**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 24th April 2019**

1. **Attended by**: Stuart Brown (Chairman) , Fiona Anderson, Ivor Butchart, Ann Hale, George Bond (minutes), Ian Brown, Neil Kitching, Janice Hepburn

**Apologies:** Chinny Iroegbu, Jenni Barr, Iain Smith

1. **Minutes:** of 6th March 2019 were approved.
2. **Matters Arising**: (Included under relevant Agenda item)
3. **2019 Visit to Likhubula:**

Fiona and Ian B will be representing the Partnership. Fiona advised that sponsorship funding was proceeding satisfactorily and, subject to any excess funding being received, it might be possible to return the £1200 previously allocated by the Committee for accommodation/food.

Topics for discussion in Likhubula:

* *Education.*
* One-to-one meetings with all Bursars;
* review of exam results/trends;
* policy for dealing with ‘failing’ students;
* succession planning for Mr Nyambalo;
* Likhubula spending priorities for bursars/further education/fertilizer provision;
* effectiveness of solar lamps;
* bursar selection process;
* review of bursar activity after they complete secondary education;
* value of study clubs or other means to assist ‘struggling’ bursars;
* use and value of trophies/medals;
* pen pictures of three Likhubula families
* *Fertiliser provision*. Undertake a qualitative evaluation of fertiliser donation to assess impact/quantify benefits with success stories and visit farmers who have benefited.
* *Infrastructure*. Review of current infrastructure and any associated issues

Fiona would notify the Likhubula Committee of these topics in advance of the visit so that they can have time to consider the issues.

**Action: Fiona to advise Likhubula of topics for discussion**

Fiona advised that it was intended for the BB to have more interaction this time with the local community with hopefully a visit(s) to a local home.

The Committee agreed to allocate up to £100 for Fiona’s proposal to purchase some small, low-cost gifts for the Likhubula Committee members and the Chiefs.

**Action: Fiona to purchase gifts**

**Finance:**

Neil advised that he had written to DHS to thank them for the funds raised from the Likhubula Day.

All payments for Bursar funding had been completed for this year and the 2018 annual accounts had been forwarded for auditing.

George updated the Committee on draft applications to grant-giving bodies he was in the course of preparing for support of extra bursars/tertiary education/fertilizer provision. He would circulate copies of drafts for comment before formal submission.

 **Action:** **George to circulate copies of draft funding applications**

Fiona, Ann, Neil and Stuart were now the signatories for the Likhubula bank account. Iain Smith and Jenni had been removed from the list. It was hoped now to set-up Internet Banking.

Janice offered to organise another coffee morning later this year –the Committee gratefully accepted this proposal

**Action:** **Janice to organize coffee morning**

**Bursars:**

Ian presented his summary of Bursars results which overall presented a positive picture of progress and success –

Year 4 – One bursar has dropped out but otherwise all doing well

Year 3 – 10 Bursars in this year who were all doing well

Ian noted that boarding school results had shown a recent drop in overall performance.

George asked if it would be possible to get a one-page ‘top-level’ summary showing exam progress for all bursars

**Action: Ian to prepare one page summary of bursar results**

It was confirmed that a congratulations card had been sent to Gift following his success in the Accountancy exams.

Davie Mvula had changed colleges and it was confirmed that no additional funding was required for this

**High School Activities**

No further news on a teacher to take responsibility for Likhubula matters at DHS. Fiona proposed to send an email to DHS at the beginning of the next school year to encourage continuation of the Likhubula Day and to seek a possible volunteer for Likhubula issues

**Action: Fiona to email DHS re Likhubula issues at beginning of next school year**

**Mvano**

Janice presented a cheque from the Women’s Guild for £240 - £100 of which was for Mvano in Likhubula and the balance for use by the Dunblane Committee. The Committee expressed it deep appreciation to the Guild for this donation. The Mvano money would be handed over in person during the July visit.

**Action: Fiona/Ian to present £100 to Mvano during the July visit**.

**Publicity& Communications:**

Display boards – more portable, folding boards to be investigated and purchased in due course.

**Action: Ivor to pursue**

The Wire: Stuart has prepared an article to meet the next deadline.

 **AOB:**

 Fiona proposed that it might be possible to hold a showing of the “Boy Who

 Harnessed the Wind” during her planned ‘get-together’ for the boys prior to

 leaving for Malawi

 Janice advised that more secure arrangements had been put in place for the

 ‘Mary’s Meals’ money boxes in the Cathedral. She made regular checks and

 transferred monies to the Mary’s Meals shop as required.

 Ian advised that he had more contact from ‘Faithlinks’ in the Borders who

 also had Malawi/Likhubula interests. The Committee agreed it could be

 useful to invite them to be represented at one of our future meetings.

**Trustee decisions:**

* Up to £100 for purchase of small gifts for Likhubula Committee members & Chiefs

**Dates of Next Meetings**: 29th May; 14th August