Draft Minutes of the **4th**

**AGM of the Friends of The Gambia Association CIO 1171620**

Held online by means of a ‘Zoom’ meeting

Sunday 5th September 2021

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Present**:  Jeff Phillips  Gillian Hill  Sandra Hill-Smith  Richard Hughes  Donna Makins | Lynda Redfern  Alhajie Camara  Margaret Cluroe  Rod & Linda Luff | **Apologies:**  Jackie Massey  Rob & Margaret Isdale  Madelaine Binnie  Dorothy & John Baxter  Gerry Gurney |

1. **Welcome by the Chairman**

Donna Makins acting as Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Listed above

1. **Minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting 2020 of the CIO 1171620**

There were no matters arising from the minutes and they were accepted as a true record.

1. **Matters Arising.**

None

1. **Presentation of the CIO 1171620 Annual report for 2020**

The Annual Report of the CIO for 2020 was agreed unanimously.

1. **Resignation of 2 Trustees**

Rob Isdale and Jackie Massey stood down in May 2021.

1. **Confirmation of current CIO Trustees and Election of additional Trustees**

The following Trustees of FoTGA CIO 1171620 were elected unanimously.

Chairman Donna Makins

Projects Manager Richard Hughes

Secretary Sandra Hill-Smith

Sponsorship Secretary Gillian Hill

Treasurer Jeff Phillips

Trustee Alhaji Camara

**The following volunteers were confirmed:**

Drumbeat Lynda & Mike Redfern

FaceBook & Social Media Emily Cardinal

Bookkeeper Chris Hill

1. **Consideration of any motions received**

None

1. **Correspondence**

We received a legacy of £5,000 from the estate of John van Dongen.

A previously legacy was left by John Jones to ensure his students continued receiving grants until their education was complete. This has now been achieved.

The balance plus the new legacy will start a new FoTGA Legacy Endowment Fund, to be used for one-off grants to non-sponsored students. Any further unexpected donations will be added to the fund; some have come in memory of Peter Salisbury.

1. **Any other business**

**Donations**

Virgin Money Giving is closing. The meeting agreed to replace with People’s Fundraising (previously Golden Giving). For a debit card donation, they deduct two thirds as much as Just Giving. Also, they give the option of Direct Debits which might be of use in the future. They collect Gift Aid on donations for free and pass it on to us.

**Projects**

Richard described some likely projects he intends to review when visiting in November. Brikhama School has a classroom in dire need of repair or replacement. At GOVI School, the banana plantation fell into disuse. They seem to have a reduced number of pupils.

He will review the Bakindik health outpost to discover any needs. And finally look at schools on the north bank upstream from the new bridge.

**Drumbeat**

Linda explained what is still needed for Drumbeat which she plans to get to the printer before her holiday in two weeks’ time so it can be printed whilst she is away. She will issue pages for which help is needed to the Trustees, their response is needed by 14th September.

**Twinning**

Alhaji reported difficulty in obtaining information from Govi school for a possible twinning with a visually impaired school in Hampshire.

**Nursing School** – Alhaji is progressing with this.

**Transfer of money to The Gambia** – Alhaji questioned if we use the best option. We understand Jackie Massey has investigated other options, but stuck with the one giving us the best rate. This will be reviewed regularly.

**More sponsors needed**

As reported, we have lost a number of sponsors due to the pandemic, so would be glad to recruit more.

Rodney Luff expressed appreciation for the work of the Committee over the year.

1. **Date of next AGM**

Saturday June 11th 2022 at 1430 GMT.

The Chairman thanked all for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 1537.