**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 10th May 2021**

**(Meeting held online via Zoom)**

1. **Attendees**: Stuart Brown (Chair), George Bond (Minutes), Fiona Anderson, Ann Hale, Jenni Barr, Neil Kitching, Ian Brown, Ivor Butchart.

**Apologies:** Fraser Boyd

1. **Minutes** of 29th March (including comments by Jenni and Neil) were accepted
2. **Partnerships:**

* **a. IWT-Thondwe Link**

Stuart has written to Denis Robson with a proposed agenda for discussion.

PMN: Denis has acknowledged receipt and aims to respond with proposed dates in June/July

* **b. Bike2Malawi**

Jenni updated the Committee on the latest plans for the Bike Ride on 6th June. Stuart indicated that he would join the ride to Braco. Ann and Jenni have committed to cycle 500 miles over 2 months. Jenni will speak to the BB about the joining this initiative and Ann will speak to DHS.

**Action: Jenni and Ann to contact BB/DHS re Bike2Malawi**

1. **Covid-19 Update:**

Covid cases in Malawi remain very low but concern still exists that the situation could change for the worse. We will keep monitoring the picture and be prepared to help if necessary. Fiona noted that we could link in with possible SMP appeals.

Ian confirmed that mask distribution was now complete.

1. **Finance:**

Neil advised that £11,530 was held in our account and £1,400 had been sent for Term 2 Bursars.

The Virgin appeal had raised a total of £1,601 though nothing since 1st April. Neil noted that Shona has been given a gift-aid form and George conformed that Iain Smith had been removed as a Trustee.

Fiona stated that it was important that the beneficiaries of the Jane McManus Scholarship Fund (Yamakani and Aubrey) and the Likhubula committee were fully aware of the background to their funding support. She proposed to write to them accordingly.

**Action: Fiona to write to Likhubula Committee, Yamakani and Aubrey re the Jane McManus scholarship.**

Stuart advised that the audit of the 2020 accounts was underway and should be complete by the end of the month.

The Committee discussed the possibility of a future visit to Likhubula. It was agreed that such a visit would be very beneficial, noting that this was the longest period since the Partnership started without physical contact between Likhubula and Dunblane. It might be possible to link this with a future visit of the BB, perhaps in 2023, but all subject to available funding.

1. **Bursars:**

Term 3 exam results had been received recently though with less detail than previous reports. In particular the Committee noted the poor performance of female bursars (seven out of eight girls had failed) and the suspension of Nelson Ntungama. It was agreed to ask Likhubula for clarification on these results.

**Action: Stuart and Ian to prepare response to Likhubula.**

Ian noted that Term 4 results are expected soon.

1. **Tertiary Education & Support:**

The committee formally endorsed the decision to support Yamakani Hamson for teacher training. Term 1,2 and 3 funds for Yamakani plus Term 3 Bursars would result in 2,193,750 MWK being sent to Likhubula by mid-June and which would be the last payment until the new school year.

The Committee welcomed the recent report from Isaac Limited but requested a clearer copy of the letter from Gift Jubeck.

**Action: Ian to request another copy of the letter from Gift**

The Committee discussed George’s draft Memorandum of Understanding of Objectives, Roles and Responsibilities. It was agreed to include more on the benefits to our community in Dunblane and Stuart raised some concerns on including new infrastructure lest that raise unachievable expectations in Likhubula.

It was agreed to continue working on the draft prior to input from Likhubula

**Action: All – to provide comments to George on the draft MOU**

**George – to update and re-circulate for review.**

1. **Liaison with DHS**

Nothing new to report

1. **Mvano:**

The Committee expressed its appreciation to Neil for his recent update to the Guild on our activities. It was noted that an email was expected shortly from Mvano.

1. **Publicity and Communications:**

Ian advised that he had recently updated our website, facebook and twitter with three posts provided by Jenni.

1. **Safeguarding Policy:**

Standing item on agenda. No issues raised.

1. **Trustee Decisions**:

* Transfer of £2.3K to cover term 3 costs and Yamakani Hamson’s teacher training fees
* Yamakani’s fees to be taken from the Jane McManus Sponsorship Fund
* £75 pre-authorised for possible repair to water supplies in Likhubula subject to final estimate

1. **AOB:**

Neil suggested that it would be useful to have a library of photographs (suitably described and dated) for use as and when needed in support of presentations to other groups and individuals. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next Committee meeting.

**Action: George to add this topic to the next Agenda.**

1. **Dates of Next Meetings:** Mon 21st June – Jenni to chair

Mon 23rd Aug – Ivor to chair