



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

19th June 2024 – 4:30 pm

1 Participants

Jenny Balme	Chair of General Grants and Trustee
Chris Davies	Trustee
Wendy Hempson	Charity Secretary
Dr Sarah Hill	Trustee

Apologies:

Ed Green	Trustee
Kerry Merryweather	Trustee
Tony Walters	Trustee

2 Conflicts of Interest

The trustees declared they had no conflicts of interest or loyalty but would declare it if one came up during the meeting.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting on 8th May 2024 – Appendix I

The draft minutes of the meeting of the General Grants Committee on 8th May 2024, previously circulated and amended, were agreed as an accurate record.

4 Actions from meeting on 8th May 2024 – Appendix II

There were no outstanding actions from previous meetings.

5 Matters arising not on main agenda

Trustees welcomed the new fencing and better signage along the Folly Pond.

6 Budget

£77,970 had been awarded so far in 2024. Trustees noted that they would be required to propose a budget for 2025 for the Board.

Action: Calculate how much the Committee had spent in 2021-2023, to inform the committee's decision regarding the proposed budget for 2025 – Charity Secretary

7 Charity Secretary's Report - Appendix III

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

8. Project Applications

8.1 1st Bowdens Scout Group – new hut – 2024-P1 – Appendix VI

Discussions had continued regarding the project, which had been refused by the Board in May 2024, for various reasons, despite enthusiasm to support the scouts.

8.2 Update regarding the Acoustic Fence at Market Harborough Cricket & Squash Club (2024-P3)

The acoustic fence application formed part of the club's application for Changing Room Facilities and an Acoustic Fence. The Board had granted £25,000 towards improvements to the changing rooms on 30th May 2024, but had left the acoustic fence in abeyance. However, following John Feavours's attendance at the club's committee meeting on Thursday, 13th June 2024, and confirmation that the positioning of the fence would not detract from any future development, trustees agreed to grant permission for the acoustic fence to be erected and for £5,000 to be granted towards its cost.

Action: Grant permission for the acoustic fence to be erected and £5,000 towards its cost – Charity Secretary

Matters for the Board:

There were none.

9 Grant Applications

9.1 Great Bowden Art Exhibition (2024-G11) – Appendix IV

Trustees were in favour of supporting the art exhibition and agreed to grant £900, the full amount requested, to pay for two portable free-standing display stands for artwork.

Action: Grant £900 to Great Bowden Art Exhibition for two portable free-standing display stands for artwork (2024-G11) – Charity Secretary

9.2 Harborough District Scouts (2024-G12) – **Appendix V**

Trustees were concerned that the application for £7,000 was for £100 per scout regardless of their ability to fund participation at the International Camp at Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland in August 2025. It was agreed that £3,500 would be provisionally allocated to the event, and to ask Harborough District Scouts to encourage scouts who were in need of financial support in order to attend the camp to apply individually to the Charity.

Action: Ask Harborough District Scouts to identify any scouts in financial need and to arrange for them to apply directly to the Charity for assistance with the costs of attending the international camp – Charity Secretary

9.2 Harborough & District Indoor Bowls (2024-G13) – **Appendix VI & VII**

An application for £666 to replace the club's mats with rubber ditch tiles which would not deteriorate, and which would allow safer playing conditions for the 110-150 players, who were mostly of retirement age. Given that only 50% of the club's members lived within the Charity Area of Benefit, Trustees agreed to grant £333.

Action: Grant £333 to Harborough District Indoor Bowls Club (2024-G13) – Charity Secretary

9.3 Harborough Anti-Bullying (2024-G14) – **Appendix VIII**

An application for £600 to cover the hire of The Cube for 12 months, plus the cost of activities for young people in need. Trustees were in favour of supporting this project and granted the full amount of £600.

Action: Grant £600 to Harborough Anti-Bullying (2024-G14) – Charity Secretary

9.4 Harborough District Children and Young People's Charity (HCYC) Young Carers (2024-G15) – **Appendix IX & X**

An application for £15,000 to help fund HCYC's fortnightly Young Carers group at The Cube in Market Harborough for 12 months from September 2024. The group offered social connections and fun activities, and aimed to reduce loneliness and isolation, and to improve mental health and wellbeing. 15 young carers currently attended the group on a regular basis. Trustees awarded a one-off grant to be adjusted proportionately to support those young carers who lived within the Charity's Area of Benefit.

Action: Grant 100% of the amount requested, but adjusted proportionately to support only the percentage of young carers who live in the Charity's Area of Benefit – Charity Secretary

9.6 Hursley Park Wetland Project Phase 2 (2024-G16) – **Appendix XI**

There was limited enthusiasm to support this project and it was refused.

Action: Inform applicant that the Hursley Park Wetland Project Phase 2 had been refused – Charity Secretary

9.7 Market Harborough Fixers CIC (2024-G19) – Appendix XIX

A late application from Market Harborough Fixers for £3,500 to pay for the refurbishment of a new shipping container, which the Council had awarded the fixers. Trustees noted that Howard Watson Symington Memorial Charity had awarded Market Harborough Fixers £1,000 for the same project and agreed to grant them £1,500.

Action: Award £1,500 to Market Harborough Fixers CIC for the refurbishment of their new shipping container - Charity Secretary

10 Any other business

10.1 Trustees noted that the application process had gone live on the website, which would hopefully make it easier for people to apply and for record keeping.

10.2 The May 2024 Board had tasked all committees with contributing measurable metrics to the 2024-25 Strategic Plan by mid-July 2024. Following discussion, Trustees agreed to measure all applications granted by the General Grants Committee against the following categories:

- Public benefit
- ESG
- