**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 29th May 2019**

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

**Apologies:** Chinny Iroegbu,

1. **Minutes:** of 24th April 2019 were approved with the following revised paragraph under ‘Mvano’

“The Cathedral Guild have disbursed £240 to the Dunblane Likhubula

Partnership. In light of the recent adverse conditions affecting Malawi, the

Guild wished to increase our annual gift to Mvano from £100 to £140. The

remaining £100 we wished to send to the Likhubula Dunblane Committee

in Malawi to use as they see fit.”

1. **Matters Arising**:

Fiona proposed to hold a ‘get-together’ at her house later in Aug (possibly 21st) to include a showing of ‘The Boy who Harnessed the Wind’. Details to be confirmed at the next Committee meeting.

1. **2019 Visit to Likhubula:**

Fiona reviewed the planned programme for the forthcoming visit to Likhubula including meetings with the Likhubula Committee, local Chiefs, Mr Nyambalo and the Bursars. Fiona would emphasise that the talk with each of the Bursars individually to go over their performance would be informal and relaxed and include Ruth when talking to the girls.

Fiona would advise the Likhbula Committee in advance of the topics for

discussion so that they would have time to consider the issues: including:

* *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

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

The Committee agreed to allocate £500 to cover £150 for purchase of shopping bags as a low-cost gift for the Likhubula Committee members and the Chiefs and to cover incidental expenses in Likhubula.

**Finance:**

Neil presented the latest Budget statement. Income from Standing Orders remained steady. Iain Smith noted that other sources of income would be necessary when / if donations from long-standing orders tailed off.

Fiona and Ann were in the process of setting up bank account access as signatories for the Likhubula bank account.

Janice had a provisional date of 21st Sept for a coffee morning and she would continue to plan this event.

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

Fiona noted the possibility of holding a ‘Whisky Tasting’ event next year as a possible source of income.

**Bursars & Tertiary Education**

Nothing new to report. Ian noted that the Bursar and Tertiary position will be reviewed in detail following the forthcoming visit to Likhubula.

**High School Activities**

No further news on a teacher to take responsibility for Likhubula matters at DHS. Fiona will 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**

The Committee discussed the best use of the £240 presented by Mvano. £140 of this would be handed over in cash to Mvano representatives during the Likhubula visit and they would also discuss with the Likhubula Committee the best use for the remaining £100.

**Action: Fiona/Ian to present £140 to Mvano during the July visit and discuss best use for the remaining funds**

**Publicity& Communications:**

Display boards – more portable, folding boards to be investigated and purchased before the September Coffee Morning.

**Action: Ivor to pursue**

The Wire: Stuart has prepared an article for inclusion in the next issue

Cathedral News: Janice would include information about our forthcoming Coffee Morning the next quarterly edition of Cathedral News.

Stirling Observer: Iain S proposed that we have some good information/activity to include in the Stirling Observer both before and after the Likhubula Visit. He would contact them to discuss.

**Action: Iain S to contact Stirling Observer**

**GDPR**

George advised that he written again to those who had not yet singed up to the GDPR Regs. He would report back on any outstanding issues at the next meeting

**Action: George to pursue GDPR responses and report back**

**AOB:**

Fiona to hold a showing of the “Boy Who Harnessed the Wind” at her house

Later in August after the Likhubula Visit.

Janice advised that some 240 had been raised for Mary’s Meals from the

Cathedral boxes since February this year.

Jenni advised that Rev Prof Kenneth Ross, retiring Chair of the Scotland Malawi

Partnership and who is about to return to Malawi as the Church of Scotland’s

newest missions partner, was very interested last week to learn of Dunblane

young people’s involvement over the years in the Dunblane Likhubula

Partnership. He was heartened by it and sends us his congratulations.

Jenni drew attention to the range of Malawi books and information recently

received which was available to any Committee members to review/use for a

short period.

**Trustee decisions:**

* £500 allocated for incidental expenses during the Likhubula Visit including £150 for purchase of shopping bags for Likhubula Committee members & Chiefs.

**Date of Next Meeting**: 14th August