

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2022

Those present: Raj Dasan (RD) (Chair), Viv Pritchard (VP), Julie Reza (JR) and Graham Bough (GB).

1. **Apologies for absence** from the meeting were received from Gill Dixon (GD) and Robin Vickers (RV). No apologies were received from other members of the Committee.
2. **The minutes of the meeting held on 30 August 2022** were confirmed and accepted.
3. **Membership of the Committee** – Those Rotarians who were understood to be committed to the International Service Committee in this Presidential year are noted in the 2022/23 Club Directory. Experience indicates that some Rotarians are not attending meetings of the committee and no communication has been received from them. **It was agreed that** those Rotarians who have not attended a recent meeting or from whom no communication has been received should be contacted to find out what can be done to enable them to attend meetings.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

Aquabox: Funding of £338.20 has been paid.
Shelterbox: Funding of £446.00 has been paid.
RC Dhaka Eye Surgery Project: Funding of £244.50 has been transferred to Bangladesh.
RC Dhaka Water Desalination Project: Funding of £1,325.00 has been transferred to Bangladesh.
RC Dhaka are experiencing some difficulty in accessing the funds. **GB to provide** to JR a pdf copy of the NatWest transfer document.
5. **Progress on Current Activities**
 - Aquabox Sponsored Walk – This was cancelled in 2022 due to lack of support. **It was agreed that** this activity is to be revisited for the summer of 2023.
 - Edible water bottles made from seaweed – RD watched a television programme about the availability of these items. **It was agreed that** RD is to investigate this further and prepare a paper for consideration at a future meeting.
6. **Projects for consideration at future meetings**
 - Cleft Palate treatment in Mauritius – **RD agreed** to ask Shabana Raman for a written proposal to be considered at the next meeting.
 - Operation Smile Charity – If the cleft palate project mentioned above does not materialise, it is suggested that the Committee consider making a donation to this charity as an alternate use for the funds.
 - Octagreen buildings in Bangladesh – This project was proposed by the RC Dhaka, Mavericks. **JR agreed** to contact them and ask for written details of a proposed project, preferably in a rural area where people need shelter and accommodation, and to enquire if they were considering an application for a Global Grant from the Rotary Foundation. A possible donation of £250 is currently proposed provided written details are received for consideration but this could be revised.

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7. Lend With Care (LWC):

- RV provided an emailed report on the LWC situation. He advised that the next level of funding up from £30 is £45 and not £50 as previously considered by the Committee. **It was agreed** to restrict the maximum support to each micro-finance initiative to £45 from now on. The amount to be allocated to each recipient is to be left at RV discretion.
- RV advised that, at present, he aims to keep a balance of £800 out of the total investment in LWC by the Club of £2,000. The feeling expressed at the meeting was that the money is invested to lend and not to be retained in the hands of LWC. **It was agreed that** RV be asked to move towards a retained amount closer to £400 than £800.
- RV advised that the recipients of two loans made through LWC have become unable to service the debt and the loan is to be considered lost. **It was agreed that** RV be asked to advise the committee of the amount that is considered lost for each of these two loans.

8. **It was agreed that the next meeting is to take place in 5 weeks' time at 11:30 am in the morning of Tuesday, 22 November 2022 prior to the lunchtime meeting on that day.**