

Annual General Meeting Friends of Wechiau Group 18th June 2007

Apologies: None

Attendance: Ann Bannister, John Flynn, Lisa Porter, Ian Brown, Martin Upson, Janet Kirk, Lee Greatbatch (new member).

Contact from members: Lost contact with previous members (Eathwatch group 02) except Klass (active member), Not heard from Martin Borgaveren, Felix, Karen, and Rodolpho (emails undelivered).

Ian – no longer use his work email address. Please use ian@b146dh.freerve.co.uk

Recap of Winter 06 AGM minutes:

Cost of bank adjusted as incorrect – charges £25 not £60

Martin reviewing his ideas for his village – still getting off the group

Annual Report:

Ann used the charities commission annual report template. Everyone happy with content.

Financial Report:

Finances still good - £2738 as of 31/3/2007 in the bank account.

Get gift aid money back – roughly 20% can be claimed back from memberships and donations.

John estimates a surplus of £6000 by 2012/13 unless we increase expenditure.

Estimate based upon current expenditure.

Mystery lump sum donation into account – no idea where it has come from.

Only committed to £500 to see the current students through their education and £200 for school donation. Still a large surplus.

Liabilities – phone calls / texts for Anne to Ghana, £6 approx to Lisa for business cards for FWG.

Everyone in agreement to spend the income, in as few transfers as possible to avoid transfer fees.

Vote of thanks to John for preparing extensive financial records and forecasts.

Business cards: contain old address – Creche has closed so now having to use Anns home address: 55 Lunt Rd, Bootle, L20 5EZ.

Plans for 2006/2007 (How to use the finances):

Donna states that the next step up in education is community college at \$1500 per year for 2 years – Total cost \$3000 (approx £1500).

University is \$1000 per term (? How many terms and how many years)

Donna doesn't feel that there are any present suitable candidates for university.

Francis (the teacher) has applied and been accepted for a Ministry of Health Community Health Nursing certificate. Unsure why this is as Donna at last meeting said he wanted a qualification in Teaching. Unsure how much Francis course would cost.

Could provide Francis with £400 to support his education (Donna at last meeting said she was trying to raise money for his education).

John: Need to keep finances to cover those who are on scholarships to be supported in further and higher education rather than have to withdraw the support.

Ian: Dilemma of getting as many as possible through basic education or a few through further / higher education. Commitment to Wechiau considered.

Suggestion to put these decisions back to the community - what to they consider to be important? Everyone in agreement.

Janet: Could be possible that as they get more educated they are in a better position to be supported by other means

Ann: Could aim towards a rolling program (sponsor another 2 this year) by 2010 of 2 completing education every year and 2 new taken on every year (6 always in education).

Agree to prioritise the existing the students first.

Agree to keep a reserve of money for whatever may crop up in the future.

Would be good to have a higher educated role model but unsure whether this person may leave the area and not come back.

We have to adhere to the sanctuary beureaucratic process – through Donna who speaks to the Chiefs. Any other route risks getting people into trouble
Donna is based in Accra now and only goes to Wechiau occasionally.

Actions:

- Everyone agrees to send another £100 to the primary school.
- 2 additional scholarships can be funded if suitable applicants are found for this September (£600)
- For Francis £300 for each of the 2 years of his course pro-rata.
 - (Total of £900 outgoing).
 - Next year 6 students in total + £300 to Francis, Primary school donation awaiting confirmation from Donna.
- Is the coming up year 3 student likely to go to college? Is the person capable and when.
- Does the primary school still need money giving to them and can Donna still organise buying of educational equipment and materials.
- Ask Wechiau community what educational steps they consider important: more students in basic secondary education or a few in further/higher education.
- Ian is willing to go to Ghana and visit Wechiau this October and is to be involved in any aspects of FWG in Wechiau that are needed or necessary.
- Agreed that a minimum of £10 per year ensures continued membership
- At next years AGM we will decide on a minimum financial reserve balance.
- John's contact in the village will check over the accounts

Raising Funds:

Need to look at raising other funds

Could start approaching the charities that support other charities.

Ideas:

Martin fund raising within village,

Janet - Fairtrade links – African Initiatives – businesses such as co-operative – tin shaking in stores or contacting them to access the supermarket community fund. Martin will follow up on co-op, Janet will look into the contacts on her leaflet (African Initiatives).

Lisa – Using Masons to collect at one of their ladies nights

Lisa - £10 per month to sponsor an individual student. Will forward a photo, and letters as and when received. End of year reports.

Martin – Sponsored events

John doing a talk to U3A (University for 3rd Age) for Woodland Trust. Could do these kind of talks

Ann has developed a leaflet about FWG – will email out for people to use

Ann adapted Donnas powerpoint presentation for a presentation about FWG that she gave – Ann will email out.

Ann - Christmas card / present substitution – donation to FWG.

Ann – give talks about Wechiau for a fee.

John will look into what amount is usual to be charged

Ian – ideas around donation rather than fee

Lisa – School class projects to raise funds to support a scholarship (rather than twinning which would involve a lot of coordination). Would need to find a teacher interested.

Giftaid form on our website – get all donates to sign.

Resolutions

Minimum of £10 per year for continued FWG membership

All the financial decisions made

All agreed and seconded (John, Martin).

Election of Trustee's

Everyone happy to continue as trustees (agreed and seconded – John and Lee)

Election of Officers

Everyone happy for officers in post to continue (agreed and seconded – Ian and Martin)

Next Meeting

Towards end of year 2007

Vote of thanks to John and Marion for their wonderful hospitality for todays meeting and fantastic meal