

**Minutes of the AGM Tikondane Community Centre (Tiko), 09.30 hrs, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 on the verandah of Tikondane Community Centre**

*COVID precautions: limit to number of attendees, physical distancing, no handshaking and mainly Chichewa spoken to limit time required. No face masks needed as held in the open air.*

**Present**

- ❖ Mwinga Hamwene, Block Extension Officer, Ministry of Agriculture: Guest of Honour
- ❖ Perry J. Kasongo, Co-operative Inspector, Katete (from Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry)
- ❖ Joyce Msoni, Senior Social Welfare officer, Dept of Community Development, board of Tiko
- ❖ Representative of Home-Based Caregivers
- ❖ Representative of People Living with HIV&AIDS Tiko Support Group
- ❖ Secretary: Volunteer Director Elke
- ❖ Tikondane Management Committee, including four representatives of the 56 villages and compounds in the Tikondane Community catchment area
- ❖ Interns
- Members of Tikondane Community

**Total 71**

**Apologies**

- ❖ Ezekiel Sakala, Chairman of the Board of Tikondane Community
- ❖ Josephine Nyirenda
- ❖ Catherine Mpakateni
- ❖ Nduna Greya
- ❖ Willard Ngandu, Proprietor of Parkwood Secondary School, (rented from Tiko)
- ❖ Kapauka A. Nyirenda, Chair of Tiko Management Committee – needed urgently by the Electoral Commission of Zambia to prepare for Zambian elections on August 12<sup>th</sup>

Item	Action	
	<b>Opening prayer</b>	Clara Mwazima
1	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guest of Honour Madame Shema, Mr P. Kasongo and members of the Board of Tiko</li> <li>- Given the low temperature and the small number of guests due to COVID, others were not introduced individually</li> <li>- It was explained that, as in 2020, those not invited because of COVID-DELTA would receive a report of the AGM later.</li> </ul> <p>This was unanimously agreed.</p>	Volunteer Director Elke
2	<p><b>INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY</b></p> <p><b>Main challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COVID-19 which brought the end of income from tourism</li> <li>- Inflation</li> <li>- ZESCO -Tiko bought a dehuller to make maize bran for chicken feed, but it needs a three-phase electrical connection. This was ordered in September 2020 but has not yet been provided by ZESCO.</li> </ul>	Volunteer Director, Elke

	<p><b>Key achievements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Donors are still with us, despite of having the same problems at their homes.</li> <li>*As a cooperative the Tiko crew is now stronger.</li> <li>*The grant of OTTO PER MILLE arrived just when most needed. (cf. below).</li> <li>*The new income-generating activity rearing Village Chickens started.</li> </ul> <p><b>Thanks</b></p> <p>The Volunteer Director thanked the crew. She said that twenty-two years ago she wanted Tiko to continue teaching literacy, as she did as a side-line while employed teaching nurses at St Francis Hospital. When villagers were not welcome there, she had started Tiko. However, Doris said to her “Amaj, we don’t need readin’ and writin’, we need jobs”. Sadly, that is just as true now as at the bad time of AIDS. Poverty and unemployment are so widespread that for many women and girls the only way to make a bit of money is still sex.</p> <p>Over the years Tiko has created jobs for some 80 people, with ‘salaries’ changing to ‘allowances’, which in these days of inflation are paltry, although doubled by ‘in-kind help’.</p> <p>The remarkable development is that the crew are pulling together. The women who were first engaged came mainly from single parent households with many children, their own and other dependent ones. By 11 years ago times that had changed - applicants for a job had finished year 12 at school. More recently often people wanting a job have achieved grade 12, but in addition have good work experience. The latter two groups are our INTERNS and form Tiko’s ‘cabinet’, a group which discusses policies in greater detail than the management committee. Those who are members of the Board of the co-operative are preparing to take over the management of Tiko. All members of the groups work together like a big family. Only two members did not agree to be twice vaccinated against COVID.</p>	
3	<p><b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b></p> <p>In the absence, with many apologies, of Chairman of the Board Ezekiel Sakala, the Voluntary Director took the opportunity to express Tiko’s heartfelt thanks to him. She explained that in the financial year 2020/2021 overall income from donations and grants was ZMW 2 283 000 as against ZMW 1 350 000 in 2019/2020. This increase is largely due to the devaluation of the kwacha and was negated by increasing inflation.</p> <p>The full financial report will be distributed in due course</p>	Volunteer Director, Elke
4	<p><b>Thanks to donors were expressed by Elke They included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*<b>OTTO PER MILLE</b> – Milano <b>Italy</b>, thanks to <b>Federico</b></li> <li>*<b>CROWDFUNDING PROJECTS</b>– thanks to <b>Christoph, Germany</b></li> <li>*<b>Sue in New Zealand</b>, former visitor at Tiko</li> <li>*The <b>Laer group FRIENDS OF TIKONDANE</b>, started by a former university colleague of Elke and his wife, <b>Johannes and Ulrike in Germany</b></li> <li>*Former classmate <b>Andreas</b> with group of 30 friends and colleagues for making Elke’s PowerPoints for many years, in <b>Germany</b></li> <li>*Teacher <b>Jens in Berlin</b>, visiting for 11 years with colleagues and/or students</li> <li>*<b>Marg Christensen</b>, friend from London times, then Canberra</li> <li>*<b>Margaret Whight</b>, who got Tiko its first water tank and is still helping from Sydney</li> </ul>	Volunteer Director, Elke

