

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2022

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

1. **Apologies for absence** from the meeting were received from Viv Pritchard (VP), 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. Those members of the committee present expressed concern about the lack of communication from some members and trust that there is nothing serious that is preventing these people from attending. **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 if they were well and to see if there is anything that can be done to assist them to attend meetings of the committee.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**
 - The payment made by RCC to a Rotary Club in Dhaka, Bangladesh, for the final payments relating to their eye operations project and desalination project did not reach the Dhaka Club bank account due to some bank code errors made in the original transfer document. The document requested by NatWest Bank to correct the transfer situation has been submitted to the bank and news of progress with this is awaited. JR agreed to liaise with the Dhaka Rotary Club as needed.
 - There were no other matters arising that were not scheduled for consideration during this meeting.
5. **Progress on Current Initiatives**
 - **Cleft Palate project with RC Grande Baie, Mauritius** – RD has communicated with RC Grande Baie and found out that there may soon be a second phase to this project. RD agreed to contact Yusha Luchmun, President of RC Grande Baie, to ask for some details of the plans for the second phase of the work in Mauritius, the funding that is needed and details of any Global Grant application that they may intend to submit.
 - **Edible water pouches** made from seaweed – RD has contacted Imperial College in London to find out some details about these items. It is understood that the pouches were designed by students at the university as part of their degree project and that the students have now left to pursue their careers. It is also understood that a company may have been formed to produce these items. **It was agreed that** RD is to contact Imperial College to find out contact details for the company, to ascertain what potential this has for a future project and to report back to the committee.
 - **Octagreen buildings** made out of bamboo in Bangladesh – This project was proposed by RC Dhaka, Mavericks, and JR has been in touch with them to find out what plans they have for the future of the construction method and potential future buildings. JR was advised that there are two projects under consideration at present. One project to construct Octagreen kiosks to enable and promote small business activity and another to distribute 'fun science books' to

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school libraries to encourage girls to take up STEM subjects in school. The meeting considered the funding indicated for each of these projects to be substantial in view of what is proposed. **It was agreed that** JR agreed to contact RC Dhaka, Mavericks, to ask for written details of the proposed projects in order that further consideration could be given to the matter. A possible donation of £250 is currently proposed provided written details are received for consideration, but this could be revised.

6. Lend With Care (LWC):

- Following the detailed consideration of this initiative during the meeting held on 25 October 2022, there was nothing further to report to the meeting at this time.

It was agreed that the next meeting is to take place at 11:30 am in the morning of Tuesday, 17 January 2023 prior to the lunchtime meeting on that day.

Matters deferred for future consideration

- 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.