

School for Peace Support Group
Minutes of meeting held
Tuesday 17th October 2023

Present: Rona Baxter, Mary Ellwood, Michael Ellwood, Jane Mawer, Sydna Playford, Alan Williams

Apologies: Colin Childs

The minutes of the last meeting (14.9.23) were approved and signed by Michael

Treasurer's report

Alan gave a summary of the amounts remaining in the various bank accounts. Co-op Current acc: £295.20; Deposit acc: £9,000.00; Santander current acc: £1,017.77; Deposit acc: £10,772.83. Giving a total of £21,085.80. Alan applied for three years' worth of gift aid which added £6, 577.28 to the account. The interest rate is up at the moment so this also helps.

Although we have enough money to send for the university students and next year's school sponsorship fees, there is less money in the accounts now as there are fewer sponsors (those who have died have not been replaced). Alan pointed out that we are receiving just over £5,200 a year for sponsorship and we try to send around £15,000 per year for education. The extra money we need is made up of donations and events. It is increasingly difficult to organise big events. This must be addressed in the near future.

The insurance will be renewed soon: £374.43. Thanks to Alan for taking care of this. Alan also thanked Sydna for always paying in the money promptly after each event.

Pamela Saint-Mart has met with Alan and Michael to discuss the accounts which she has agreed to audit them this year, for which we are very grateful.

Sponsorship

As there are so few sponsorships at the moment and people are strapped for cash, it was suggested that in lieu of sponsoring a child, people could donate a certain amount (eg £10 or £20) to purchase books or contribute to towards our fundraising.

News from Congo

We have asked Sister Emilie for final numbers as well as photos of the sponsored children. She said she found it difficult to bring all the elements of her reply together as she does not use email.

Mary will go to Paris next week to meet Sr Virginie while she is in Europe. We have compiled a list of questions and suggestions for her. Alan suggested that Mary records her speaking to the sponsors and supporters which could be played at the AGM.

Recent Events

- The donations received at John Ellwood's funeral amounted to £305. Michael will inform John's family.
- The autumn newsletter has been sent to the printer

Future Events

- We can have a table at the table top sale which is taking place in St Benet's hall on Saturday 4th November. We do have a number of gift and Christmas items which might sell. Mary will confirm if this is going ahead.
- We hope to have another stall after Mass at St Benet's before Christmas. The end of November (26th) was suggested.
- AGM November 8th 7.30pm. We might be able to use the Blyburgate Community Hub. Michael will go along to see if it is suitable. It only costs £5 per hour to hire their meeting room which is on the first floor. There is plenty of parking opposite in Roy's car park. Mary distributed a checklist for the evening. We will aim to start setting up at 6.30pm. We will need a couple of kettles, some tablecloths, serviettes, large plates and dishes for the refreshments. Crockery should be there. Rona offered to make the tea and coffee and will take a fruitcake. Jane will make shortbread. M & M will provide the other refreshments and the paperwork such as EasyFundraising and Gift Aid leaflets. We will also need to assign a minute-taker and photographer.
- The evening of poetry and song was discussed. It was thought that spring would be much better than January. Mary to contact the organiser. It will be at the Delf Chapel, Topcroft near Bungay which has space for 50 people. We will be offering refreshments and the owner said we could use her kitchen.
- Set up an online shop: Etsy and /or Ebay.

The next meeting will be the AGM
8th November at 7.30 pm. Venue to be confirmed.