**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 15th November 2017**

**Present:** Ivor Butchart (Chair), Ann Hale (Minutes), Janice Hepburn, Fiona Anderson, Stewart Brown, Ian Brown, Neil Kitching

**Apologies:** George Bond, John Kilby, Iain Smith, Alba Escala, Christy Cunningham, Laura Paton, Catriona Glen, Kitty McGee

**High School Activities:**

Fiona and Ann had a productive meeting with Stewart McKay, Headteacher of Dunblane High School.

* Very keen to continue the school’s involvement with the Partnership and contribute to funding for the bursars. Agreed that it is not necessary for the bursars to go to Chambe S S. A school cross-country run was held recently to raise funds for the bursars. The link with Chambe has been tenuous. Its continuation will be dependent on whether pupils wish to continue with it.
* Izzy Henderson’s replacement has not yet been found but Stewart is hopeful that some member of staff will step up to support and coordinate a young people’s group and represent the school on our committee.
* The school would be delighted to welcome the Likhubula visitors next Autumn.

NB to George. Please take the “Link with Chambe School” off the agenda as there is nothing to report for the time being.

**Nurse Project:** Girls are continuing to be involved with the Partnership and will come to meetings when and if they are able.

**Action:** Girls to contact Ruth Shakespeare end of December or January to learn of progress with the School Nurse project.

Kirsty Glen will be going to Malawi with Project Trust next year. We will be very interested if she could speak to us about her experiences when she gets back.

**Finance :**

**Budget Update:**

There is currently a balance of £6,051 plus more than £700 from the recent Coffee Morning.

Neil attended the VIBES Environmental Business Awards event and was impressed by the work of Water Aid and Light-up Malawi who were represented there.

**Bursars Budget:**

£2,000 has been paid out for bursaries. There are sufficient funds in the account for this year. £1100 still to pay out until end of June.

There are not sufficient funds in the budget to fund Davie yet but maybe in the future. Iain is contacting Honda and other car dealerships for possible sponsorship.

**Fundraising for Likhubula Visit:**

Budget tight for the visit but grants still may come in. George has put in a bid to the Scottish Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge for £3,000 to help fund the visit.  While there is no guarantee of success this would be a great help in meeting costs of the visit. George will keep looking for other possible supporters in the meantime.

Coffee Morning - thanks and congratulations to Janice for organizing a very successful fundraiser.

Fiona reported that The Responsible Safari Company are liaising with the visitors and organising passports and visas for them. There is a cost so far of £235 for 3 passports. Akimu has sent a message saying that these arrangements are progressing well.

The visit will be covered by Church of Scotland Insurance at a cost of £25 pp.

Suggested fundraiser – a book lending stand in the Cockburn Lounge. Stewart could supply shelves or chest.

**Action:** Fiona to raise a request at Kirk Session meeting.

**Bursars:**

**Performance:** Report received from Akimu with Form 4 results. 4 out of 5 students have passed with good results, better than previously indicated in Mr Nayambalo’s recent report. Stewart had previously messaged the Steering Committee indicating our concerns about performance. Akimu reports that the Steering Committee share these concerns and have a long discussion about bursar performance and results.

**Action:** Ian and Fiona will contact Mr Nyambalo for an up-to-date Term 3 summary of progress and also an update on term 1. After receiving this report letters can be sent out to bursars.

Suggestion from Sunday School – pen pal letters to be restarted?

Based on previous experience the committee recommend a generic letter from Sunday Schools to bursars rather than individual pen pal letters.

Report from Akimu – maize has been distributed to the bursars.

Gift finishes his studies in December. Tayamika finishes in June, the last of our bursars currently in tertiary education. No news from Christina.

**Action:** Fiona will ask for a report from Christina expressing disappointment that we have not heard from her and would like to hear of her graduation and future plans. Also ask for a report on attendance of girls at school.

**Frances Dunbar bequest :**

4th November Ann visited the Mamie Martin AGM in Bannockburn to gain information about the obstacles to girl’s education in Malawi and how to help overcome them.

The Mamie Martin Foundation does much the same as us, providing bursaries for secondary schools (over 100 girls). 3 CCAP boarding schools in northern Malawi. Their aim is to encourage more girls to take up educational opportunities and to gain from them.

They have an annual budget of £34,000 this year.

Like us, they are looking at tertiary education for the same reasons as us. They have a discretionary fund which can be drawn on for individual cases of need – usually comparatively small amounts.

They have contact with a company which produces washable sanitary products for women designed for use in poorer communities which lack modern sanitation services. Could be useful.

**Action:** Ann will be meeting Moira Dunworth, one of the trustees, later this month to follow up contact with the sanitary products company and to learn how funds are distributed from the discretionary fund.

**Likhubula Visit to Dunblane :**

Funding – see under Finance.

Janice will re-contact the Primary School after Christmas to find out if there is a member of staff to represent the school on the committee prior to the Likhubula visit.

Date of visit not yet decided.

**Mvano :**

Still no message from Mvano.

**Action:** Janice will send a Christmas message with good wishes, added to Fiona’s email.

CDs – Money from the sale of CDs can go to Mvano as a contribution towards their mock wedding fundraiser.

Perhaps these actions will stimulate a reply.

**Fistula Project:** 2nd generation of nurses now qualified and working in the field. An update would be appreciated.

This could maybe come off the agenda since we are no longer involved. (George)

**Goats:** Fiona will include a request for further information about the goats. Are there any more goats?

**Publicity and Communications:**

Likhubula Service to take place next year. Ivor and Fiona to raise this at the Kirk Session meeting.

**Action:** Update the notice board with information about the visitors and recent progress. Up-to-date photos.

Thanks to Jan for articles in The Wire and Cathedral News.

Janice will prepare an article for the Cathedral news with information about Mary’s Meals, the Coffee Morning and other news.

Ian will prepare an article for the Wire.

N.B. Ask for volunteers to join our group, emphasising that with the forthcoming visit, it’s an exciting time to be included in Partnership activities.

AOCB: Fiona will raise several items at the Kirk Session: books, Service, recruitment of committee members.

Next meeting: 10th Jan. – George to chair (if present)

21st Feb – George to confirm in diary.