

# **Friends of Wechiau Group Special General Meeting**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2006**

**Present:** Ann Bannister, John Flynn, Lisa Porter, David Warren, Jane Bisby, Janet Kirk

**Apologies:** Maarten, Karen

## **1, Changes to Objects**

- As per previous discussions via email the required amendments to the objects as detailed below:
  - “The advancement of education of people resident within the boundaries of the Wechiau Hippo Sanctuary, Ghana, or surrounding areas by the provision of educational materials, funding of teachers and supplies and at the discretion of the trustees the provision of scholarships for individuals to extend their education and training”
- were proposed to be accepted by John, seconded by David
- Via email agreements to the changes had been received by David B, Felix, Karen, Maarten, Martin.
- All agreed to the changes and were signed by trustees
- New amended constitution signed by trustees

## **2, Comments on report back on scholarship/educational materials**

- 3 students short-listed
- questions raised as to what has happened to 2 candidates who were not successful
- It was agreed that in future applications we would like more information provided in advance rather than retrospectively
- FOW were supposed to have final decision but this did not happen
- Problems – late exam results delayed application process
- NB re exam results – lowest score = highest grade
- NB Birifor is another word for Lobi

### **In preparation for the next scholarship award:**

- More information on candidates educational achievements
- More information on candidates future prospects
- More information on candidates individual needs
- Recommendations (with reasons) for candidate to be chosen for FOW award
- FOW make final decision based upon information provided
- Request timetable plan for next years decision
- Request applications from Lobi and female candidates for next years award (NB in the interests of cultural/religious/political sensitivity explore potential implications /repercussions of this request in case it impacts on people/situations not considered by FOW)
- Request that the 2 rejected students re-apply for next years award to be re-considered

- Explore the possibility of sponsoring the 2 rejected students mid-term

### **3, Finances**

- £1900 approx funds in FOW account. Can easily support 3 students per annum until 2011 (at £100 per student per annum)
- Earthwatch state that NCRC are happy to accept money in Accra transported by Earthwatch volunteers going from UK to Ghana. (NB – NCRC administer FOW bank account funds transfer to Wechiau)
- Lisa will explore possibility of fee free money transfers via student account (NB the last transfer cost £45 and took 6 weeks to be received. £45 fee regardless of amount of money sent)
- Paypal now successfully set up
- Email to be distributed in April re membership fees

### **4, Helping Others Schools**

- David Warren has created a map of the schools (Government run and community) in the wider Wechiau area based upon information provided by David Brenman. It was suggested that this could be put onto the website
- Andy Murphy originally suggested supporting volunteer teachers
- Donna has suggested supporting Francis to complete his education
- This could be explored further – find out teacher salaries
- Ann will email John Mason re Donna not answering questions asked
- Alex to be emailed to advised on support for primary education with particular focus on the Lobi community
- Email Donna re letter from student and progress report from school at end of semester

### **5, Other**

- How long will Donna be at Wechiau? To be explored
- Ask John Mason re plans for future, monitoring / decision making role
- John will email Earthwatch re updating previous Ghana volunteers on progress of FOW and information on getting money taken over to Accra via volunteers
- FOW will be a registered charity within approx 1 month
- Lisa to do a press release for individual members to amend according to their own details and send to their local paper.
- Jane has created a logo. Lisa will try and get this created on computer.
- Website much improved thanks to Ann's hard work

### **6, Next Meeting**

- AGM date set for 24<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at David Warren and Jane Bisby's house