

School for Peace Support Group
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 17th October 2019

Present:, Michael Ellwood, Mary Ellwood, Sydna Playford, Alan Williams, Alison Scott

Apologies: Rona Baxter, Colin Childs, Father Martin

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

Sponsorship/ Donations news

The final sponsorship total for Peter Hobbs bike ride was £1,668. We have received £1,240.31 including Gift Aid for Clare and Darren's Artic trip. Donations for a wedding raised £155. A Pimms Party raised £96.00. This has been the best ever year for fundraising from people undertaking various activities

The Sponsorship/Donation Form has been updated to include the date it was produced and our email address.

News from the Congo

The Sisters have had a meeting where they interviewed the staff and pupils for their comments. At present there are 1025 children registered at the school with more still to enrol. There are more girls than boys and there are five sections in the secondary school. They have taken on two more teachers.

The President has declared that primary education throughout the country is to be free and school cannot accept any money from parents. Unfortunately, the Government only recognises six teachers at the school (there are in fact 13 teachers but they only originally registered six) so will only cover the costs for their classes. Salaries also need to be increased to \$200 per month so our money is even more important.

We maybe need to check that our sponsorship money is safe or maybe it can be used to pay the teachers. Another idea is to separate the Secondary School and call it St Joseph's (Mary to follow this up).

Treasurer's report

The Accounts have been audited by James Rudd and Alan thanked him. We currently have £25,669.53 in the Co-op deposit account and £9582.04 + £535.20 today making a total of £10,117.24 in the Co-op current account. There is a further £1,023,66 in the Santander deposit account and £410.86 in the current account making a total of £37,221.29.

Recent Events

- Mary visited Worlingham Primary School who are interested in our project. Mary suggested that they could maybe do a project with St Joseph's School in Zambia. The British Council enables projects there. However the new head teacher has not yet been appointed and we need their backing before any further commitments can be made.
- **Clare and Darren Williams** completed their Artic Challenge and they have been interviewed by Alison Root on Suffolk Radio.

Forthcoming events

- Stall in Leicester at the end of November
- A possible Recital at St Benet's next Easter
- The film show evening with Brian Norman
- A hamper has been donated for us to raffle (Mary to liaise with Pam Storey)

The next meeting will be on
Wednesday 13th November at 7.30pm