

FHC General Meeting

Minutes

24 August, 2022

Meeting opened: 6.50pm

Attendance: Som Tamang, Susan Devitt, Tim Trehearn, Mary-Frances de Jourdan, Sue Lowth, Kay Smith, Jonathan Clayton, Georgia Smith, Peter Gaudron, Steve Johnson, Ivan Whittle, Debra Whittle

Apologies: none

1. Welcome (Tim)

Tim suggested that, since we needed to vacate the meeting venue at 7.30pm, we focus this brief meeting on setting an agenda for a lengthier meeting to be held on 12 October, 2022. This date should give Auditor time to complete FHC's 2021-2022 Audit, prior to the meeting.

2. Agenda items for next General Meeting

1) Teacher quarters Project (Jonathan)

Considerations:

Purchase of land for the Teachers Quarters fell through.

\$10,000 is available, but more will be needed,

A project benefitting teachers might be perceived as beyond FHC's scope.

We should create a plan that will attract donors.

What is the plan for the "\$50,000 + \$10,000" in long-term deposit account? For this project?

2) Sponsorship costs (Peter)

+2 students should be encouraged to study in Melamchi, rather than Kathmandu, unless circumstances require them to study in Kathmandu, to minimise costs for FHC.

Peter calculated costs for sponsoring a student in Kathmandu at \$150/mth. Few sponsors sign up for this, and sometimes three sponsors are required to support one +2 child in Kathmandu.

We need to discuss costs of sponsorship for +2 students in Melamchi and set new monthly sponsorship options eg. \$30 for scholarship kids / \$50 for hostel kids / \$90 for +2 kids.

3) Innocence Relief funding (MF)

Considerations:

Innocence Relief funding of \$20,000 has been deposited in Batase School's account. As well as funding for the water project, it includes \$1200 which is specifically for the support of underprivileged children. FHC can suggest ways of spending the \$1200, but the school principal, Mr Jam, will need to approve. To date, Som has requested that it be spent on a cross-cultural educational excursion; however, Mr Jam does not agree that this is a valid activity for expenditure of the funding.

Suggestions?

4) Use of gas rather than timber for fuelling hostel kitchen (Jonathan)

Considerations:

Vasts quantities of timber are used for cooking.

The kitchen uses 4 wood burners. A proposal to replace one burner with gas was approved.

Vision? Logistics? Costs?

5) Emergency solar power for hostel (Steve)

Considerations:

Emergency solar power is now available for the hostel.

Steve installed a change over switch which needs to be operated manually should power fail. On his next visit to Batase, Steve will make the change-over switch automatic.

The system supplies sufficient power for lighting.

Steve reported that an extra solar panel is required.

6) Visits to Batase (Susan)

Susan will take 16 women on a trek to EBC in December. Of these, 8 are local Cairns women.

At Xmas, Som / Dinesh will take a group of 30 Take On Nepal trekkers to EBC.

Considerations: Can anyone take donated goods with them to Kathmandu? Can we prioritise donations? Is any donation luggage allowance available?

5) 2022 Audit (Sue)

Considerations:

Successfully finalised?

Do we have written details of the term deposit in Nepal? (Sue's request)

Do we have a summary of future directions for FHC? (Auditor's request)

How are these accessed?

Meeting closed: 7.30pm

(Minutes recorded by Kay Smith)