**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

 **Steering Committee Minutes - 4th October 2021**

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

**Apologies:** Neil Kitching, Ian Brown

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

No further requests had been received for support but the Dunblane Cttee would remain on standby for any future needs and would aim to respond very quickly. It was noted that the covid infection rates in Malawi had reduced in recent months though vaccination rates remained very low.

1. **Finance:**

**Budget Update:** Funding remains overall in a healthy position. An update on projected income and expected liabilities was awaited

 **Action: Neil to circulate Budget update to Cttee members**

 **Future Visit to Likhubula:** 2023 at the earliest, based on circumstances and safety.

1. **Bursars:**

Ian was pursuing action with Likhubula to better understand the reasons for some of the poor reults shown in the Term 1 Report, and to hasten full Term 2 results

 **Action: Ian to seek further information from Likhubula on Bursar results**

Likhubula notified an increase to Chambe school fees. This will be taken into account in

 the next school budget projection

 The Likhubula Cttee agreed to a policy that any bursar who failed in two consecutive

 terms will be expelled from the Bursary scheme. It was intended that this would help ensure

 Bursars worked hard

1. **Tertiary Education & Support:**

The Cttee discussed the latest requests from Likhubula:

* Aubrey Mkawa – 5 year course for Automobile Engineering commencing Jan
* Marvellous Lemani – 4 year course for Bachelor of Education in Science commencing Apr.

 In addition another laptop was requested as soon a possible to let the students practice before

 attending university.

At approx. £10K in total it was agreed that it was very doubtful that we could support both of these requests. Possibilities for other sponsorship support either here or in Malawi were discussed as a means to help, together with a review of budget commitments over the full period of the courses.

**Action: Stuart to advise Likhubula that financial support cannot be confirmed at this time**

Three students currently remain in Tertiary education:

 Davie Mvula (Mechanics course), - completes Dec 2021

 Aubrey Telera (Bachelor of Education in Science) - completes 2023

 Yamakani Hamson (Teacher Training) – completes 2022

1. **Liaison with DHS**

 Nothing new to report

1. **Mvano:**

The Cttee endorsed its continued support for the Nansato Mvano because of their active work in Likhubula. Pending further information from the Dunblane Guild (who were also meeting tonight) it was agreed to forward £150 to Nansato Mvano (via the Likhubula Cttee).

**Action: Stuart to request Likhubula to provide £150 to Nansato Mvano**

1. **Memorandum of Understanding:**

The Likhubula Committee have proposed some additional words to the draft MOU. The committee agreed that it was important to include their desired words and discussed how best to frame these in the MOU

**Action: George to propose final version of MOU and circulate to the cttte for comment**

1. **Publicity and Communications:**
* **Contact Details**: George undertook to update the Dunblane Cttee Contact List in the Cttee page of our website.

 **Action: George to update Cttee Contact List in website**

* **Photograph Archive:** Jenni will lead on policy to be created for creating and managing an archive probably utilizing i-cloud space
* **Display Boards:** Updated photographs required (Covid/ Face Coverings/Bursars/Tertiary Students/Fertiliser/Tailor etc) for the Display Boards. Stuart can arrange printing.

**Action: All – to provide suitable photographs to Stuart**

 **Stuart – to arrange printing of photographs**

 **Ivor – to arrange placement of Boards in Cathedral**

1. **Safeguarding Policy:**

 Standing item on agenda. No issues raised.

1. **Trustee Decisions**:
* Provision of £150 to Nansato Mvano
* Endorsed £60 for urgent purchase of chalk for primary school as agreed between Cttee meetings
1. **AOB**:

Jenni reported on a talk she gave to an Iona community group on Poverty. They were very impressed with the work and ethos of the Likhubula Partnership .

Ann noted that many of the Likhubula elders who occupied the houses we provided had now passed away and wondered who now occupied or owned these houses. Stuart felt that this was likely a decision made by the Chiefs but he undertook to ask.

 **Action: Stuart to query current occupancy of the houses provided by Dunblane.**

1. **Date of Next Meetings:**  15th Nov – in Cathedral Halls – Jenni to Chair, 10th Jan 2022