

School for Peace Support Group

Minutes of meeting held

Tuesday 30th January 2019

Present: Rona Baxter, Michael Ellwood, Mary Ellwood, Sydna Playford, Alan Williams, Jane Mawer, Marcelle Young, Clodagh Casolani

Apologies: Colin Childs, Father Martin, Alison Scott, Ann Felton

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by Michael.

Sponsorship/ Donations news

Mary reported that we have another new sponsor – a former colleague from Langley School. She has set up a standing order.

A donation of £30 has been received. Sydna asked Mary for a copy of the latest sponsor list so she can keep up to date and continue to remind Mary on a regular basis. Mrs O'Hare needs a reminder for the end of this month.

News from the Congo

Sister Virginie has written to say that the situation in Congo is very fragile and they do not know what might happen. The internet had been blocked since 30 December and the government only opened the social networks again on 20th January. "We place everything into the hands of Jesus, master of history." She was interested in our questions about technical education as the youngsters are already feeling the desire to look at technical schools. Two girls from the school are doing a course in mechanics at the Salesian school and two others are doing tailoring with the ladies who run workshops next to it. It's a very important point and something to follow up in the future.

Treasurer's report

Alan informed the meeting that there is £51,715.94 in the bank accounts. He and Mary have completed the Charity Commission Report which was easier this time as we have earned less than £25,000 this year. There were no documents to attach. We have still not had an official receipt from Sister Angeline Wikele with an official stamp for the three sums of money they received last year. Thanks to James, we do have proper financial controls in place as advised at the Charity Commission Workshop in London. We have already sent £27,000 for the library and agreed to send a further £5000 from the Santander account this week. Perhaps more could be sent next month according to how the building work is going. Alan fears that Brexit may alter exchange rates. Mary will check the amount needed to complete the library building.

Recent events

- The film at Geldeston (Christopher Robin) this afternoon was reasonably well attended and we raised £45.00.

Forthcoming events

- **24th February at 3.30pm** – High tea at The Old Rectory, Barsham during which Auriga Capella will be singing. Mary and Hazell have had a meeting about the afternoon and a document was handed out for discussion. Mary will type up any changes and inform Hazell. We looked at the choir programme, too.
- **27th February at 2pm** - Film at Geldeston – Peterloo

A.O.B.

- The 5 year plan was distributed (See attached). This dates from 2016. Some of the points have been covered. More details are needed from the sisters about things like solar panels and laptops for teachers. Are these still needed? We also need details for potential scholarships for older pupils who will be going to university in September. Could these students be asked to teach at the school for three years after graduating? We would like to see photos of the tree planting. They also want to erect commemorative plaques on the buildings in memory of Anne and Ian Bauers.
- Peter Hobbs is going to be cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats in the summer and has said he will donate one third of his sponsorship to The School for Peace. We are very grateful to him and have sent information for his publicity leaflet. We will have to try to get sponsors for him, too.
- Peter Aldous has been in touch to ask if there is anything we would like him to discuss in Parliament. Michael said we could ask what the government is doing to help restore and maintain peace in Congo as we have invested a lot of money in the school.
- A Mass will be offered for Shirley Webster-Jones who is seriously ill. It will be said on 3rd March from the School for Peace Support Group.
- WhatsApp is clearly the way that Africans are communicating now. Colin has already received messages from the nursery school so Mary will pursue news from the Primary and Secondary schools.

The next meeting will be a short one to prepare for the tea party for those who can make it:

Wednesday 20th February at 7.30pm

The next official meeting will be on **Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm**