

School for Peace Support Group
Minutes of meeting held
Wednesday 13th December 2017

Present: Michael Ellwood, Rona Baxter, Sydna Playford, Mary Ellwood, Alan Williams, Jane Mawer, Ann Felton, Alison Scott and Michael welcomed Nikki and Colin Childs

The minutes of the last meeting

They were approved and signed by Michael.

Sponsorship/ Donations news

Mary now has printed leaflets of the Story of the School and an Autumn Newsletter which she is handing out. Mary and Alan went through the list of sponsors and most are continuing with their sponsorship for another year.

Mary said that after Fergal Keane's BBC documentary aired last night regarding the humanitarian crisis in Congo that may raise awareness and encourage more supporters. A second child is to be sponsored by one of the existing sponsors.

News from the Congo

On the 1st November a van and car left for Antwerp with all the goods that had been donated for the container plus some more went separately on pallets. The container left for the Congo on 4th December and it should take about 3 weeks to arrive – this is being overseen by the Knights of Malta. St John's Storage very kindly did not charge us or for the pallet collection – Mary gave them a case of beer! Another present will be needed. We received a donation of £1,000 to cover our expenses which came to £1,020.

Mary emailed Sister Rosine about several outstanding issues and received an email and photos by return. One photo was taken on 6th December – St Nicholas Day showing all the children in the playground dressed in red outfits.

We have now received a quote for building the library which would be a two storey building – the library on the ground floor with access, perhaps, for the general public and a staff room on the first floor. This will cost £We now need to decide how much to send initially and when.

Mary also said that the website is now being regularly updated by Neil.

Treasurer's report

Alan reported that there is £57,963 in the bank account. Gift Aid still needs to be applied for but it should raise between £3 – 4,000. A new paying in book was given to Mary and Sydna.

Mary and Alan to meet on 16th January to work on the Charity Commission Return.

Recent events

- We raised £180 from the last 3 films at Geldeston Village Hall with the final one (Whisky Galore) being a sell-out! Unfortunately the Hall is going to be closed for refurbishment during Spring 2018, so there will only be one more film at the end of January. It was suggested that maybe a letter should be put in the Beccles and Bungay Journal thanking Brian for all his hard work.
- Italian Evening was sold out within 2 weeks (next time we maybe need to increase ticket price) and we raised £822. The event highlighted the fact that at the beginning of such an event we need to stand up and talk about the School and what the evening is for.
- Woodbridge Choral society was another sell-out and we raised £249.
- Mary has given various talks to different schools:
Lincolnshire (Wragby School) who had raised £120. The children had also written and drawn pictures of themselves for the school;
Both St Edmunds and St Benet's had questions after their talks which Mary emailed to the school and has already had replies;
Glebeland School, to update them about the progress throughout 2017.

Forthcoming events

- The next film at Geldeston will be Victoria and Abdul (TBC) on 31st January
- There are two concerts lined up for 2018 already: more details to follow.
- Waiting for the container to arrive!
- St Benet's and St Edmund's will be doing a large project in the summer regarding the school, and the press, public and the Bishop will be invited.

A.O.B.

Michael has produced a draft Data Protection Policy.

He also has a copy of the Charity Governance Code which needs to be checked through to make sure we're compliant.

Next meeting

Wednesday 24 January at 7.30pm