



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

21st February 2024 – 4:30 pm

1 Participants

Jenny Balme	Chair of General Grants and Trustee
John Feavours QPM	Contact Group representative St Dionysius Church
Wendy Hempson	Charity Secretary
Dr Sarah Hill	Trustee

Apologies: Chris Davies, Kerry Merryweather

2 Conflicts of Interest

Sarah declared a conflict of interest in the application from Little Bowden Scout Club and took no part in the discussions and decision-making process. The remaining trustees declared they had no conflicts of interest.

3 Appointment of Chair

Jenny was proposed and seconded and agreed to continue as Chair for 2024.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting on 17th January 2024 – Appendix 1

The draft minutes of the meeting of the General Grants Committee on 17th January 2024, previously circulated and amended, were agreed as an accurate record.

5 Actions from meeting on 17th January 2024 – Appendix 2

There are no outstanding actions from previous meetings.

6 Matters arising not on main agenda

These would be dealt with under AOB.

7 Budget

The budget for 2024 had not been decided.

8 Charity Secretary's Report - Appendix 3

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

9. Project Applications

8.1 Contact Group report - St Dionysius Church 2023-P4 - Appendices 4 & 5

The contact group (Kerry, John, Tony and Rohini) met with representatives from St Dionysius Church to discuss their application for £23,000 (out of £46,536) towards the cost of repairs to the church's west tower. Since the visit, and as requested, the PCC had submitted additional information regarding visitor numbers and footfall.

The contact group concluded that the fabric of the church was an important integral part of the Area of Benefit and recommended that £15,000 be awarded. The group noted that the church had sufficient funds to fund the VAT cashflow requirement. Trustees agreed that, in future, the PCC would have to demonstrate a fundraising plan and evidence of clear public support in order for the Charity to support an application. A grant of £15,000 was agreed.

Action: Grant £15,000 to St Dionysius Church – Charity Secretary

8.2. Little Bowden Scout Hut 2024-P1 – Appendices III, IV & V

Trustees considered this request for £200,000 (out of £400,000) to help replace the dilapidated scout hut (from the 1960s) in Little Bowden. The scout group is run by 47 adult volunteers and 19 young leaders and there are 177 youth members aged between 4-14 who overwhelmingly live in the Charity's Area of Benefit. It was agreed to set up a contact group to consider the request and how best to maximise public benefit in that particular part of Little Bowden.

Action: Set up a contact group for the Little Bowden Scout Hut project 2024-P1 – Charity Secretary

8.2 Little Bowden Bowling Club sustainable heating/solar panels - 2024-P2 – Appendices VI and VIa

Since submitting the application, this well used club had applied for £20,000 under an environmental grant (<https://www.harborough.gov.uk/environmentalgrant>), endorsed by the Council. The club was confident of success and had consequently reduced its request to the Charity from £29,500 to £9,500. The solar panels and heaters would significantly reduce the club's energy bills and help with cost-of-living pressures. Many groups, such as the Women's Institute, the U3A, and others use the club. The solar panels would be purchased locally, have a guaranteed lifespan of 25 years and should break even after 10 years. Trustees agreed to support the application and subject to the environmental grant being awarded, to grant the requested £9,500.

Action: Subject to the environmental grant being successful, grant £9,500 to Little Bowden Bowling Club 2024-P2 – Charity Secretary

9 Grant Applications

9.1 The Paint Pottle - A Community Pottery – 2024-G3 – Appendix VII

A request for £2,500 (out of £6,913) to fund a tabletop potter's wheel and a slab roller to set-up a community pottery accessible to the whole community, including disabled groups and elderly participants. The community pottery would encourage artistic expression and positive mental health and could help address social isolation. While supportive in principle, Trustees could not see a clear separation between The Paint Pottle as a business and the community pottery and decided it was not possible to support the application.

Action: Inform The Paint Pottle that the application for funding towards a community pottery had been unsuccessful – 2024-G3 – Charity Secretary

10 Any other business

10.1 The Screen School application – 2024-G4 – Appendix XII

An application for £19,962 to fund memberships, summer camp places, studio space, staff training and equipment for some young people with additional needs. Trustees could see the benefit to confidence and mental health from participation but decided that too few individuals would be helped and that there would not be sufficient public benefit to justify supporting the application.

Action Inform The Screen School that the application for support had been unsuccessful – 2024-G4 – Charity Secretary

10.2 Letter from Baptist Church re possible support – Appendix XIII

The Baptist Church in Market Harborough had enquired if an application to fund the cost of rebuilding the low wall along the side of the church would fit with the Charity's strategic aims. Trustees decided that it would not meet the Charity's current priorities and noted that the church had sufficient funds to cover the work required.

Action: Advise the Baptist Church that an application to fund repairs to the wall would be unsuccessful – Charity Secretary

11 Any matters for the Board

There were none.

12 Dates of meetings in 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