**DUNBLANE – LIKHUBULA PARTNERSHIP**

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

 **Steering Committee Minutes - 29th May 2023**

**Attendees:** Christine Patterson (Chair),Ann Hale (Minutes). Jenni Barr, Janine Mitchell, Ivor Butchart, Ian Brown, Paul Christmas, Sheila Macleod

**Apologies:** George Bond, Fraser Boyd, Neil Kitching

**Minutes of Meeting 17th April 2023**:- agreed

No Matters Arising

**2023 Committee Visit to Likhubula update:**

Jenni went through the programme with the committee and comments were made. The programme was agreed and the participants were reminded to take some rest time.

The visit to Luchenza School was replaced by Chikhwaza School.

A reminder to the Committee to check out the Green Malata website for more information about the college facilities. There is an opportunity to find out about other colleges offering similar courses.

An opportunity to find out about the impact of Cyclone Freddie in Likhubula. Jenni hoping to meet with Kondwani and Kingsley who were involved in getting emergency provisions to the community.

MOU to be on the table at the first committee meeting and finalized and signed off at the final meeting.

Important to review and evaluate the work of the Partnership over the years. The interviews will hopefully demonstrate the value to the individual bursars and to the community as a whole.

Janine informed us of her programme which includes an expedition to Mount Mulanje, information gathering about forestry environmental projects and opportunities to follow up her university research.

**Budget and Finance:**

It was agreed that any money remaining at the end of the visit could be left in the Likhubula account as pre-payment for bursar school fees. It would be handed over publicly to the committee with photo to ensure transparency.

**Fundraising:** Congratulations to Neil for his Company donation. Thanks to Paul and Christine for their standing orders. Thanks to Jenni for her offer of any profits from her work in the shop.

**Action: Christine** to find a suitable date for a table-top-talk following the church service and possibly a soup and dessert lunch to follow.

**Ann** to contact Mr McKay at Dunblane High School to suggest presenting at a School Assembly, to tell the story of the bursars funded by the school over the years. To remind the pupils what they are fundraising for and the difference it can make to young people like themselves.

**Finding a new Independent Examiner:** Paul’s contacts no longer qualified to audit the accounts. Christine will make enquiries with her contact.

**Standing order donations:** Emphasis on finding new ones and updating existing donations. Priority for next meeting.

Concern that there will be serious requests from Malawi for food aid following crop failures caused by the recent floods. These must be planned for.

**Bursars:**

45,000 MK / £350 has been transferred to pay for bursars’ maize. The cost of maize has gone up consistently in recent months.

Need for more regular reports from schools on bursar’s progress. Jenni and Janine to encourage this during their visit.

**Tertiary: Recent requests:** There has been no response yet to our requests for more information regarding Prisca and Josephy’s funding needs. Can the courses be deferred for a year to allow us to raise funds?

**Janine’s Work and Archiving:**

Dunblane interviews have been completed. Likhubula interviews, photos and videos will take place during the visit. George and Ann have sent copies of reports, minutes, MOU etc.

**Mvano:** Sheila is sending a card to Mvano from the Guild. She requested Jenni to come and speak to the Guild about the visit and the valuable work of Mvano in Likhubula. Jenni will encourage Mvano to communicate with the Guild and emphasise the importance of keeping the link going.

**Publicity and Communication:**

George is working on a Newsletter for donors. More information will be forthcoming after the visit.

Ian will update the website and tie it in with Facebook.

Jenni will send pictures while in Likhubula for Ian to use for publicity.

**Display Boards**: Ivor has done a great job with updating the display boards. The portable boards are very informative and are available for use at any time in any venue. Some interest was shown at the Dunblane Centre open day although it was poorly attended.

**Safeguarding:** Ongoing.  **Ann** to be emergency contact for Jenni. **Janine** to email contact details to Ann.

**Trustee Decisions:** £350 has been sent to Likhubula for the purchase of maize for the bursars and £100 for the Mvano, as agreed at the previous meeting.

£1,300 has been transferred to Jenni for visit expenses, as agreed at previous meeting.

**Actions:**

**Christine** to find a suitable date for a table-top-talk following the church service and possibly a soup and dessert lunch to follow.

**Ann** tocontact Mr McKay at Dunblane High School to suggest presenting at a School Assembly.

**Ian** will update the website and tie it in with Facebook.

**Jenni** will send pictures to Ian while in Likhubula for Ian to use for publicity.

**Ann** to be emergency contact for Jenni during visit**. Janine** to email contact details to Ann.

**Next Meeting:**

**Wed 28th June for visit debriefing.** Christine has kindly agreed to host at 7 Pistolmakers Row, Doune. (2nd house on the left).

The following dates have been identified for later meetings. Please keep the dates free:

Mon. 14th August

Mon 25th September

Mon 6th November