**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 14th August 2019**

1. **Attended by**: Stuart Brown (Chair), Fiona Anderson, Ann Hale, George Bond (minutes), Ian Brown, Neil Kitching, Mrs Kitching, Janice Hepburn, Jenni Barr, Colin Anderson, James Forrest, Joshua Spencer

**Apologies:** Ivor Butchart

1. **Minutes:** of 29th May 2019 were approved.
2. **Matters Arising**:

Included under relevant Agenda Item

1. **2019 Visit to Likhubula: Feedback**

Colin presented a video of the visit highlights - this would also be shown after the Cathedral service on 1st September and at 7.45 in St Blanes on 8th September.

Colin advised that the fundraising efforts had provided some surplus monies which the BB had agreed could be used in part to support the Likhubula committee. This included purchase of a replacement solar lamp for each Bursar and additional textbooks to allow each bursar to have better access to the required texts. (£1800 had been spent so far by the BB on text books and £1600 would be transferred to the Dunblane Committee to purchase a further 2 sets of textbooks).

Additionally it had been agreed to set up the Jane McManus Teaching Scholarship to the value of £6K with the aim of supporting Bursars seeking to gain professional teaching qualifications. This scholarship would be managed by the Dunblane Committee.

**Action: Dunblane Committee to consider Teaching Scholarship management and administration requirements**

Ian and Fiona provided their Visit Report (copy attached). Key points to note and discuss included:

Bursars:

-One to one discussions were held with each Bursar with the exception of those at boarding school. These were all very positive and highlighted the high esteem in which the Bursar scheme was held by both the Bursars themselves and the community as a whole.

-The consensus of opinion was that the current maximum of 25 Bursars was the optimum number bearing in mind practical administration issues for the local staff

-Pen Pictures of three Bursars had been prepared and would be circulated to the committee for information.

**Action: Ian / Fiona to circulate Bursar pen pictures.**

**-**From discussions it was clear that the Bursars who did not go on to Tertiary

Education were all still living within the Likhubula area without regular

employment emphasising the need to assist Bursars wherever possible

to obtain professional or vocational skills.

-The Likhubula Committee had instituted a system of suspension for under-

performing Bursars. This had been agreed between the Committee, Bursars

and parents. One Bursar was currently on suspension.

Tertiary Education

The possibility of an ‘apprentice style’ scheme to allow learning in the community and avoid costs for travel and accommodation was discussed during the visit and felt worthy of further consideration. Additionally a visit was made to the Green Malata training college which provided 4-6 month courses in a range of vocational skills. This was also a possibility to help Bursars gain full-time employment.

Discussions were held with a number of the ex-Bursars seeking support for Tertiary Education:

- Aubrey Telera has been applied for secondary school teacher training.

The BB had agreed that if accepted he would be the first recipient of

funding from the Jane McManus scholarship.

- Steven Sakani had begun a course in Community Education but had

dropped out because of lack of funds. He was hopeful that we could

support him to finish the course.

-Lonjenzo Magumbo wishes to become a tailor and had started a

course at Green Malata in July

On behalf of the Dunblane Committee Ian/Fiona undertook to look at

possibilities for financial support with the usual caveats about available

funding. The Committee agreed with the value of these ideas and requests

but emphasised the need to have full cost estimates to enable full

consideration

**Action: George/Stuart to request Likubula to provide cost estimates**

Infrastructure

The village Chiefs requested consideration to providing “development

shelters” in each of the seven villages which could be used for meetings and

‘ under 5’ clinics/nurseries. The Chiefs would provide bricks/river sand with

funding required for cement, timber, iron sheeting and skilled labour. The

Committee noted our previous difficulties in this area but agreed to consider

further once a detailed cost estimate had been provided by Likhubula.

Fertiliser

Ian and Fiona visited the parents of a boarding Bursar who were also recipients of fertilizer support. Yield from their crops had more than doubled from 6 bags to 13 because of the fertilizer. In response to a request from Likhubula to provide fertilizer again this year it was agreed to allocate £2K to enable fertilizer to be purchased in the next few weeks.

Liaison with DHS

The Committee encouraged James and Joshua to use this experience to help stimulate more engagement by DHS staff and pupils with the work of the Partnership. The Committee offered to help with any initiatives they thought would be helpful.

Budget

Ian would circulate the latest proposed budget for Bursars for information/endorsement.

Report to Church of Scotland

Jenni proposed that we use the CodfS proforma for the report back on the visit outcome.

The Committee thanked Fiona and Ian for their efforts and hard work during this busy week. They had achieved an immense amount in a very short time and the mutual benefits for Likhubula and Dunblane from the more frequent contacts were becoming more and more evident.

1. **Finance**

The Committee approved the 2018 Accounts which had been circulated earlier for information/comments.

**PMN** Ian to be re-imbursed £140 for the payment to Mvano made during the visit to Likhubula.

1. **Coffee Morning 21st September**

Janice provided an update on planning for the forthcoming Coffee Morning. It was agreed that tickets should sell at £3 for adults and £1 for children.

The Committee would look to make pen pictures of Bursars and Standing Order forms availale for each table.

**7) AOB:**

Ann requested confirmation on the number of sanitary packs she should

obtain for all Girl Bursars.

**Action: Ian to confirm requirements as part of the Budget calculations.**

1. **Trustee decisions:**

* Endorsed 2018 Annual Accounts
* Agreed to accept BB financial contributions for Bursar education
* Agreed to provide £2K for fertilizer purchase this year

1. **Dates of Next Meetings**: 25th Sept; (Fiona to Chair)

6th Nov;

8th Jan