**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

 **Steering Committee Minutes - 10th January 2018**

**Present:** George Bond (Chair), Fiona Anderson, Janice Hepburn, Jenni Barr, Ann Hale (Minutes), Ian Smith, Neil Kitching, John Kilby, Stuart Brown, Ian Brown

**Apologies:** The “Likhubula Ladies” (Alba, Christy, Catriona, Laura and Kitty)

Minutes from meeting of 15th November 2017 were accepted.

**High School Activities:** No further news regarding a lead contact to replace Izzy Henderson.

News from the Likhubula Ladies – Catriona and Alba have achieved a 4 week placement to Likhubula in the summer from Glasgow University. This will give them the opportunity to check up on the Nurse project.

**Action:** Suggest that the girls contact Ruth Shakespeare in advance to let her know they will be coming to visit.

**Finance:** Neil reported that there is £6846 balance in the bank. A Gift Aid claim of £1500 has been made and a donation of £50 has also been made.

Small amounts of money donated can be gathered together and Gift Aid claimed.

Budget for Visit; £3000 (not including the cost of 2 flights which is being met by a Church of Scotland Faithshare grant). An application has been made for a further grant and further fundraising may be necessary.

A statement of accounts, Sept – Dec, has been sent by the Steering Committee.

Agreement to send Term 2 fees (£600). £1000 will be sent now to ensure all expenses and transfer fees are covered.

3 requests have been made for tertiary education –

Davie Mvula (bursar) – mechanics course

Safari’s daughter – 2 year course in Community and Rural Development

Steven Sekari (bursar) – 3 year training program in Blantyre in Community and Rural Development.

Decisions: -

* Davie - Agreement to try and support Davie in his course which starts in September (£240 approx)
* Safari’s daughter – point her to the SOKO Fund who may be able to help [www.thesokofund.org](http://www.thesokofund.org)
* Steven – ask for more details

Action: Ian Smith will contact car organisations e.g. Honda, to ask for help to fund Davie in his training.

Ian Smith agreed to coordinate tertiary funding requests.

**Fundraising for visit:**

George has applied to SSPCK – Scottish Society for Propagation of Christian Knowledge – for £3000 to cover the remaining costs of the Likhubula visit.

Book stand in the Cockburn Lounge – Fiona raised this at the Kirk Session meeting where it met a favourable response but no definite decision. Fiona will check with Ivor who to approach for permission to go ahead.

A Soup and Sandwich lunch was suggested to raise funds, possibly in St Blane’s Church Hall.

**Frances Dunbar bequest:**

A contact provided by Moira Dunworth from Mamie Martin organization -

Supreme Company in Malawi making reusable sanitary products for women and girls. [www.suprememalawi.com](http://www.suprememalawi.com)

**Action:** Ann will explore costs of supplying girl bursars based on the needs and cost p.p.

**Likhubula Visit to Dunblane:**

Fiona provided information regarding passports and visa applications from the Responsible Safari Company. Visitors’ passports have all come through without any problems.

Fiona distributed a “Preparation for Visa Application” with a To Do List with an action plan and nominated persons.

Dates for the visit were agreed: 13th – 25th September.

**Action**: Fiona to let Responsible Safari Company know dates of visit. Trustees to send Fiona an electronic scan of passports. Neil to provide bank statement. Fiona, Ian, Stuart and Ann nominated as official hosts for purposes of visa applications.

Visit program – Suggestion made to include a visit to Stirling College and/or Raploch Community Centre. Committee members asked to send any further comments on the program to George.

Pen portraits of the three visitors have been sent and will be distributed to committee members.

**Mvano:** No news but photos of the Mock Wedding were sent to us.

**Action:** Janet will write again requesting information about the specific needs of girls in the community.

**Goats:** Some medication has been provided to the goats. There are now 4 males and 14 females which is an improvement on a previous report.

**Publicity and Communication:**

Likhubula Service – awaiting a date from Colin. Try Dorothy?

Articles – Ian’s article in The Wire and Janice’s article in the Cathedral News were well received.

**Action:** In March edition include the pen-portraits of our visitors.

The Display Boards in the Cathedral have been updated.

Website – Ian to update.

Fiona’s report to Kirk Session was well received.

**AOB**

Fiona has been in contact with Peter Lovegrove - Morrisons Academy have stocked a Likhubula Library based in a building by the main road and run by volunteers.

SIDA – Scottish International Development Agency – provided free advice and mentoring,

Date of next meeting: 21st February

Later meetings:

28th March  (5 week gap to avoid Easter school holidays)

9th May

20th June