

# **Friends of Ethiopian Children in Need (FECIN)**

## **AGM on 8 April 2017 at Sawston Parish Hall**

**Present:** Gill Smith, Audrey & Andy Jackson, Linda Knights- Wheatley, Peter & Sue Woodsford, Stephanie Barnes, Lucy & Graham Edgeley, Anne Purvis, Barbara Sinclair, Jo Archer, Adarsh Grewal, Dora Bulen, Jeanette , Gunnel Clark

**Apologies:** Dr Abraha Derso & Mrs Sharon Derso, Paul & Veronica Stower, Val & Rowan Jackson, Lesley Gillespie, Natasha Sharpin, Christina Leadley, Sue & Chris Wagner,

### **Minutes of FECIN AGM 23 April 2016**

The minutes of last year's AGM on 23 April 2016 were accepted as a correct record.

#### **1. Chair's Report**

- A. The Flexigester was paid for on 13 August 2016, arrived in Djibouti 28 August 2016 and arrives at Elshadai 31 October 2016 but is still not erected and working. Graham offered to write to Dr Mullett of SOWTech that make the Flexigesters
- B. and ask if he can help by going to Elshadai to oversee its installation.
- B. Our request for a specific project resulted in our support for the Elshadai Sheep Fattening project which was successful in setting up a system for fattening sheep before feast days and selling them at a profit. We hope further tranches of this project will result in more profit for the farm.
- C. Dr Derso and his friends in Wolverhampton have achieved Charity Commission status for Ethiopian Orphans Support UK Fund to support the children at Elshadai.
- D. A lovely summer party was held at Lucy and Graham's house on 6 August where Dr Derso explained his plans for Ethiopian Orphans Support UK Fund.
- E. We were sad to hear of the death of our supporter and friend Sue Purvis last October. She died of a brain tumour and an appeal for FECIN at her funeral resulted in donation of £700 in her memory.
- F. Teberal Inquai visited us last November and brought a project proposal from Mums for Mums for FECIN to support organising operations for women suffering prolapse problems. This cost £2,500 and was successfully completed earlier this year. Chris and Sue Wagner offered to pay for further such operations. We passed this on to Mums for Mums but have not heard back from them yet.
- G. The Jumble Sale on 6 November 2016 raised £620. Plus a donation from Dr Holmes.
- H. In January, Chris Cook was visiting Elshadai again and asked FECIN to fund some wet weather gear for the farm workers. So FECIN paid £186 on waterproof jackets and trousers for field workers which Chris took with her. She did not see the Flexigester while she was there. She did see the extension to the Kindergarten, which is so successful that more space was needed to accommodate increased numbers of pupils. It is possible that we could offer to equip this new building, if we receive a request for this.
- I. Chris Cook has offered to pay for Alemseged (Elshadai Director) and Terfu (the Elshadai Kindergarten teacher) to visit UK for 2 weeks for research and R &R. Chris would be their

guarantor and sponsor and we have helped put in an application for visas for them both. Terfu being young and single may have difficulty getting such a visa. We await results.

J. Sue recommended that Elshadai apply to the Catriona Hargreaves Charitable Trust (CHCT) for the £1,951 needed to install an electric pump at the Elshadai bore holes. No news yet on whether this has been successful.

K. A vote of thanks was made to Audrey and Sue for all their work.

## **2. Treasurer's Report**

Please see the accounts. Jumble Sale takings were down (April 2016 £5,820, Nov 2016 £6,790) and sponsorships down too. As well as other donations down. £600 from Chris and Sue Wagner has not been used yet but this is hypothecated for Prolapse operations at Mums for Mums. Sue will email Mums for Mums again to ask if these are needed.

We now have £10,144 left in our account with the debt carried forward. Co-op Bank messed up Gills request for transfers of money - £1,054 in sponsorship to Elshadai and £2,500 to Mums for Mums for the Prolapse operations. Co-op Bank instead made transfers of £2,500 to both. So adjustments will be made to Elshadai transfers to level this out.

Linda proposed and Jo seconded a proposal to accept these accounts. The accounts were accepted by the meeting and a vote of thanks was given to Gill for all her work as treasurer.

## **3. Election of Officers**

Chair: Audrey Jackson, proposed by Andy, seconded by Lucy and agreed by all.

Secretary: Sue Woodsford, proposed by Linda, seconded by Audrey and agreed by all.

Treasurer: Gill Smith, proposed by Barbara, seconded by Gunnel and agreed by all.

## **4. AOB**

- A. Peter asked if there was any information about the status of Elshadai's other financial support. Reports suggest that the situation has stabilised and is no longer such a problem.
- B. Lucy enquired whether anyone had heard from Teberah. Stephanie had spoken to Sephanit around Teberah's birthday and she was OK on Chris and Sue Wagner's visit earlier this year who found her fine.
- C. We would all like another summer party but need to wait until we hear about whether we shall have visitors from Elshadai and make arrangements to fit in with them at the time. So we will make a date later.