**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

**Steering Committee Minutes - 10th January 2022**

1. **Attendees**: Jenni Barr (Chair), George Bond (Minutes), Ann Hale, Stewart Brown, Fiona Anderson, Fraser Boyd, Ivor Butchart, Ian Brown, Neil Kitching
2. **Minutes** of 22nd Nov 2021 were accepted
3. **Finance:**
4. **Budget Update:**

Bank Balance stood at £6,545 including £3,500 restricted funds from the Jane McManus sponsorship. Neil had processed a Gift Aid claim for £1,397.

1. **2021 Accounts:**

Neil has circulated a copy of the draft 2021 Accounts for review and comment.

**Action: All to comment on draft Accounts**

1. **Audit of 2021 Accounts:**

The Committee agreed to request Stuart Logan to audit the accounts this year but noted that it

would be appropriate to seek a new auditor for future accounts

1. **2023 BB Visit to Likhubula:**

Fraser outlined his thinking for a possible BB visit to Likhubula in mid 2023.

He described the need to define what they would plan to do, what would have the biggest

impact for local people, who they would partner with, how best to build meaningful

relationships and to get the BB boys to interact with Likhubula boys of their own age, how

to build on previous experience, how to best assess what Likhubula would prefer.

Fraser noted that a different funding model would need to be worked out as it was unlikely

that funds could be raised to cover the full costs of a visit.

Stuart suggested that a project based around Classrooms for Malawi would support a good

marketing appeal and focus as well as practical benefit for the Likhubula community. Ann

proposed that an alternative could be based around an environmental or conservation focus

using the Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust

The Committee agreed that it would make sense to combine our visit with that of the Boys

Brigade

Fraser would develop the ideas for further discussion at the next Committee meeting

1. **Bursars:**

Five new Bursars (three boys, two girls) had been selected and all would attend Chambe secondary school. None would be boarding which meant a small saving of MK300K to the planned budget. Ian would upload their photographs to the website.

**Action: Ian to update website**

The Committee noted that Likhubula’s decision to allow Bertha to repeat a year was against their own ‘rules’ and expressed a wish to understand more about the background as well as feedback on the reasons for the generally poor performance by the girl Bursars. Likewise the Committee also wanted to pursue the earlier request to Likhubula for an update of what previous Bursars were doing now, noting that we could provide a list of names if that would help.

**Action: Jenni to include in follow-up email to Likhubula**

Term 3 results were still awaited and Ian noted that only a sub-set of Term 2 results had been received. It was agreed to emphasise again to Likhubula that the detailed school reports were needed to help us keep track of overall performance

**Action: Jenni to include in follow-up email to Likhubula**

1. **Tertiary Education & Support:**

Jenni provided an update on her informal discussions with Rev Dan Harper of Bridge of Allan and his interest in a possible ‘light-touch’ partnership including perhaps an annual service and coffee morning. The Committee discussed possible options to use their support for Tertiary education, provision of Fertiliser etc and agreed it would be worthwhile to pursue this potential partnership.

**Action: Jenni to continue discussions with the Rev Harper**

The Committee noted that it would be important to have a firm consensus on our requirements and capabilities for support of Tertiary education and as such the proposed Strategic Review should proceed as soon as possible.

**Action: George to prepare discussion document on Tertiary Education options**

1. **Liaison with DHS**

Nothing new to report

1. **Mvano:**

Nothing new to report. George would stay in contact with Janice Hepburn to see if the Guild will provide another representative to attend our Committee

1. **Memorandum of Understanding:**

On hold pending the outcome of the Strategic Review on Tertiary Education

1. **Publicity and Communications:**
2. **Photographic Archive:**

Fraser offered to allow the Committee to share his Dropbox account for storage of

photographs

1. **Archive of Material:**

Jenni will arrange a date with Fiona in due course to review the material she has at

home

1. **Display Boards:**

Ivor will organize update of the Display Boards in the Cathedral to include

photographs of the new Bursars etc

1. **Safeguarding Policy:**

Standing item on agenda. No issues raised.

1. **Trustee Decisions**:

* Endorsed transfer of £5,535 to Likhubula for Bursar and Tertiary education costs.

1. **AOB**:

* It was noted that Virgin Giving had closed but that other ‘providers’ were available to choose from when needed in the future.
* It was agreed to hold the next meeting ‘face-to-face’ if circumstances permit

1. **Dates of Next Meetings:** 21st Feb - Ivor to Chair

28th Mar