

Rotary Club of Canterbury (RCC) - International Service Committee (ISC)

Minutes of the meeting of ISC held on Tuesday 7 May 2024

- 1. Present:** Raj Dasan (RD) (Chair), John Bobba (JB), Robin Vickers (RV), Julie Reza (JR), Nan Miller (NM), Graham Bough (GB).

Apologies received from: Gill Dixon (GD), Lewis Norris (LN), Farrukh Hussain (FH).

Other Committee Members: Mark Rosen (MR).

Item	Matters discussed	Action by	Due date
2	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2024: These were approved and adopted.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. £500 has been paid to Lend With Care. 2. £600 has been paid to Aquabox UK. 3. £300 has been paid to the PCC of St. Mary Bredin as a contribution to the costs of 4 young people travelling to Uganda to serve with the JENGA NGO organisation. 		
3	<p>Funding available to the committee at 7 May</p> <p>In July 2023, the Trustees of the RCC Trust Fund made available £1,000 to the ISC, during November 2023 a further £2,050 was made available from the surplus on the 2023 Duck Race, and in February 2024 the sum of £650 was donated as a restricted donation for ShelterBox by Henry Killender, giving a total of available funding of £3,700.</p> <p>Out of these funds, a total of £2,650 has been paid out leaving a balance available at the date of the meeting of £1,050.</p> <p>A commitment has been made to pay £500 to UNHCR/UNICEF/DEC for the Gaza situation.</p> <p>There is £550 currently uncommitted and available to be allocated.</p>		
4	Progress on current initiatives + recent contacts		
4.1	<p>Rotary Club of Dhaka, Cancer Prevention and Screening Project</p> <p>JR informed the committee about a project to be supported by RC Dhaka in Bangladesh for 'Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Screening'. The cost of screening one patient is calculated at about £2.90 and many of the population are too poor to afford this.</p> <p>It was agreed that a new grant of £550, to include UK bank charges, is to be made to RC Dhaka, restricted to the screening project.</p> <p>JR is to contact RC Dhaka to obtain the necessary details for the bank transfer to be made from a UK bank.</p>	<p>GB + JG</p> <p>JR</p>	ASAP
4.2	<p>Displaced Palestinians</p> <p>It was agreed that the sum of £500 that was previously committed to either UNHCR, UNICEF or DEC is now to be paid to UNICEF UK as they currently have an appeal to support aid to the children of Gaza.</p>	GB + JG	ASAP

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4.3	<p>Lend With Care (LWC) RV reported that, in all years to date, the RCC has donated £3,050 to LWC to facilitate micro-finance loans to beneficiaries. Out of these funds, £9,541.81 has been lent in 302 loans. Small loans have been made to 1,231 entrepreneurs, 3,925 family members have been helped and 856 jobs created. 11 new loans were made in May 2024 and funds of £664.83 currently remain available to lend. RV will continue to monitor the needs posted on the Lend With Care website with a focus on food production and related equipment, predominantly in the countries of Ecuador, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines.</p>		
4.4	<p>LION Project Chloe Baxter gave an excellent presentation at a recent Rotary Club meeting about her time in Malawi during which she thanked the Rotary Club for the ISC contribution towards the cost of medical equipment that she took out with her. Chloe has advised that she will again be travelling to work with the LION Project team in Malawi in September 2024. It was agreed that Chloe be encouraged to apply for funding to purchase specific items of equipment to take with her in September 2024. Any grant approved is to be met out of funding made available in the 2024/25 Presidential year.</p>	RD	
5	Any other business		
5.1	<p>Future Fund Raising A 'Frugal Meal Event' as a fund raiser in the summer was mentioned to the members of RCC in general meeting on 5 March and it received a general if disappointing level of support. This event is intended to consist of a meal of soup, bread and a desert for a charge of about £15 per head. JR suggested introducing a 'Fun' element to make it a 'Fun and Frugal Event', e.g. by showing a film and that Phillip Abbott (PA) may have access to the necessary equipment to show the film. JR agreed to contact PA to find out more information. Such an event could be held in RD garden or Bridge Village Hall with the members of the committee preparing a choice of soups and serving the attendees. Any surplus funds raised from the meal and a raffle would be allocated to the work of the committee. RD and the committee members agreed to work on setting up this event.</p>	JR RD	
5.2	<p>New Life, Nyambene An invitation has been received to meet with Martha, the Project Manager, from this project in Kenya when she visits the UK. The event is to be held on 16 May at The Old Palace, Old Palace Road, Bekesbourne, between 6pm and 8pm. Any member who wishes to attend this event needs to contact Miriam Westendarp in order that appropriate arrangements can be made for the numbers wishing to attend.</p>		
5.3	No further business was brought to the meeting.		

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6. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting is to be held **at 11:30 am on Tuesday, 2 July 2024**, prior to the Rotary Club, Business Meeting, meeting to be held on that day.

Matters relevant to ISC that may arise before that date will be circulated to the members of the committee by email for their consideration and comment.