**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

 **Steering Committee Minutes - 6TH January 2021**

**(Meeting held online via Zoom)**

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

Fiona Anderson, Neil Kitching, Ian Brown, Stuart Brown

**Apologies** – Iain Smith.

1. Minutes of 4th Nov 2020 were accepted.
2. **IWT – Thondwe Link**

Denis Robson gave a presentation describing the link between IWT (Innerleithen, Traquair Walkerburn) and Thondwe Malawi, their aims an objectives and projects undertaken in Malawi ober recent years. He invited the Likhubula committee to consider how we could work together for mutual benefit.

The committee agreed to consider how this potential link could be developed and Stuart agreed to discuss the next step with Denis. He asked committee members to let him have comments and questions to assist with the discussions.

**Action: All committee members to advise Stuart of comments and questions regarding possible work with the IWT-Thondwe partnership**

1. **Covid-19 Update:**

No further information had been received from Malawi about mask requirements.

Cases of coronavirus in Malawi remained low.

1. **Finance:**

Neil advised £7,300K funds in the bank of which £6,000K were restricted.

A further £450 had been received via the Virgin website giving a total of £950 – this included £770 raised by the BB from their Christmas Carols – some of which will be included in the £950 – Neil will sort out.

The High School Likhubula day has raised a further £700.

Funds for Term 1 Bursars plus the first instalment of Aubrey Telera’s college fees and equipment/materials for Lonjezo – totalling £3,350 - had been transferred to Likhubula.

 Stuart advised that it might be necessary to find another auditor for this year’s accounts and suggested we should consider possible alternatives

Jenni updated the committee on possible collaboration with the Maimie Martin Fund and their proposals for a bicycling ‘fun-run’ in the summer and possible fundraising for Likhubula. Ann indicated her willingness to be part of this initiative.

George noted that the funding application to the Jephcott Charitable Trust was not successful but he has drafted out an application to the Didymus Charity and invited comments from cttee members on the draft before submission.

1. **Bursars:**

Details of the next intake of 5 Bursars were awaited once exams results were available. The new term started on 4th January.

Ian had circulated the proposed budget for Bursars earlier noting that final costs would depend on schools allocated to bursars. The committee confirmed its earlier agreement (by email) to the budget proposals.

**Action: Ian to re-circulate Bursars’ budget once allocated schools were known**

1. **Tertiary Education & Support**

The committee noted that the supply of equipment (sewing machine and materials) for Lonjezo had now been made and agreed that such support for tertiary students should be made when necessary to help them set up in business.

The committee agreed to ask Likhubula for the an updated position on Davie Mvula and Isaac Limited’ tertiary studies.

**Action: Ian to ask the Likhubula cttee about Davie Mvula and Isaac Limited**

1. **Mvano:**

No further news had been received on Mvano activities

1. **Publicity and Communications:**

Ian would update the website with new bursar details once known.

1. **Safeguarding Policy:**

Standing item on agenda. No issues raised.

1. **Trustee Decisions**:

Agreed the bursars’ budget for this school year of MK4.6m (subject to any adjustments once school allocations are known) and tertiary budget of MK1.6m and associated transfer of funds to Likhubula.

1. **AOB:**

It was agreed to keep considering how we can identify and encourage new members to join the committee.

Possibility of using the BB Zoom/Google Meet account for future online meetings would be considered.

**Action: Ian to discuss with BB**

1. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wed 17th Feb 2021. Stuart to chair.