**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 29th March 2021**

**(Meeting held online via Zoom)**

1. **Attendees**: Fiona Anderson (Chair), George Bond (Minutes), Stuart Brown, Ann Hale, Jenni Barr, Neil Kitching, Ian Brown, Ivor Butchart, Fraser Boyd, Moira Dunworth (Item 3b only)

The Chair extended a special welcome to Moira Dunworth

1. **Minutes** of 17th February 2021 were accepted.
2. **Partnerships:**

* **a. IWT-Thondwe Link**

Stuart had reviewed the potential areas for co-operation and was considering how best to shape a possible agenda which would focus on the key issues and provide added value for all. He would look to finalise this in the near future and start the engagement process with Denis Robson of IWT.

Jenni and George agreed to be part of the discussions with IWT

**Action: Stuart – to contact Denis Robson with proposed agenda.**

* **b. Bike2Malawi**

The committee welcomed Moira Dunworth who described the Bike2Malawi, the Mamie Martin Fund cycling project for 2021. (A background note on the project was circulated to committee members on 24th March)

The committee agreed to participate in the Fun Cycle Ride to raise funds for the Dunblane Likhubula Partnership on the afternoon of 6th June 2021. This will be a closed event for 10 people in total (for ease of insurance, risk assessment etc). A password protected event has been set up on Eventbrite: [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dunblane-likhubula-group-ride-tickets-148720694601](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eventbrite.co.uk%2Fe%2Fdunblane-likhubula-group-ride-tickets-148720694601&data=04%7C01%7C%7C31bd7a43c37d4874708108d8f42a568a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637527810122397892%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=76vJUNfmqaVeAGUWJbhAT18eR%2BKdUoTcv0J4tf45yF0%3D&reserved=0)

Password as discussed, all lower case. Moira Dunworth and Heidi will join from the Mamie Martin Fund, Ann Hale and Jenni Barr will lead from the Partnership.

It was proposed that our committee and families will be given first chance to sign up, with remaining spaces offered to key supporters, eg from Dunblane High School.

Anyone registered for the Fun Ride will be able to submit additional miles cycled between 3rd June and 3rd August 2021 to help swell the Mamie Martin mileage total.

Any funds raised by this will go to a dedicated Dunblane Likhubula Virgin Money Giving page that will be created in May 2021.

Additional riders, eg from the Boys’ Brigade, can register on the Bike2Malawi site and fundraise between 3rd June and 3rd August using the Dunblane Likhubula Virgin Money Giving page for funds raised.  
  
The committee recorded its thanks to Moira for her friendship and enthusiasm in including us.

1. **Covid-19 Update:**

The overall situation in Malawi had improved in recent weeks. Face masks had bben manufactured and distributed to school children in the Likhubula area and schools had recently re-opened.

1. **Finance:**

Neil presented an updated Budget which was overall looking very healthy. The Virgin appeal had raised £718 in March and £550 had been received in relation to Iain Smith.

1. **Bursars:**

Ian presented an updated Budget projection incorporating the latest costs for the new selection of bursars. Total costs were slightly below the estimate at the end of last year. The Committee thanked Ian for his detailed efforts on the school budget projection and agreed to provide a copy of the budget to Likhubula for information.

**Action: George to forward Budget spreadsheet to Likhubula**

The committee agreed to forward the funding required for the Apr-Jun school term – MK1,189,000 – to Likhubula.

**Action: Neil to arrange funding transfer**

1. **Tertiary Education & Support:**

The committee formally endorsed the decision taken ex-cttee to purchase a good quality tool-box (MK310,000) for Isaac Limited following his successful completion of the Electrical Installers course at Green Malata.

**Action: Neil to arrange transfer of MK310,000 to Likhubula**

The committee noted the fee increase to MK200,000 per term for Davie Mvula’s course but requested clarification on the current state of his course and what payments were outstanding

**Action: George to request clarification from Likhubula**

A request had been received to support Teacher-training costs of approx. MK2,000,000 for Yamikani Hamson over 2021/22. Stuart expressed some reservations about the cost noting the current overall commitment to tertiary education. The proposed start date had also appeared to have passed and queries were raised whether other students might have been accepted for teacher training. The committee also noted the cost advantages of vocational training v university training to allow more students to gain employment qualifications/skills. It was agreed to seek further information from Likhubula before making any decision on providing financial support to Yamikani.

**Action: George to seek further information on tertiary education proposals from Likhubula**

Jenni noted the possible sponsorship possibilities for medical students via maimiemartin partners as another educational route for our bursars – she would explore further and advise.

**Action: Jenni to check sponsorship funding for medical students**

1. **Mvano:**

No further news had been received on Mvano activities

1. **Publicity and Communications:**

Good articles had been included in the Dunblane Cathedral magazine and the Stirling Observer The committee expressed thanks to Jenni for these efforts and noted the benefits of this publicity on donations to the VirginMoney appeal.

1. **Safeguarding Policy:**

Standing item on agenda. No issues raised.

1. **Trustee Decisions**:

* Transfer of MK1,189,000 (£1100) to Likhubula to cover Apr School Term fees/costs
* Transfer of MK310,000 (£300) to Likhubula for purchase of ToolBox for Isaac Limited

1. **AOB:**

Ann confirmed that the committee were happy to deal with urgent issues such as Isaac’s toolbox out of cttee and for any of the cttee to contact Likhubla as necessary.

Jenni queried if we should thank some of the sponsors from the Virgin appeal. The cttee noted there might be GDPR issues to consider.

Fraser indicated that the next BB trip to Malawi would not be before 2023 subject to a number of considerations

1. **Date of Next Meetings:** Mon 10th May – Stuart to chair ; Mon 21st June – Jenni to chair