



Market Harborough
and the Bowdens Charity
changing people's lives

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL GRANTS COMMITTEE

**AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MARKET HARBOROUGH,
LEICESTERSHIRE**

16th August 2023 – 4:30 pm

Attendees:	Jenny Balme	Chair and Trustee
	Wendy Hempson	Charity Secretary
	Dr Sarah Hill	Trustee
	Kerry Merryweather	Trustee

Apologies:	Chris Davies	Trustee
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1 Conflicts of Interest

While not a conflict of interest, Kerry explained that she and Chris had encouraged Beacon Care & Advice to apply for a grant. The remaining trustees declared they had no conflicts of interest.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting on 28th June 2023

The draft minutes of the meeting of the General Grants Committee on 28th June 2023, previously circulated and amended, were agreed as an accurate record.

3 Actions from meeting on 28th June 2023

The actions from 28th June 2023 were noted.

4 Matters arising not on main agenda

There were none.

5 Budget

The budget was noted.

6 Charity Secretary's Report

The updates in the report were noted.

7. Project Applications

7.1 Hursley Park Paths Project – 2023-P3

An application for £42,500 (25% of £170K) to finance tarmac paths, benches, picnic tables and fencing in Hursley Park to make the park accessible throughout the year. The park has a strong focus on the environment and is the only country park within the Charity's area of benefit. The developer has not fulfilled its obligations, but no progress has been possible despite support from the council and the local MP.

Trustees decided to form a Contact Group (Sarah and Kerry plus 1) for the project. Concern was raised over the use of tarmac paths in an environmentally friendly park.

8. Grant Applications

8.1 Medical bed, Little Bowden Primary School – 2023-G13

A request for £1,335 (out of £7.5K) to convert a disabled toilet into a medical bay for use by a child with complex medical needs but also to stop staff from having to bend down to change nappies (since Covid more children have started school wearing nappies). Trustees supported the application on condition that, if the Council decided to fund the bed, the school would return the funding to the Charity.

Action: Grant £1,335 to fund a medical bed at Little Bowden School - 2023-G13 - Charity Secretary

8.2 Market Harborough Christmas Fayre – 2023-G14

A request for £3,500 (out of £10K) to cover the cost of road closures for the Christmas Fayre, a popular annual event. Trustees supported the application but for £3,000 and made clear that profits could not be given away as donations.

Action: Grant £3,000 to Harborough Fayres - 2023-G14 - Charity Secretary

8.3 Wellbeing Café - Beacon Care & Advice – 2023-G15

A request for £19,750 (out of £31.8K) to deliver a community-based wellbeing drop-in/café for local people, providing mental health information, practical advice, emotional support, and access to activities to improve wellbeing and help with healthy coping strategies. The café would be run from the Charity's property at Fairfield Road. Trustees were in favour of supporting the application in full.

Action: Grant £19,750 to Beacon Care and Advice Wellbeing Café - 2023-G15 - Charity Secretary

8.4 Hursley Park Wetland Project– 2023-G16

An application for £6,170 (out of £9,565) to create a wetland/pond area to significantly enhance the biodiversity of the park and to provide a valuable community and educational resource. The drainage involved would also improve the pathways and increase accessibility to nature. Trustees supported the project but wanted to know if fencing would be needed and wanted reassurance that it was a stand-alone project, which would not be affected by the Hursley Park Paths Project.

Action: Grant £6,170 to Hursley Park Wetland Project - 2023-G16 - on condition it is a stand-alone project and fencing would not be required - Charity Secretary

9 Contact Group Reports

9.1 Solar and LED lights for H Town Football Club - 2023-P1

A request for £12,240 for solar panels and for £15,723 for LED replacement floodlights (out of a combined total of £111,852). This project would bring many environmental and financial benefits and the club would save approximately £25,000 annually. The club is confident of receiving 70% of the funding through the Football Foundation's energy grants' schemes.

The contact group (Jenny, Chris and Wendy) met with the club on 2nd August 2023 and supported the application being submitted to the Board for approval on 31st August 2023, on condition that a banner promoting the Charity is put up on the main pitch.

9.2. Harborough Community Bus - 2023-P2

A request for £30,000 (out of £41.8K) to fund a new accessible minibus. This volunteer run charity operates three minibuses and enables groups and individuals to travel to places they might not otherwise be able to get to. The charity seeks to replace the vehicles on a four-year cycle and always prioritises passenger safety.

The contact group (Kerry, Sarah and Wendy) met with Harborough Community Bus representatives on 26th July 2023 and supported the application being submitted to the Board for approval in August 2023, on condition that the Charity's funding was clearly acknowledged on the side of the new bus.

14 Any other business

Dementia UK - Admiral Nurse project - 2022-P4

In June '23, Dementia UK's Admiral Nurse resigned unexpectedly and the two local PCNs withdrew their support for the project on financial grounds despite a clear need for the service.

Following consultation with Dementia UK, trustees decided to allow Dementia UK to use £16,387 of unspent Charity funding (already allocated to this project) in order to provide fortnightly clinics for one year, on condition the clinics would be held within the Charity's area of benefit. Although the service will no longer be fully integrated with the PCNs, it will still provide some much-needed support.

15 Any matters for the Board

- Contact Group Recommendation to support Harborough Town Football Club's application in full - 2023-P1
- Contact Group Recommendation to support Harborough Community Bus's application in full - 2023-P2

16 Dates of next meetings

- Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 4:30 pm
- Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 4:30 pm
- Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 4:30 pm