**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

 **Steering Committee Minutes - 4th November 2020**

**(Meeting held online via Zoom)**

1. **Attended by**: Stuart Brown (Chair), George Bond (Minutes), Ann Hale, Jenni Barr,

Fiona Anderson, Neil Kitching, Ian Brown, Ivor Butchart.

1. Minutes of 23rd September were accepted.
2. **Covid-19 Update:**

Jenni proposed to use some of the recent pictures from Likhubula to update the articles in the Stirling Observer to show how the funds are being used. She would also share this with Ian for our website.

**Action:** Jenni to update Stirling Observer articles and copy to Ian.

Likhubula has requested provision of another approx. 2,000 masks to enable all school pupils to be given one. It was unclear however how many masks are being provided from other sources and it was agreed to ask Likhubula to clarify the current arrangements and confirm total requirements.

**Action:** Stuart to contact Likhubula to confirm requirements for masks.

Over £500 had now been raised from the Virgin fundraising site and efforts will continue to raise funds by this means.

1. **Finance:**

Neil advised £9K funds in the bank of which £6K were restricted. £460 from DHS with Fiona to pass to Neil. Monthly sponsorship funding was running at approx. £450 per month. Some £1800 had been sent to Likhubula in the last month.

The Committee agreed to review the 20/21 budget requirements for Bursars and clarify with Likhubula when funds will be required based on the latest plans for school opening dates. Ann proposed to add a line in the Bursars budget for PPE provision.

**Action:** Neil and Ian to propose 20/21 Budget and circulate to cttee for comment/approval

Ian re-iterated the benefit of using the EasyFundraising site (**easyfundraising.org.uk**) when making purchases online – each purchase via many major retail sites (eg Amazon, eBay) generates a small donation for Likhubula.

It was noted that the BB are doing fundraising via Zoom. Fiona suggested that any urgent need for funds could perhaps be covered using our restricted funds subject to seeking BB approval

1. **Bursars:**

It was agreed to seek clarification from Likhubula on the exam situation for Form 4 and plans for selection of the next intake of 5 Bursars.

**Action:** Stuart to include in note to Likhubula

1. **Tertiary Education & Support**

The Committee wholeheartedly supported the Likhubula request for 270,000 MWK to provide a equipment and materials for Lonjezo following his successful tailoring course at Green Malata college and noted the commendable intention by likhubula to use Lonjezo’s experience as a good example for future such initiatives by Bursars.

It was also agreed to use this successful vocational training to show DHS how their funds are being put to practical use by Bursars and not necessarily being focused solely on ‘high-achievers’

**Action:** Ann to notify Likhubula via What’s App of our approval for Lonjezo’s funding and

 request a photograph when equipment is provided

 Neil to arrange transfer of funds to Likhubula as soon as possible

 Fiona to advise DHS of this ‘good news’ story.

 Jenni to include details in her update to the Stirling Observer

1. **Mvano:**

No further news had been received on Mvano activities – Stuart will seek information from Likhubula.

**Action:** Stuart to request update.

1. **Publicity and Communications:**

Ian has invite a representative from another Scotland- Malawi partnership to join us on Zoom to share information, ideas and experience. A responses was awaited

**PMN:** Mr Denis Robson from a partnership linked to Thondwe, Malawi will join us for our next meeting. (Thondwe is approx. 45 miles by car North of Likhubula).

1. **Safeguarding Policy :** Standing item on agenda. No issues raised.
2. **Trustee Decisions**:
* Agreed to provide 270,000 MWK to purchase equipment and materials for Lonjezo’s tailoring business.

1. **AOB:**
* The Committee noted with great sadness the death of Graham Stewart, silversmith. In particular they recalled his very generous donations of silverware for Likhubula in the early years of our Partnership with Malawi. The Committee expressed its condolences to his wife, family and many friends and agreed to notify Likhubula of his passing.

 **Action:** Stuart to include in note to Likhubula.

* Jenni noted that the Maimie Martin fund were still planning to do some fundraising with us next summer
1. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wed 6th Jan 2021. Ivor to chair.