

School for Peace Support Group

Minutes of meeting held

Wednesday 20th March 2019

Present: Rona Baxter, Michael Ellwood, Mary Ellwood, Sydna Playford, Jane Mawer, Colin Childs, Father Martin, Alison Scott, Benedicta Moxon

Apologies: Alan Williams

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

Sponsorship/ Donations news

We have received sponsorship money from two regular sponsors. We have also received a donation of £350 to be put towards the medical centre from a woman in London who heard about the charity from her daughter. A cheque for £1,000 from someone who sponsors four children has come and Mary has suggested that half be used for sponsorship and the other half for the Medical Centre. We would need to write to them to seek their opinion.

News from the Congo

We have heard from the Sisters that the teachers' salaries are supplemented from the school fees although not on a regular basis. There are now 36 teachers but only 10 are paid by the Government – all 5 of the nursery teachers, 5 primary school teachers but no secondary school teachers so we need to find out why this is.

- They are suggesting that they put up plaques in various places as a way of remembering Anne and Ian Bauers
- Raising awareness of the environment with tree planting behind the Medical Centre – Mary to find out if this has actually happened and get some photos
- Teaching computer skills to all the staff
- Front wall facing main street – Kipopo Street
- 2 toilets for the nursery children
- Construction of urinals for the boys as their numbers have increased. Toilet twinning was suggested!!
- The Library Building and one classroom has started

Mary then read out some of the sponsored children's results for the year but the meeting would like to know: a) how they compare with the unsponsored children b) if they have deteriorated and if so by what percentage and why? The teachers are giving catch-up lessons for those in danger of failing the end of year exams which is a good thing.

Sister Virginie has written from Zambia to say that the School there has been forced to add an exam centre so that their children do not have to travel to another centre where they are bullied. However, the group felt this is not something that we feel able to get involved with. Mary and a few others are planning a visit to Zambia in June to meet with Sister Virginie.

Treasurer's report

As Alan was away he had emailed Mary with the accounts. £5,000 has been sent and the Santander accounts have £410.86 and £655.88 in them and the Co-op accounts have £6,128.93 and £41,027.31 making a total of £48,222.98.

It was suggested that a further £10,000 be sent to finish and furnish the Library.

Recent events

- The film at Geldeston (Peterloo) raised £25.00. Mary has received an email from Brian who runs the films that he will be stepping down at the end of this season (April) which will be a great shame as we have raised a lot of money through the films. Mary to give a present to give to Brian and also to liaise with Geldeston Village Hall about the future.
- High tea at The Old Rectory, Barsham, at which we made £800 with the raffle making £142 of that. As usual lessons were learnt!! It was suggested that Mary sends some photos of the event to the sisters so that they can see how we raise money.

Forthcoming events

- **24th March at 4.00pm** – Auriga Capella will be singing at All Saints Church, Worlingham with all donations going towards the Medical Centre. Peter Hobbs will also be launching his bicycle ride (John O'Groats to Lands' End and beyond) so Mary to provide a display board and leaflets.
- **27th March at 2pm** - Film at Geldeston – First Man
- **24th April at 2pm** - Film at Geldeston – Stan and Ollie

A.O.B.

- Colin has had 24 School for Peace Mugs produced which he has donated and they will be sold for £5 each at our events
- Mary to check what is happening about teaching Practical and Technical skills in the future and also what has happened with the machinery that was sent out and do they have any photos of it being used?

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 1st May @ 7.30pm**