**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

 **Steering Committee Minutes - Wed 4th October 2017**

**Present:** Fiona Anderson, Ivor Butchart, Stuart Brown, Ian Brown, Ann Hale, Janice Hepburn, John Kilby, Neil Kitching

**Apologies**: George Bond, Izzy Henderson, Iain Smith, Alba Escala

Minutes of Meeting on 23rd August 2017 were agreed. Kitty McKee’s name added to those present.

**Matters Arising:**

**High School Activities:** Discussion about the commitmentof the High School to the Chambe School link and the future of the school funded bursaries (to the amount of £600 p.a.). It was noted that this year there was no Africa Day held at the High School and therefore no fundraising towards the bursaries.

**Action:** Fiona and Ann to arrange to meet with Izzy and Mr McKay to discuss the future of the school link.

The High School girls (“Likhubula Ladies”) have said they will be attending and supporting the Coffee Morning and this will provide an opportunity to thank them for their involvement with the Partnership.

**Finance:** Neil reported that £2,500 has been sent out to the Likhubula Steering Committee for bursaries.

There is a balance of £5,586 in the bank, £2000 restricted fund for girls education.

Neil provided a rolling budget for the year ahead. Approx. £2000 needs to be raised for the Malawi visit.

**Bursars fund** – costs of each bursar was confirmed. It was noted that there will be a reduction in outgoings as Christina has now completed her training and Gift finishes in December.

Photos of new bursars will be sent to us.

**Fundraising Plans:**

Coffee Morning: Posters and tickets were distributed to Committee members. Copies of poster to be emailed to committee as well.

Janice provided a useful plan and schedule for the Coffee Morning and committee members volunteered for duties on the day.

George has volunteered to approach businesses and grant-giving bodies to ask for funding support for the Partnership. Suggestion supported by the committee.

**Tertiary Education:** Suggestion made that the opportunity of tertiary funding could be a motivator for better performance in secondary education. Tertiary Education is not part of the Partnership Constitution although tertiary funding for exceptional candidates may be considered if our funds allow.

Query – Is there a Performance Table for schools in Malawi?

Iain Smith is approaching Honda to find out if they can give financial support for Davie’s training as a mechanic. This is held up just now by reorganization of the business. Perhaps other car firms may also be approached.

**Bursars:** Ian and Fiona to draft letters to bursars.

N.B.Tayamika is doing his teaching practice in Mr Chiromo’s school.

**Frances Dunbar bequest –** Suggestions from Iain Smith and Ann Hale:

* Hygene and sanitation issues for girls has been highlighted. Iain has contacted Sue Hope, who works for Anne Gloag in a different part of Malawi. She may be able to provide information about their approach to girls education and provide ideas of how the bequest could be used..
* Ann has contacted Malawi Girlguiding Association who may be a route to addressing the needs of girls. Awaiting a response.
* Arrange with the hospital / school nurses to help with the distribution of sanitary provisions – disposable towels etc – to local schools.
* An award to the highest achieving bursar – the opportunity of tertiary education or training. This would provide an incentive to attend and improve performance.

The visit from Malawi next year will provide an opportunity to discuss the issue of girls education. Christina (the nurse) may be able to provide information about the issues we have discussed.

**Action:**

* Ann to contact Mamie Martin fund.
* Stuart and Ian to investigate the attendance levels and performance of girls.

**Likhubula Visit to Dunblane:**

Janice has visited Dunblane Primary School with a very positive result. The School are very interested to be involved. Ruth Allan (Depute) mentioned that a member of her staff has had previous involvement with Malawi.

**Action:** Janice will sound out the primary School to see if there is anyone in the staff who would be interested in joining our committee.

The Likhubula Steering Committee have selected three visitors which we consider to be a very good choice.

Fiona has contacted travel organisations (Responsible Safari Company and others) who can facilitate travel arrangements, passports and visas for small remuneration. Our good connection with the SMP can be drawn upon in case of visa difficulties.

**Mvano:** Janice has asked for information on the situation of girls and barriers to their learning. Awaiting a response.

The Guild is thanked for their help with the Coffee Morning.

Goats: Ian is asking for information from the Steering Committee about progress with the new more robust goats.

**Publicity and Communications:** Ian was congratulated on the excellent article in the Cathedral magazine. He is currently preparing a similar article for The Wire including advertising the Coffee Morning.

**Action:** Fiona and Ivor will refurbish the Cathedral Boards in time for the Coffee Morning.

Ian will fix access to the secure part of the Partnership website.

**AOCB:** Mary’s Meals **-** Janice offered to write an item for the Cathedral magazine commenting on the billionth serving of Mary's Meals in India and highlighting Dunblane support and commitment to this worthy service.

Committee agreed that this is a good idea.

Ian B will update the website with correct, up-to-date information.

**Next Meeting – 15th Nov.**