

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2019

In attendance: Viv Pritchard (Chairman), Margaret Griffin, Graham Bough (part), Caroline Lees, Jan Bobba, Dee Mepstead, Robin Vickers, Rosemary Doyle, Julie Reza, Gill Dixon.

1. Apologies received from - Kailash Maunick, Jenny Brown.
2. Minutes of last meeting – 12th February 2019 agreed
3. Matters arising
 - a. Rohingya Refugees – VP has investigated the Hope Foundation for Women and Children in Bangladesh. They run a field hospital for refugees from Myanmar. The only method of making a donation is in dollars with a credit card. The Treasurer has confirmed that this is currently not possible. VP will see whether it is possible to make contact via email to explore other payment options.
 - b. DESO – RV has checked the internet for information on this charity. The total income is below the £25k threshold for submission of accounts to the Charity Commission. However, they appear to be a bona fide organisation which organises transportation of redundant disability aids to Ghana. **It was agreed that a donation of £300 be made to DESO.**
 - c. Tools for Self Reliance – VP explained view of the committee on support for a microcredit scheme with Bob Anderson. Bob will organise a visit to the Canterbury workshop to explore future ideas for supporting the local group.
 - d. Chaaria Hospital – JR has been in touch with Dr Hamer. She was advised that they future of the charity is uncertain at present. So a donation would not be appropriate until the situation is clarified.
4. Juba Bursary Project
 - a. Budget – The project team met in February and is making arrangements to provide updated reports to our pentangular partners and to members. VP circulated a summary of the financial status – we now have enough funds to cover Year 3 costs and the current fundraising requirement for Year 4 is down to \$7,000.

MG gave an update on the current situation in Juba. Three students have not registered for Year 3, so the total number of students is now 45. MG and Dick Beath of the Diocese of Salisbury will be going to Juba at the end of the month and will be able to give a more detailed report on return. The British Ambassador has visited the school and was highly impressed. Individual students have achieved very notable success. Dick Beath has agreed to undertake an independent financial report on the bursary project.

- b. "The Rotarian Raffle" – Need to sort out the auction of the print soon. VP to raise at Club Council.
 - c. The Open Farm Day to raise funds for Juba has been fixed for 7th July.
- 5. Lend with Care – Arrangement to top up Lend with Care account with a further £500, not yet actioned. Kailash will sort out with the Treasurer.
A further seven loans of £30 each was made last month. The current balance is £302.
Members again asked for a breakdown of the Lend with Care account, with details of loans made and loans repaid.
- 6. Budget – Before the meeting, the funding available to the committee was £3,122.
- 7. Ideas for new donations – VP expressed frustration at the difficulty of finding suitable international charities to support. The committee needs to make a determined effort to reduce the funding held. There was a general discussion and some interesting ideas were put forward:
 - a. RC Dhaka, Bangladesh – JR has had previous contact and she is aware of their good work in helping destitute children. JR to investigate further and report back.
 - b. Water Aid – VP will contact a friend who works for Water Aid. Explore whether we could support a specific project.
 - c. Ethiopia Midwives – the committee has supported the local group in the past but has not had any contact over the past 3-4 years. VP will contact the national organisation to find out if there is a Kent group still active.
 - d. Environmental – CL suggested that we could support a group involved in environmental sustainability project. CL to investigate.
 - e. Save the Children – the committee remains keen to support refugees from Syria and the Yemen. Likely that no international charities can currently operate within these countries, but they do provide help in camps in Jordan and Lebanon. VP to speak to Cora Kemball-Cook who helps with fundraising for the local branch of Save the Children.
- 8. Any other business - none
- 9. Date of next meeting – 9th April 2019, at 6.00pm, time to be confirmed