	<p><b>Lyn and Phil</b>, who took over from Robin and Dorothy to this day and are looking after <b>Heath</b>, who had organized ten outstanding dinners for Tiko</p> <p><b>Julia and Sam</b>, Robin and Dorothy daughters, who are with Tiko all the way</p> <p><b>Linda</b>, who had adopted Elke, and with it Tiko, before she even met Elke</p> <p>*Former Lonely Planet editor <b>Alan</b>, publicising Tiko and the South Luangwa Game Park and now helping Tiko via the NGO <b>ROUNDTRIP</b>, in <b>Melbourne</b></p> <p>* <b>Jan and Gonda</b> in <b>Belgium</b>, donors and frequent helpful visitors</p> <p>* <b>Pip</b>, friend in <b>Scotland</b>, from 24 years ago at St Francis, helping regularly</p> <p>*NGO <b>Zambia and Malawi Community Partnership</b>, started by <b>Sandra and Jeff</b> and now run by <b>Kate and Mick</b> in <b>England</b></p> <p>*<b>Claire and John</b> in <b>England</b>, helping the interns with documents from their teaching 15 years ago and more ever since.</p> <p>*<b>Dr Tim</b> in <b>Cambridge</b>, sending our newsletter,</p> <p>*Friends <b>Mandy and Phil</b> in <b>Norwich</b> helping with Facebook and more</p> <p>*Friend <b>Howard</b> from <b>Japan</b>, with <b>Becky</b> in the <b>USA</b> at <b>Jambo International</b></p> <p>* <b>Lorraine</b> in the <b>Netherlands</b> who is also my editor.</p> <p>* The <b>many more donors</b>, too numerous to list, whose gifts are appreciated.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES 2020/21</b>	
	<p><b>1. LODGE</b></p> <p>*In March 2020, five long-term volunteers were rushed to the airport because of COVID-19. The only guests since were donors Kate &amp; Mick, a couple who stayed over Christmas,</p> <p>*The lodge now has only some 8 rooms.</p> <p>*The substandard accommodation is used by students attending courses at St Francis Hospital.</p> <p>*Zambian law requires that a trained manager is employed to run accommodation with more than 8 rooms. Thanks to OTTO PER MILLE, Lozi is training in hospitality and will be ready next year, hopefully to run upgraded accommodation.</p>	Racheal
	<p><b>2. GARDEN</b></p> <p>* Last year there was severe drought in the growing season so the harvest from the Tiko fields was negligible.</p> <p>This season brought too much rain and low-lying land suffered badly. Conditions are still not good for anybody</p> <p>Vegetables grew, but without visitors they went to the crew at low prices.</p>	Jane
	<p><b>3.LIVESTOCK</b></p> <p>*For <b>goats</b> the ratio needed to yield a profit is 30 females to one male. We have stopped breeding them, keeping only one couple which still produce kids.</p> <p>*Our 30 <b>rabbits</b> are providing a regular meat supply. Their fecundity has increased, for which we are very glad, as recently rabbits have become cheaper than chickens.</p> <p>*Our <b>ducks</b> are producing a regular supply of meat for meetings</p> <p>*Keeping <b>Village Chickens</b> is the latest venture at Tiko. In September 2020 we provided a venue for a workshop in rearing chickens which we attended. It promoted keeping Village Chickens which we decided to do. We have some 40 Black Australorps at Tiko and some 60 Kuroilers at Joy's house, some 15 minutes</p>	Bernadette

