

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2020

In attendance: Viv Pritchard (Chairman), Margaret Griffin, Graham Bough, Bob Anderson, Gill Dixon, Caroline Lees, Robin Vickers.

1. Apologies –Michael Leadbeater, Julie Reza, Rosemary Doyle, Kailash Maunick, Leonard Rea.
2. Minutes of last meeting of 19th November 2019 - agreed
3. Matters arising
 - a. Tools for Self Reliance – BA reported on the recent annual general meeting, also attended by GD. The commitment at our last meeting to provide funding for electrical appliance testers was welcomed. The total cost of the testers was lower than originally thought, so the International Committee contribution was £148. Scheme is progressing well and they have a good stock of tools. They are hoping to increase the number of volunteers from 14 to 20. However, there are concerns about long term future of their premises when the new Hospice is built. There is unlikely to be spare space available for TfSR on the new site.

BA also reported on a recent TV programme featuring the recycling of Singer sewing machines, with a number of reconditioned machines sent to Kampala for women to set up new businesses.

BA announced that he is planning to scale down his involvement with TfSR in the summer, after many years. He will continue to collect tools but would welcome help in liaising with the group. CL agreed to work with BA to develop a new role.

4. Juba Bursary Project
 - a. Update – MG briefed the committee on current activity at the Juba school. She will visit the school again in March and will be accompanied by Dick Beath, who hopefully will undertake a further financial examination to confirm that our funds have been properly used. The school is increasingly popular; there were 900 applicants for 230 new places. MG reported that some members of the club have approached her with the idea of continuing personal sponsorship of individual students.

- b. Budget – the application for district grant for Year 4 has been withdrawn, following concerns by the club treasurer. Tony Pomeroy has drafted a final report on the Year 3 project and this will be sent to district shortly.

5. Lend with Care – The login details are:

Email: Km13ykk@gmail.com

Password: Rotary1922

Kailash prepared an update report ahead of the meeting. 186 loans have been made, 978 entrepreneurs have been helped, 3008 family members supported and 687 jobs created. The credit balance now stands at £229.

6. Budget – currently £786 available to spend, awaiting confirmation of further funds available following Club Council meeting.

7. Ideas for new donations

- a. Kodeni School, Burkino Faso – in view of current shortage of funds, consideration of this charity will be deferred until further notice.
- b. Transaid – There was an excellent presentation from Transaid at the club meeting in October. There was strong interest from the membership of its ambulance rickshaws which has been trialled in Zambia. **It was agreed that a donation of £500 will be made to Transaid** in the hope that this will be match funded by the government of Canada. This should provide 2 new ambulances.
- c. Meru Gardens Project – the committee was briefed on this project by Carol Townsend of the Canterbury Soroptimists at the last meeting. There was general agreement that this is a worthwhile project to support, but any commitment for a donation should await an injection of further funds. Matter to be reconsidered at the next meeting.
- d. Victims of bush fires in Australia – JR has highlighted the initiative by Rotary in Australia to support the victims of the recent bushfires. Although there is much sympathy for the victims, it was agreed that the terms of reference of this committee restricts donations to developing countries. However, VP has referred the matter to the president for consideration of club support.
- e. Ideas for possible district grant application – VP asked members to consider projects which may be suitable for application for a district grant. It is important to identify a specific, tangible project, but one which will require funding in the medium term future – say 6-12 months.

- f. Other ideas – BA reminded the committee that donations have been made in previous years to Team Tanzania, which is a local small charity led by Peter Warr. He understands that Peter may be visiting Tanzania in May, possibly for the last time. BA to contact Peter Warr for further information and potential need for donation.

8. Any other business

- a. RC Sandwich – Water Survival Box. Communication has been received from RC Sandwich who are promoting Water Survival Boxes for disaster areas. It was agreed that this club should continue its commitment to Shelterbox and Aquabox rather than become involved with another similar product.

9. Date of next meeting – 11th February 2020 at 6.00PM