

School for Peace Support Group
Minutes of meeting held
Wednesday 24th January 2018

Present: Michael Ellwood, Rona Baxter, Sydna Playford, Mary Ellwood, Alan Williams, Ann Felton, Colin Childs

Apologies: Alison Scott, Jane Mawer, Benedicta Moxon, Father Martin, Chris Scott

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

Sponsorship/ Donations news

We might have another new sponsor, however more are needed. Father Martin has said that Mary can give a short plea for sponsors after Masses one Sunday (TBC). Easyfundraising is also something that needs to be encouraged. £33 was received on September 11th; money has also been coming in from the Flour, and Bean Cafés (see below). We received a generous donation of £1000 before Christmas from a former colleague of Mary.

News from the Congo

Mary has been getting regular emails from Sr Rosine and she showed a photo received today of the nursery children sitting in a circle on the chairs made at the Cité des Jeunes. The photo manages to show the two main school buildings and will be used for publicity. The container has not arrived yet. Sister Euphrasie said she will let us know as soon as it does. Sister Virginie sent an email saying not to go to Congo this year as the elections have been postponed until the end of the year and there is a lot of civil unrest.

With reference to the new library building costing £40,000, all agreed it was a large sum of money. It will be another two-storey building which will necessitate foundations. There will also be fixtures and fittings. All agreed that the library was a priority, and all the sisters are keen to get it built.

Treasurer's report

Alan reported that there is £58,773.66 in the bank account. £80 has been received from the Flour and Bean cafés. Mary will write to the owners to thank them. We have not yet heard from the donor of the £1000 how she would like the money to be used. Mary and Alan met on 16th January to send off the Charity Commission Return, and it proved to be easier than usual. However, we discovered that there are policies missing which ideally we should have in place, eg safeguarding and risk management. Alan suggested asking Alison to review these on our behalf when she returns. Alan also pointed out that we must state in the minute once a year that financial controls are in place and that in the AGM we state clearly that the accounts have been checked by an accountant.

Regarding the library: we will send £10,000 per month over the next four months. Mary will inform the sisters that the money is on its way and they should inform us as soon as it arrives.

We also need to know if solar panels are going to be installed in the future. They are expensive and do not last forever. The kitchen is also something that has been discussed here

but has not been requested there. A generator might also be useful. Mary will try to get some answers to these questions.

We must ensure that Peter Aldous is receiving our information and invitations as he has told Alan he is keen to hear about the project.

Mary will purchase a £50 gift card for the Waveney Hotel for Tim Basey-Fisher and his wife (St John's Storage).

Recent events

None to report

Forthcoming events

- The next film at Geldeston will be Victoria and Abdul (TBC) on 31st January (Ann, milk and tea towels; Mary, biscuits; Benedicta has the rest)
- The first of the concerts lined up for 2018 will be a spring 'Pot-Pourri' (exact title to be confirmed) at St Benet's church involving four professional musicians. Perhaps a Saturday evening at the end of April.
- Another newsletter when the container arrives.

A.O.B.

The Music Hall has been mentioned again, perhaps at the Public Hall. Rona said she would find out costs of hiring it for the evening;

It was suggested that large brightly-coloured collection buckets would be more useful for collections at the end of events. Mary will investigate the price and report back;

Easyfundraising will be mentioned in the next newsletter;

The website address should appear in all email correspondence to make access easier;

Once the container arrives, articles should be written for Catholic newspapers as well as the local ones and school newsletters;

Mary to investigate BOND (the international development network) again.

Next meeting

Wednesday 21 February at 7.30pm