

IRONBRIDGE AND SEVERN GORGE LIONS CLUB CIO

MINUTES OF TRUSTEE BOARD MEETING

Thursday 7th October 2021

- 21/22** The chairman welcomed Jill Marsh (Treasurer), Colin Thompson (Secretary), Graham Powell (Elected Trustee), and Jane Turner-Bragg (Elected Trustee)
- 21/23** The minutes of the meeting on 27th July 2021 were confirmed as a true record.
- 21/24** Matters arising
- 21.18 Colin and Graham had met with Jill to discuss the accounts and Jill had cleared the Barclays account. The account remains in a dormant state.
 - 21.20 Colin confirmed that he is capturing data updated personal and contact details from members and **agreed the need to repeat the IR35 statement.**
- 21/25** Trustees discussed the accounts and Treasurer's report for quarter ended 30/09/21 and, more particularly, the need to show an overall picture of the assets of the club, rather than one based on an individual bank account. **Graham offered to prepare a draft presentation on this basis and Jill agreed to provide the necessary information.**
- 21/26** Graham presented the draft Trustees Annual Report. This will be finalised when the inspection of the accounts by David Collington has been completed. It will then be submitted to the AGM in March for approval before being sent to the Charity Commission in April.
- 21/27** Colin presented his paper on Donations to LCIF – see appendix A. After discussion, **it was agreed that the paper, amended to show the "conclusions" and "recommendations" should be submitted to members at the next business meeting.**
- 21/28** **The revised targets and objectives (see appendix B) were discussed, and it was agreed that, with a number of minor amendments, these should be submitted to the next business meeting. It was also agreed that a number of recent items of expenditure, including walk banners and materials for the Den roof repairs, should be submitted to a business meeting for retrospective approval**
- 21/29** AOB
1. Induction arrangements for the 4 new members were discussed and agreed
 2. The Lions advice paper *Best practice for financial transparency* was noted and discussed.
 3. Colin reported on the response to the new quarterly report required by the DG
 4. Charter 2022. There was agreement that we should return to the Valley hotel for the 2022 event. The chairman expressed a preference for a dinner event to be held on 19th March or, if that proves difficult, a lunch on Sunday 20th. **He agreed to visit the Valley hotel to discuss dates and prices.**
 5. Colin raised the issue of the need to improve resilience against the risk of losing access to online assets and data in the event of the departure of key individual. **He undertook to produce a record of the access arrangements for systems and data under his control.**
 6. In response to a question from the Chairman, Graham reported that he is in discussion with Rotary regarding the point purchase of dehumidifier units and he is planning to talk to Travis Perkins. The plan is to buy five or six units. Jane queried the need to have the existing units PAT tested annually and **Graham promised to investigate.**
 7. The need to retain the existing Zoom contract was discussed and it was agreed that we could now revert to the free service. **Graham agreed to terminate the contract.**

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 9.05 pm

TRUSTEE MEETING 7 OCTOBER 2021

Donations to LCIF

This paper is intended to address 2 questions in relation to our support for LCIF:

1. How should we determine the amount of our donations to LCIF each year? and
2. Notwithstanding the answer to question 1, should we continue to make such donations in the immediate future given the current extent of LCIF reserves?

Question 1

The club supports international causes through two main channels – Sightsavers and LCIF. For Sightsavers, our practice for many years has been to make a single annual payment of £200. Donations to LCIF, on the other hand, are generally made on an ad-hoc basis in response to appeals related to high profile disasters such as earthquakes and floods. Inevitably, in that situation, responses tend to be based on emotional reaction to a story of human distress, and whilst this is understandable, it is clearly not the best or the most business-like way of allocating limited funds

This issue can be addressed easily by making a single allocation to LCIF each financial year, in the same way that we do for Sightsavers. In terms of the amount of that donation, it is suggested that it would be appropriate to allocate a total of around 10% of our anticipated unrestricted income to support all international causes – including both LCIF and Sightsavers. This unrestricted income includes monies raised during the Christmas campaign and at other events during the year such as the Coracle regatta, together with any associated gift aid, but excludes donations and grants to the prostate funds and the SOB events in aid of specific causes. In a typical year these unrestricted funds would amount to around £6000. The international allocation would therefore be £600, shared £200 to Sightsavers and £400 to LCIF.

The actual amount of the international allocation would be reviewed annually using the same 10%/90% split of unrestricted income.

Question 2

The question as to whether we should currently make donations to LCIF is a tricky one. Lions are justifiably proud of the work that LCIF does, and members may feel uncomfortable questioning a flagship international programme. However, given the enormous reserves held by LCIF. It is a question which cannot be ignored.

Since 2018 the foundation has been running a 3-year fundraising campaign (Campaign 100) aimed at raising \$100m per year, and this has just been extended for a 4th year. The latest report (for 2019/20) shows that, during that year, the total operating expenditure, including all grants and programmes, was just under \$55m and the net assets of the organisation at the end of the year stood at just over \$302m. In other words, the Foundations could keep running at its existing level of activity for almost 6 years even if it ceased collecting donations completely. Moreover, the asset figure of \$302m reflects an increase of more than \$11m over the course of the year. It is at least arguable it would have been better for this \$11m to have been retained by Lions clubs and used to meet needs within their home communities.

The extent to which LCIF differs from other major international charities in terms of the relationship between expenditure and reserves can be seen from the following table.

ORGANISATION	EXPENDITURE 2019/20	YEAR END RESERVES	RESERVES AS % OF SPEND
LCIF	\$ 54,890,000	\$ 302,171,000	550%
Oxfam UK	£285,000,000	£98,200,000	34%
Save the Children	£308,889,000	£57,854,000	18%
Sightsavers	£250,405,000	£40,737,000	16%

To be fair, campaign 100 is deliberately aimed at increasing reserves to allow LCIF to expand its commitment across the full range of its activities – (more information on Campaign 100 [HERE](#)). However, we are now 3 years into the campaign and there is little sign of any expansion, nor can we find any detailed expansion plans. In this situation it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that LCIF does not currently need further resources.

Conclusions

1. In a typical year our international allocations would be £600, shared £200 to Sightsavers and £400 to LCIF.
2. We invite the club to agree a pause in donations to LCIF until we are able to gain a better understanding of the expansion plans and long-term reserves policy of LCIF.

Colin Thompson
October 2021

APPENDIX B

Targets and Objectives 2021/22

Charity Account 2021/22 - Income & Expenditure Estimates

Note: Lead responsibilities shown in red.

Income –

(GP) Silver Over the Bridge –

2021 – 2 events (actual)	£700
2022 – 5 events (£400 per)	£2,000

£2,700

(CM) Coracle Regatta – Car Park & Stalls

£616

Lotteries/ Commissions

£500

(JM) Snowmen & Trees

£600

(GP) Food Parcels

£100

(CP/ML) Christmas (Santa)

£3,000

(CT) Message from Santa	£100	
Vintage Fair (net)	£300	(actual income & costs tba)
(CT) Gift Aid (SOB; Prostate, etc.)	£2,000	
		<u>£7,216</u>
Total		£9,916

Expenditure

Coracle Regatta	£170	
Christmas Food Parcels	£100	
Snowmen & Trees	£400	
Silver Over the Bridge	£3,000	
General Donations	£6,000	
Total		£9,500

(CT/JM) Prostate (net cost) **£3,500**

Membership Target 21/22 – in the range 5 to 10 new members

25th September 2021