

Notes on International Committee Meetings  
January/February 2015

There have in fact been 3 meetings over the course of the past 5 weeks and ALB wishes to thank everyone for this additional effort and apologise for any inconvenience.

Sagkahan Elementary School – Global Grant Application

In the meeting held on Monday 5 January JD advised that an initial response from America had been received just before Christmas and that EH, AB and he had been looking at answering the various points raised. JD had also emailed Buddy in Tacloban for clarification as to the input they could give.

GB being new to the committee was able to look at the situation with a more objective eye and felt that it needed to be approached from a more educational point of view, with the building refurbishment being required in order to improve the educational input. It was felt that some of the queries were a bit vague and we needed more directive as to the specific response to give.

It was agreed that AB would call the contact given in USA and ask him for various pointers

- a) Was the inclusion of the dengue fever/lying water complicating the issue
- b) Clarify the emphasis and the department dealing with the application

AB advised that a donation from the collection from Saxelby Parish Church Carol Service was going to be given towards the Philippine project.

Other fund raising events

JS offered to hold another lunch and 22 March was suggested

AB said that she was planning to ask Mr Hewitt to do a roast in the summer and was proposing that this should be a Sunday lunch time to encourage families to come.

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on Monday 13 January after the normal Monday meeting

This impromptu meeting was held to further acquaint the committee with progress regarding Sagkahan GG application. It was decided that AB must call USA to clarify the approach to use in the response to the queries raised.

After several unsuccessful attempts, Mr Jesse Davis called back and had a good conversation in which he outlined

- 1 the focus must be on education and the benefit to the whole community of the refurbishment
- 2 There should be no generalisations – everything must be very specific and relative
- 3 Suggest to remove the dengue fever and associated mentions as it isn't the main area of focus – relate everything to the education side
- 4 The project is one that the Foundation would be happy to support

- 5 That if the dengue was going to be withdrawn then the GG would be reset so that we could amend it but that it wouldn't require all the signatures that the original application required as the body of the application was remaining the same.

This was a useful meeting as several of the committee were able to add suggestions.

A further meeting was held with GB, EH, JD and AB in order to specifically go through the response point by point. After further amendment to the figures JD submitted the revised application once Buddy had also signed it off.

### Monday 2 February

The response from USA had come back quickly with further questions. It was obvious that training the teachers should form a major part of the proposed instruction as sustainability needed to be the focus of the application. AB reported that Lucy Joseph, one of the Geography teachers from Brentwood School was happy to volunteer her services during the coming summer holiday. Also that a friend of hers would be happy to join her. GB said that as soon as contact details were available he would talk with her directly and discuss the training plan that he felt should be submitted.

EH noted that he was preparing a revision of the budget figures to ensure that everything tallied and made sense.

JD said that once everything was in place then he would précis the answers to each point and resubmit it in a table format.

JD went through time scale. Once agreement on the GG is received (and it is anticipated that more questions may still come back) then it will take 2 – 3 weeks to open the relevant bank account in Philippines: the UK raised money would then be transferred out. Once that was in place the GG matching fund would then be deposited. Realistically this would mean that building materials could not be ordered much before end March/beginning April and Easter would disrupt matters. Suggested that the proposed trip in February therefore be postponed until May/June. AB advised she is likely to go in March as will be in Beijing.

Lunch at JS : Agreed that £15 should be the ticket price to include a glass of wine. JS to be asked whether she would like help with main course. Definitely help to be given in respect to salads and puddings. AB to purchase wine through contact in Nottingham. Also to have a raffle.

AB reported that she had booked Mr Hewitt for possibly a beef roast on Sunday 2 August. It was pointed out that this was the week after the proposed ball at Salford Hall. AB would look at other options in August.

AB reported that the Uppingham School concert on 16 October was in hand and that a meeting to discuss the programme would take place in March before the end of the current term.

JD queried what future fund raising was to be in aid of. MO reminded people of the need to continue supporting Polio, and JR also mentioned Shelter Box. £500 had already been proposed for polio. Suggested that money in the general international fund could be put towards the money that Penny Hancox had raised to complete a shelter box funding. AB to check figures available.

MO raised a question regarding the role of the International Committee in supporting the Rotary aim of promoting international understanding. This asked why Club Council was apparently "micro managing" this aspect of our activities by considering applications for grants without the Committee making any observations. (This had come up as the result of CC rejecting a grant application from two local school children for an international trip.)

ALB

10 February 2015