	away, and have started to make our own chickenfeed as well as supplementary feed.	
	<p><b>4. SMALL SCALE FOOD PRODUCTION</b></p> <p>In the past we made a variety of food stuffs, but without paying guests because of the pandemic, we are now making only jam. Making peanut butter is now too expensive because the price of crops, especially groundnuts has increased steeply. We will make cooking-oil when the three-phase electricity connection we applied for in September 2020 has been made by ZESCO.</p>	Lozi
	<p><b>5. ONENEPA</b></p> <p>When Susan started work in December 2020, she took on the job of finding children with severe or moderate malnutrition. These are hard to find as their mothers do not attend the clinic regularly for weighing their children and often move to different places. Susan and Christine soon decided to change the way ONENEPA is to be consumed. Rather than giving it on a spoon, which the children associate with medicine, thus inspiring fear, they told the mothers to wash their own and their children's hands and demonstrate how to lick the powder from the palm of their hands. That made the children very keen to take part even if their weight was dangerously low. Such children were supplied with two bags of ONENEPA a day and improved, reaching average weight. Mothers like ONENEPA and find it is better than the supplement given by the health service at present. The village headmen had provided us with the names of such children. They recently demanded to be given a taste of our supplement, since the children were so happy!</p>	Susan/Christine
	11.00 hrs: Break for Thobwa (a Zambian fermented drink made from maize)	
<b>6</b>	<b>GENERAL EXPENDITURE</b>	
	<p><b>ELECTRICITY:</b> The main cost at Tiko is <b>electricity</b>, which, in addition to not reaching 220-240 v at times, is totally unreliable. So, like most members of the crew who have no electricity, we use charcoal for cooking. This is done with a bad conscience because deforestation is a big cause of climate change. In Zambia people traditionally use three tree trunks to make their cooking fire. Many unsuccessful attempts have been made to introduce stoves that use less firewood. We are promoting our clay-stoves, which have small openings for the firewood, so only very small pieces of wood can be used, but the owners do need axes. If necessary, owners can repair their stove by hand. We have decided to produce enough small pieces of wood for use and for sale. The project includes the planting of firewood producing trees, which we propagate. If both is done, firewood does produce <b>renewable energy</b>. To finance this project, we have recently opened a new <b>crowdfunding project (See the internet and our next newsletter)</b>.</p>	Hildah
<b>7</b>	<p><b>SECURITY</b></p> <p>Our night watchmen have <b>whistles</b> and <b>catapults</b> and our <b>dogs</b> (which now have three good kennels to keep away the males. They still regularly produce puppies, some for our crew and some for sale). As we have an incubator and batteries to keep it going during electricity outages, to afford some protection from thieves,</p>	Hildah

