and other administrative procedures.**

**Mvano :** Message from Committee – new Mvano committee has been elected with new email address for correspondence.

As yet there has been no acknowledgement of gifts sent by the Dunblane Guild at Christmas.

Guild are sending £30 to Mvano – donations from Cathedral and St Blane’s Guilds.

Guild members enjoyed listening to the CDs sent by Mvano to Dunblane last summer.

**Goats :** Funding for2 male goats has been sent. **George to ask for acknowledgement.**

**Publicity and Communication :**

Likhubula Service – Stuart to discuss with Colin.

**Action: News and updates to be sent to Cathedral News and The Wire. Ian B. Stuart & Ann.**

**AOB :** Janice queried whether a computer could be provided for Gift who has indicated that a computer would help him achieve better results in his college. This was discussed.

The Frances Dunbar legacy : To be discussed at a later date.

Suggestions made :

Request information from schools as to what can best be done to improve girls’ attendance and attainment and what obstacles they face?

Ian S and Ann will investigate Edinburgh Charity which provides clothing to girls in Malawi, Sue Ryder initiative and Mamie Martin charity.

George - contact Mvano saying we are aware of problems facing girls in education and asking for advice on what might be done to help.

A donation of £25 has been handed in to the Likhubula Partnership. (SB)

Next Meeting : 12th July 2017 in Leighton Room

Volunteer requested to Chair

Suggested dates for future meetings:

12th July, 23rd August, 4th Oct, 15th Nov, 10th Jan