



**Draft MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRANTS COMMITTEE
AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MARKET HARBOROUGH**

1st November 2023 – 4:30 pm

1 Attendance and Apologies

Jenny Balme	Chair and Trustee
Chris Davies	Trustee
Wendy Hempson	Charity Secretary
Dr Sarah Hill	Trustee
Kerry Merryweather	Trustee
Tony Walters	Trustee (observing)

2 Conflicts of Interest

Jenny declared an interest in the application from Leicestershire Musical Memory Box (2023-G20) and Chris declared an interest in the application from St Dionysius Church (2023-P4). Both absented themselves from the meeting during the relevant discussions and took no part in the decisions taken. The remaining trustees declared they had no conflicts of interest.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting on 20th September 2023

The draft minutes of the meeting of the General Grants Committee on 20th September 2023, previously circulated and amended, were agreed as an accurate record.

4 Actions from meeting on 20th September 2023

The actions from 20th September 2023 were noted. The action, “Open a dialogue with the practice manager at Market Harborough Medical Centre regarding dementia care provision in the Charity's AOB” was no longer required and would be closed.

5 Matters arising not on main agenda

There were none.

6 Budget

The budget was noted.

7 Charity Secretary's Report

The updates in the Charity Secretary's report were noted.

8. Project Applications

8.1 St Dionysius Church – 2023-P4

An application from St Dionysius Church for £23,000 (out of £46,536) towards the cost of repairs to the church's west tower. Trustees noted that the Friends of St Dionysius had pledged £24,000, but it was unclear if the church had committed any funds towards the repairs and there was no evidence of fundraising within the town. Trustees queried whether the project matched the committee's strategic priorities. Trustees decided to request a second quote and more information about the church's contribution to the project.

Action: Request a second quote is obtained and confirmation of the church's contribution to the project – Charity Secretary

9. Grant Applications

9.1 Roverway24 – 2023-G19

A request for financial assistance to help a young scout attend Roverway24 in Norway. Roverway is a European event for Scouts and Guides aged 16-22, which takes place every three to six years. Trustees agreed to grant the scout £300, in line with previous grants to local scouts in the Charity's area of benefit.

Action: Award £300 to scout to attend Roverway24 – Charity Secretary

9.2 Leicestershire Musical Memory Box – 2023-G20

A request for £500 (out of £650) to help cover the costs of a dementia friendly carol service in December 2023 and a dementia friendly Singalong Cinema event on 31st January 2023, with both events to be held in Market Harborough. Trustees requested more information regarding the number of attendees and the percentage of those who lived in the Charity's area of benefit.

Action: Request the number of attendees expected at the two events and the percentage of those that live in the Charity's area of benefit – Charity Secretary

9.3 Great Bowden Recital Trust – 2023-G21

A request for £3,000 (out of £5,700) to finance three years of Great Bowden Recital Trust's Junior X Factor talent competition. Expert judges would provide constructive, encouraging feedback to the young contestants and the whole experience was intended to be positive and inspiring. Trustees requested more information and

reiterated that the committee did not fund multi-year projects.

Action: Explain the one year funding rule and request clarification about what is to be funded, and how the Trust plans to make the event more inclusive – Charity Secretary

10. Reports

Arts Fresco (2023-G8) had submitted a video report which was very effective. The reports from Great Bowden Music Fest (2023-G2) and from the five scouts that had attended the World Scout Jamboree in August 2023 (2023-G6) were also noted and appreciated.

Trustees decided to clarify for all applicants that any funds received from the Charity which were not used for the purpose intended, had to be returned to the Charity in a timely fashion, as required under UK Charity law.

Action: Add a condition on all grant offers to clarify and require that any funds received from the Charity not used for the purpose intended had to be returned to the Charity in a timely fashion, as required under UK Charity law – Charity Secretary

11 Looking ahead to 2024

Trustees reviewed the grants and projects awarded so far in 2023 and agreed that discussions around the committee's priorities and its approach to 2024 would be enhanced by participation in the Trustee Working Groups, which were due to take place before the November 2023 Board meeting. The committee agreed that it would take into consideration the ethics of all applications.

Lessons learned so far from 2023, included;

- the need to request a second or third quote for all applications over £10K, before such an application could be considered.
- the need to clarify, when awarding funds, that any granted funds which were not used for the purpose intended would need to be returned to the Charity.
- that it would be expedient, where possible, to meet in person with any third party involved in a project, to facilitate understanding and dialogue.

12 Any other business

12.1 Hursley Park Paths project 2023-P3

The committee queried the use of tarmac for the proposed paths through a park focused on enhancing the environment. A breakdown of costs would be requested before a decision could be taken on whether to recommend the project to the Board.

Action: Request a breakdown of costs – benches, fencing, paths, materials etc – Charity Secretary

12.2 Funding enquiry – Robert Smyth Academy

Trustees agreed that the Charity's Constitution would not allow the funding of changing rooms at the school, which should be funded by the State.

Action: Reply to Robert Smyth Academy that it would not be possible to fund new changing rooms – Charity Secretary

12.3 Youth involvement in Charity

Jenny updated the committee on her visit to Robert Smyth Academy where she had explored the possibility of enabling members of the 6th form to engage with the Charity and provide the youth perspective.

13 Any matters for the Board

13.1 The Eco Village

Representatives from the Charity would visit The Eco Village together with representatives from Howard Watson Symington Memorial Charity to better understand its set up and the work being done there.

Action: Set up meeting with The Eco Village, together with representatives from HWSM Charity – Charity Secretary

14 Dates of next meetings

- Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 4:30 pm