	<p>we have installed a <b>wire fence</b> around the centre of Tiko with gates to the school and to the football field. However, the main entrance is not yet gated.</p> <p>Unusually for Katete District, we also have an alarm system at the production unit.</p>	
8	<p><b>HUNGER HELP</b></p> <p>Many years ago, hunger help in the shape of bags of maize was given to the crew, the number depending on the number of people in the household. These days they each get just one bag for five months. Given that we have started rearing Village Chickens, it is maize without the maize bran (SAMPLE), that they get. If the crew members want maize meal, they must take the SAMPLE to the grinding mill, but this costs only half the price of milling full grain.</p>	Aggie
9	<p><b>FOOD SECURITY</b></p> <p>*Over many years the crew have learned to make their own organic fertilizer and to use organic permaculture/conservation methods for planting. They were each given 2 kg of groundnuts, cowpeas and soya and 1 kg of sunflower seed. Instead of cassava (too attractive to the cows and no help to control the cows) yams were planted by everyone and are still being harvested.</p> <p>*We had a case of the theft of crops and one colleague is no longer with us.</p> <p>*Twenty-five crew members asked for an extra 50 kg of soya for seed. Thirteen who took the extra then returned one bag to Tiko. There is not enough land where the crew members live and they gave extra seed to their relatives, but 12 said their relatives had not returned anything. Tiko decided to charge them for this soya seed and told them to educate their relatives.</p>	Aggie
10	<p><b>SHELTER HELP</b></p> <p>In the past Tiko helped many members to buy a plot and build a house, but with the ever-declining availability of money, now help may be limited to a floor, a window frame or a strong door and these days it is mainly for a strong lock. Where possible, Tiko will help with a small roof repairs and wire mesh to protect bag gardens against their own or neighbours' chickens.</p>	Tigris
11	<p><b>MEDICAL AND FUNERAL HELP</b></p> <p>Tiko has pain killers, malaria medicine and good medicine for flu. Very often up goes the cry 'Amaka Damiano, I need STOP COLD'. The medical situation in the country has deteriorated so much that medication is no longer given out by hospital or clinics, but Tiko has a small 'pharmacy' with stock from a pharmacy in Chipata and will also pay for less often used prescribed drugs. The hospital also charges for tests, which we also pay.</p> <p>For funerals, the crew is slowly learning that the actual burial need only be attended if the person concerned is a very close relative. Work is important too, and the mourners can be visited in the evenings. COVID provides another reason not attending funerals. However, Tiko recognizes that these occasions are very important to the structure of the extended family, so for any Tiko crew member help is always given for the food that is needed.</p>	Tigris
12	<p><b>EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTRE</b> Schools closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 because of COVID. They were re-opened on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and closed after two weeks, leaving only grades 7, 9 and 12 attending. In 2021 schools opened from January 1 and closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. We are now waiting to open on 16 August.</p>	Dorothy



	The final instalment of the OTTO PER MILLE grant will be used to attempt to turn <b>13 women's clubs</b> into crop producers.	
17	Word by <b>HBC member Matildah</b> from Kachipu. She reported that some 50 people had attended a course on how to help AIDS patients. They learned about both nursing and patients' need for bed sheets for cleanliness and for ten percent more food than others. They also learned about gardening and keeping pigeons. Their work attracted other NGOs and some of them received bicycles. Last year they were given the opportunity to plant yams and they are already eating them. Matildah expressed her thanks to Tiko	Matildah
18	Word by <b>Guest of Honour Madame Shema</b> . She was very pleased to receive the invitation and to find that there was a big active group at Tiko and she wished Tiko and the Director to please continue their good work.	Madame Shema
19	Word by <b>Perry Kasongo, the co-operative inspector</b> . Perry had recently been involved with Tiko when working on a grant application from the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry. He was delighted to hear about ONENEPa and the chicken feed made at Tiko and <b>offered help find a market for Tiko</b> . He congratulated Tiko to becoming a co-operative. He advised Tiko to work with the director on the good production of chicks and eggs. We should have trust and work together he said.	Perry Kasongo
20	The vote of thanks was given by <b>Joyce Msoni, a member of the Board of Tiko</b> . She knows much about Tiko and asked the crew to work hard and continue to develop Tiko. She recommended taking the message that people had learned at Tiko further afield. Later we learned that she had received a commendation from the Department of Community Development as a <b>most innovative and creative</b> member. We are very proud to have her as a member of the Board.	Joyce Msoni
21	<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Mathew
	Mathew took the visitors <b>to see the incubator in the Production Unit</b> . Everyone then sat down for a meal with meat from the new chickens. Two pieces of soap were handed out to remind everyone of COVID.	Zikomo