

THE FRIENDS OF URAMBO AND MWANHALA



MINUTES OF THE 57th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

The meeting was held on Zoom with 26 attending including five from Tanzania and three medical students planning to visit Tabora Region in May this year.

The Chairman began by welcoming everyone, giving a particular welcome to our friends from Tanzania and to representatives from Kennilworth and Minchinhampton. He then explained how he wished to chair the meeting giving the protocol needed for members to ask questions which he encouraged people to do.

Apologies were received from Di Cooper and Flo Stathers.

The minutes of the 2020 AGM had been available on the website. One small correction was made: 'albino family' being altered to 'family with albinism' and the minutes were adopted as being a true record.

There were no matters arising

The Chairman said that he thought it is good that more people could attend the AGM via Zoom so that even were we able to go to a physical location next year we should retain an element of Zoom. The year had been a successful and productive one and that our links with individuals in Tabora Region were strong. He pointed out how, with Isabel's efforts, the fundraising had been maintained during the year and as a result our income has remained at its normal level with the special appeals boosting it considerably. He pointed out how much attention was paid to ensuring that money sent to Tanzania was properly spent and praised the officers who spent so much time checking that our projects ran to plan. He thought it amazing just how much FUM was able to achieve with the relatively modest amount of money we are able to raise. This is due in part to the long period of time we have been involved with the Tabora Region.

The Treasurer took us through the accounts. He started by pointing out that the total amount raised has remained the same over the years but for the last few we have run a number of special appeals which have been very successful. Nick pointed out that the accounts submitted to the Charity Commission, which can be found on their website, show our income from all sources bundled together. For the meeting he has separated out the regular income from the appeals income for clarity. Nick ran through the accounts pointing out the salient points. He ran through our sources of income and how it has been spent. He then explained the special projects for which there were special appeals. Money from these appeals had been used in most cases but we still retain the funds for the borehole and pump at Isegenhe Village Clinic and for the planned house for the family with albinism living in Mambali village. These two project have not started yet due to difficulties of communication and change of personnel in Tanzania. Happily they are both on the point of getting going. He thought that our financial position was looking sound but we must still concentrate on maintaining our income, as the demands on us are as great as ever.

Nick also showed us the visits to the FUM website which he runs, pointing out that the majority of visits are from Tanzanians.

Richard thanked Nick for looking after the website so well.

The meeting adopted the accounts and thanked Nick for his work keeping everything in order.

The Secretary gave an illustrated run through of the current projects all of which can be seen on the website. He pointed out our fundraising has already been mentioned but not Isabel, the mastermind behind it. Isabel taking control of fundraising has made a big difference to our available funds. She does wonders organizing, along with Julie, very successful sponsored walks. There will be two this year so do join in. We also have runners and swimmers from time to time raising crucial funds for us.

Particular successes this year had been the staff house for the Mwanhala Clinic and our sponsorship for nurse training both being projects undertaken in partnership with The Friends of Nzega. He explained that for PPE purchase, nurse training and help with the family in Mambali we had run internet appeals rather than using general funds simply because we do not have sufficient funds. Happily members have responded well but we are aware that this is a tactic we should use only occasionally.

We have excellent communication with the District Medical Officers, Dr Mgalega in Nzega and Dr Swakala in Urambo who both run their districts with great dedication and skill. The Doctors are very welcoming of British medical students wishing to spend their elective weeks in Tanzania but sadly the coronavirus pandemic made this impossible for last year's candidate and the trip for this year's four medics is hanging in the balance.

FUM now supports 15 clinics as we have adopted Mambali. Each clinic receives a bursary of £200 pa, the use of which is carefully monitored by Jo Taylor. He mentioned some of the purchases. The most recent major project was the refurbishment of Mambali clinic, funded in very large part by Cranbrook School who were to visit Mambali and Mwasala villages but sadly the Coronavirus prevented their trip. Nevertheless the School stuck to its commitment and provided the funds. The clinic was to be opened on Friday 12th by the new Nzega District Commissioner and a letter from the Cranbrook Headteacher celebrating friendship with the village would be read. We look forward to receiving photos.

