

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE - UPDATE – 13TH DECEMBER 2020

1. Updates on applications for grants

- a) **RC Dhaka Global Grant** – The global grant application has been approved and we have received confirmation from RC Dhaka that equipment for the new Covid testing laboratory have been ordered. The club has transferred £1500 of charitable funds to support the project - £1,000 from the International Committee allocation and £500 on account in anticipation of Julie's fundraising effort. Pleasing to note that Julie's initiative has attracted excellent support from members.
- b) **Juba School** – The district grant application has been approved. The amount of grant available is limited to a maximum \$650 (about £500) per project. The project is based largely on continued bursaries, primarily for those students impacted by Covid. We have committed £600 from the club charity accounts to match fund the grant. The assumption has been made that this sum will be secured from part of the surplus of the JPP3 project, which will be completed early next year. Of the total £1100 project cost, £350 will fund purchase of scientific textbooks for the school library and £750 will fund 5 bursaries to allow poor students to complete their final year studies.

2. JPP3 Juba School

The school reopened in October, following lockdown due to the pandemic. However, students were supported in their studies throughout the lockdown and the Year 4 group are currently preparing for their final examination. It is likely that the examination, normally scheduled for December, will be put back a few months to allow more preparation time. 27 bursary students are expected to take the examination this year and a further 7, who have had to repeat a year, will complete next year.

Club Council and the pentangular presidents have agreed that any surplus funds on completion of the JPP project will be made available to the Salisbury Diocese to fund future bursaries. The surplus is likely to be of the order of £1,000.

3. Lend with Care

The microcredit scheme was suspended during the spring due to the pandemic. It is operational again, but at a lower level than normal. No new loans have been made since last February, but some repayments have been received.

We currently have £876 credit available. Suggest that Kailash reviews our approach and consider when we should provide new loans.

4. Funds available

There are currently no funds available for the committee to make new awards.

5. Tools for Self Reliance

Bob Anderson has continued to liaise with the local group during the pandemic, even though they have had to remain closed during the lockdown. It is hoped that the workshop will reopen in the new year, but some volunteers are refurbishing tools at home. A container of tools was recently despatched to Malawi.

6. Proposed Club Regeneration

I recommend that Committee members consider carefully the paper prepared by Peter Hermitage on behalf of the Regeneration Group set up by Club Council. The paper was presented by Peter at the last business meeting. Amongst other suggested changes, it proposes an expanded role for the International Service Committee, including overseeing Rotary Foundation, PolioPlus and Pentangular matters.

The proposals in the paper will be developed over the coming months, so if you have any comments or suggestions, please make these known.

7. Other Business

None

Viv Pritchard