

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING TUESDAY 14th JUNE 2022

Present: Viv Pritchard (VP) (Chair), Julie Reza (JR), Graham Bough (GB), Rosemary Doyle (RD), Raj Dasan (RD)

1. Apologies – Tony Loughran (TL), Robin Vickers (RV), Gill Dixon (GD), Shabana Raman (RM).
2. The minutes the meeting of 22nd March 2022 were agreed. The scheduled meeting of 10th May was cancelled.
3. Matters arising
 - a. Aquabox Sponsored Walk – It was suggested that a walk along the Stour from Toddlers Cove to Chartham could be suitable. It is 3 miles long, one way. There could be an option to walk back or to return by bus. It may be possible to arrange a group lunch at the Artichoke PH. There may be alternative circuit of the lakes in the area. Also may be possible to include cyclists. Finding sponsors may be difficult for some, it was suggested that those without sponsors could just pay a modest entry fee. VP to discuss details and possible dates with TL.
 - b. DESO – following consultation with committee members by email, a cheque for £350 was sent to DESO and a thank you message has been received.
4. Progress on current projects:
 - a. Ukraine –
 - i. RD attended a Community Event at Augustine House to find out about the local effort to support Ukrainian refugees in the area. She met with a number of organisations and individuals. Her briefing note has been shared with the presidents of the three local clubs. In summary, the pressing need is for funds rather than practical help, though help with English teaching would be useful. Canterbury Umbrella is the central meeting point for refugees.
 - ii. Street collection – we have approval for a second collection on 9th July and will be seeking volunteers from the three clubs. The focus will be on supporting refugees locally, most likely through existing organisations such as the Canterbury Umbrella Centre.
 - b. Dhaka Projects –
 - i. District grant project - Money has been transferred to Bangladesh for Eye Surgery camps. JR is awaiting confirmation from RC Dhaka that they have been able to access this money and that the surgery camps have taken place.
 - ii. Proposal from RC Dhaka Mavericks to construct an Octagreen House has been deferred for a short while. We will await further information.
 - iii. Safe Water Project – There is some confusion about the global grant process and the contribution from this club. JR to check with Dhaka what funding is required from Canterbury and whether we need to proceed with the DDF application.
5. Budget – believed to be about £1,135 available for donations.

6. Ideas for donations

- a. Treatment of Cleft Palate – The committee would like to support an initiative in Mauritius, as suggested by SR. However, we need a firm proposal and some details of the benefiting charity.
- b. Octagreen House, Bangladesh – no further details
- c. Healthcare Ethiopia Partnership – VP has contacted the group of local midwives who have, over many years, volunteered to support maternity and medical workers in the Tigray area. Unfortunately, the current conflict in the region has made it unsafe to work and the scheme has been suspended until the situation improves.
- d. Transaid – We made a donation a few years ago for a rickshaw ambulance in a remote part of Zambia.
- e. The High Five Club – GB has contact with a local group that supports wildlife conservation in Africa by funding small scale community projects to help reduce poverty and improve education and sustainable livelihoods.

The committee decided not to make a donation at this stage but to consider the above at future meetings.

7. Lend with Care: Report from RV

- a. Two further loans of £30 each have been made over the past month. A total of 242 loans have now been given. The account is currently £763 in credit, following some recent repayments. The committee wondered whether the covid situation in developing countries has now improved to a degree that the risk of default is no longer a major concern. If so, we may be able to afford to make more loans and reduce the credit balance. RV to advise.
- b. Members can access the Lend with Care website for up to date details of the club account. Need to login as vickers@roseberry.plus.com and use password Rot19int01ary.

8. Joint Pentangular Projects and Pentangular

- a. JPP4 a brief update was given at the recent Pentangular but GB feels that there is continuing frustration amongst the other 4 clubs about the paucity of information. This can undermine enthusiasm for and ownership of joint projects.

9. Foundation and Polioplus

- a. JR to discuss with Martin Ward the possibility of having Polioplus donation link with a higher profile on our home page.

10. Any other business - None

11. Date of next meeting – to be confirmed