We grant £2000 annually to each of the three FDCs we support, specifically to help students from poor backgrounds who would otherwise be unable to attend. There are about 15 at each FDC. The Tanzanian Government is investing in all three FDCs which have increased numbers of students overall. All three have been given new buildings. We provide £500 annually to maintain the college vehicles purchased by FUM around 14 years ago; these are now at the end of their lives but sadly we cannot afford to replace them. Di Cooper is investigating the problem.

As part of our Jubilee Appeal FUM provided all three of our FDCs with safe water supplies. Sikonge and Urambo are now connected to their town supplies. At Mwanhala water was supplied via a borehole which was also able to supply Mwanhala clinic. The pump has suffered two breakdowns in its short life the second of which is to be repaired by the end of March. Lucky, who is here in the meeting, is taking charge of the repair and future pumping schedule.

The secretary talked about Jenny Wills and the Imeli bursaries. Jenny is handing on oversight of this secondary school scheme, to Elly Hills. Jenny set up the project right at the start and over the years has done a tremendous job with maintaining these bursaries. Jenny pointed out that we now sponsor 120

pupils through secondary school, pupils who would otherwise be unable to attend. At £30 per pupil per annum this has got to be real value for money.

The secretary thanked all fellow officers for their hard work. Without them FUM could not continue. He expressed pleasure that Elly Hills had joined the committee and asked that all members consider joining the officers. FUM needs new energy and new ideas.

He also saluted the hard work our colleagues in Tanzania particularly the medical staff in the clinics and the hospitals, Drs Mgelaga and Swakala, the FDC staff, our liaison officers in Urambo and Nzega Districts, Charles Mswima & Maro Sifuel. Particular thanks to Lucky Mgeni and Venance Gomegwa who do so much for us.

The secretary also explained how good it was to see representatives from both the Kennilworth-Uyogo and the Minchinhampton – Nkokoto Friendship Links.

Isabel then gave a brief idea of the walks being organized on the North Downs and in Devon and Cornwall. Members were urged to join in as both walks were in wonderful places. It was hoped that at least five runners could be found to use our places on the Vitality Half Marathon. Elly explained how she, with her running etc. would be seeking to boost the fundraising too.

The Chairman commented that the instant feedback FUM was able to give to donors showing how money given had been used was of the greatest value and helped persuade people to donate.

Election of Officers: Richard paid tribute to Jenny Wills and thanked her for her years of work for school links and the Imeli Bursary scheme. Jenny said that FUM has been a big part of her life and that she has really enjoyed it. She was handing over to a younger person but still would be following what we do and will continue her support.

All officers agreed to continue for another year apart from Jenny Wills who was standing down. Elly Hills was proposed to take over Jenny's role. All were elected nem com.

Kit Lawry the Chair of KUFL said a few words about the cooperation between KUFL and FUM and with MNFL as well. We agreed that the cooperation was mutually beneficial and long may it last. Rod Harris from MKFL said how much he valued the link and indeed the cooperation with KUFL.

There was no other business.

The Chairman said that he thought the Zoom meeting had worked very well and that future meetings should have an element of Zoom joined to them. The date of the 2022 AGM was fixed for 5th March to be confirmed.

We were then able to welcome Dr Mgelaga and Lucky Mgeni who each gave us an appreciation of our work in the Nzega District and in the Urambo District. The internet connection was not wonderful but nevertheless we were very pleased to hear how much our help is appreciated. When asked what small additional thing FUM might do to help, Dr Mgelaga mentioned the purchase of skin cream to help those people in the District with albinism. It was resolved that the cost of this would be investigated and that FUM may then consider helping.

The Chairman thanked everybody and mentioned that the Zoom meeting would remain open, and that after a short break there would be an Officers' meeting, which everyone was welcome to join.

He then closed the meeting.

