**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 15th April 2020**

**(Meeting held online via Zoom)**

**Attended by**: George Bond (Chair), Ann Hale (Minutes), Fiona Anderson, Jenni Barr, Stuart Brown, , Ian Brown, Ivor Butchart, Neil Kitching, Ian Smith

1. **Covid 19 (Added to agenda).**

Discussion on implications for Malawi and Likhubula in particular.

Malawi still in early stages of the epidemic. SMP policy is to support the Malawian Government strategy and response i.e. schools closing and lockdown about to be imposed.

* If schools are closed do we still pay the fees?
* Are teachers still paid when schools are closed?
* What restrictions are there within the community? What problems will lockdown bring for the community vis a vis food provision and distribution?
* Should the committee withdraw more from the account to tide them over lockdown?

ACTION: Stuart to communicate with the Committee for information and feedback.

**NB:** Since our meeting, following a request from the steering committee, we have agreed to their immediate purchase of maize for bursars before the prices go up and the banks close. This is being done with immediate effect.

1. **Finance:**

23rd March 2020. Account stands at £10,207.40. Accounts need to be audited.

Neil/Stuart to find a suitable auditor.

£520 raised from **DHS Likhubula Run** but not yet transferred to our account. Fiona in contact with Mr McKay who has said that the school will top up the amount needed for the school-funded Likhubula bursars.

George is pursuing **grant applications**. Requirement to provide information re start of bursary scheme and success rate of bursars. Agreed that at least 95% of bursars complete their 4 years of secondary education.

Along with other charities, we cannot fundraise in the current situation which will have an impact on our finances. Whisky Tasting postponed to a later date, possibly November.

1. **2020 15th Anniversary Plans:**

Postponed to a later date, possibly November.

ACTION: Fiona to contact Colin and Dorothy to postpone date of Anniversary Service in Cathedral.

1. **Bursars:**

Ian B confirmed that Malawi schools are now closed. He will communicate with the committee to find out what the implications are for our bursars.

1. **Tertiary Education:**

Application received for funding for **Isaac Limited**. Training in Solar and Electrical Installation

Information has been provided regarding Fees for the course at Green Malata and the additional funds required for accommodation, travel, food etc.

Fiona has visited Green Malata and has confidence in the quality of the courses they provide.

Following discussion, agreement was reached to support Isaac in pursuing this training course unless it is cancelled or postponed because of Coronavirus.

NB. Stuart to check that we pay the fees when the course starts.

**Aubrey Telera**: Confirmation not to fund the suggested course he’s applied for but we might consider funding him for teacher training should he wish to in the future.

ACTION: Stuart to draft a response to the committee on these tertiary applications.

1. **New Infrastructure**:

Water Supply repairs have been undertaken and completed.

Shelters – too much for us to fund just now.

1. **DHS Liaison:** Nothing to report.
2. **Mvano:** Nothing to report.
3. **Publicity and Communications:**

Update to sponsors postponed until the Autumn to tie in with the Anniversary Celebration.

1. **Safeguarding Policy:**

We have a policy and pay due attention on a regular basis.

Agreed that it should be a standard item on the agenda.

Following discussion with a mixed response, agreement was reached that it should appear on the website.

ACTION: Ian B to put our Safeguarding Policy on our website.

1. **Trustee Decisions:**

Agreement to support Isaac to the amount of MK488,000 (£535 approx).

Agreement to allow immediate purchase of maize for bursars.

**Next meeting: 27th May**

We can be flexible if necessary.