



Draft MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRANTS COMMITTEE

AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MARKET HARBOROUGH

13th December 2023 – 4:30 pm

1 Attendance

Jenny Balme	Chair and Trustee
Wendy Hempson	Charity Secretary
Dr Sarah Hill	Trustee

Apologies

Chris Davies	Trustee
Kerry Merryweather	Trustee

2 Conflicts of Interest

While not a conflict of interest, Sarah explained that she knew the individuals running both the Market Harborough History Society and the High Impact Education (Enterprise/Ukrainian) projects. Jenny declared she had no conflicts of interest.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting on 1st November 2023 – Appendix 1

The draft minutes of the meeting of the General Grants Committee on 1st November 2023, previously circulated and amended, were agreed as an accurate record.

4 Actions from meeting on 1st November 2023 – Appendix 2

The actions from 1st November 2023 were noted.

5 Matters arising not on main agenda

There were none.

6 Budget

The budget was noted.

7 Charity Secretary's Report - Appendix 3

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

8. Project Applications

8.1 St Dionysius Church – 2023-P4 - – Appendices 4 & 5

An application from St Dionysius Church for £23,000 (out of £46,536) towards the cost of repairs to the church's west tower. A second quote had been obtained, as requested, and clarification over the costs was needed. Grants over £20K require approval from the Board and Trustees therefore decided to form a contact group to consider the application further.

Action: Form a contact group for the St Dionysius West Tower application (2023-P4) - Charity Secretary

8.2 Hursley Park paths project – 2023-P3

Trustees agreed that they were not in a position to offer advice or feedback regarding this application which had been declined at the November 2023 Board meeting. Furthermore, an application for a smaller amount would also be unsuccessful.

Action: Inform applicant that the Charity could not provide advice and another application for a smaller amount would be unsuccessful – Charity Secretary

9. Grant Applications

9.1 Leicestershire Musical Memory Box – 2023-G20 - Appendices 6 & 7

Trustees noted that a grant of £500 had been awarded on 1st November to Leicester Musical Memory Box to help fund a dementia friendly carol service in December 2023 and a singalong cinema. This was agreed between committee meetings upon receipt of further information requested and was paid early due to time constraints.

9.2 Great Bowden Recital Trust – 2023-G21 – Appendix 8 & 9

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. The applicant had provided more information and Trustees agreed to support the project with a one year grant of £1,000.

Action: Grant £1,000 to Great Bowden Recital Trust for the Junior X Factor talent competition in 2024 – Charity Secretary

9.3 Market Harborough Historical Society – Volume 2 – (2023-G22) - Appendices 10,11,12 & 13

An application for £3,500 (out of £6,202) to fund some of the printing costs of Volume Two of “A History of Market Harborough – From 1800 to the Present Day”. The first volume had been very well received and Trustees were in favour of supporting the application to help publish the second volume and agreed to award £2,000.

Action: Grant £2,000 to Market Harborough Historical Society to help with the printing costs of Volume 2 (2023-G22) – Charity Secretary

9.4 Composting Bays at Welland Park (2023-G23) – Appendices 14 & 15

A request from Harborough in Bloom for £600 to help fund large composting bays in Welland Park. All the compostable materials in the park would be utilised on the flower beds and rose garden in the park. Trustees supported this well-planned project and awarded the full amount requested.

Action: Grant £600 to Harborough in Bloom for the Composting Bays at Welland Park application (2023-G23) – Charity Secretary

9.5 DDA Compliant access Peace Garden (2023-G24) – Appendix 16 & 17

A request for £6,273 to fund a Disability Discrimination Act compliant wheelchair ramp in the new Peace Garden which the school planned to create in an unused internal courtyard. In principle, Trustees were supportive of the application but requested more information regarding the materials to be used, what other groups within the area of benefit would use the Peace Garden and why only one quote had been obtained.

Action: Request more information regarding the materials to be used, what other groups within the area of benefit would use the Peace Garden and why only one quote had been obtained. – Charity Secretary

9.5 HIES UP Project and Enterprise Club (2023-G25) – Appendices 18 & 19

An application for £3,291 (out of £17,028) to help fund the room hire, refreshments, childcare and materials of the Enterprise Club for 15-20 young people in need of support, and the UP Project for 25+ Ukrainian women. Trustees supported the application and awarded the full amount requested.

Action: Grant £3,291 to the HIES UP Project and Enterprise Club (2023-G25) – Charity Secretary

10. Reports

The Bower House – Counselling services – Appendix 20

This project awarded £62,5K to support the Bower House's counselling service for five years from 2019 to 2023. The final report which was received in November 2023 was noted and Trustees commented on the valuable counselling that the Bower House had made possible and on the increasing local demand for mental health support in the area of benefit.

11. Harborough Town Football Club – LED light and solar panels project – 2023-P1

Trustees discussed the banner which the football club had agreed to put up in order to promote the Charity, as a thank you for the Charity's help over the years. Trustees were in favour of locating it outside the football club where it would be seen by people walking past. The format and wording would be agreed at a later date.

12 Visit to The Village with HWSM Charity trustees – Appendices 21 & 22

Jenny's report on a recent joint visit with HWSM Charity trustees to The Village was shared for information. Trustees were impressed by the work being carried out there and the dedication of those involved. Uncertainty over the renewal of the current lease meant it would not currently be possible to support The Village with a grant.

13 Cultural Quarter update – Appendices 23 & 24

The progress report from the Animating Leicestershire application was noted, as was the fact that an application from Creative Harborough could be forthcoming. Trustees discussed the value of sharing information between organisations and charities within the area of benefit.

14 Any other business - There was none.

15 Any matters for the Board - There were none.

16 Dates of meetings in 2024

- Wednesday 17th January 2024
- Wednesday 21st February 2024
- Wednesday 3rd April 2024
- Wednesday 8th May 2024
- Wednesday 19th June 2024
- Wednesday 14th August 2024
- Wednesday 25th September 2024
- Wednesday 6th November 2024
- Wednesday 11th December 2024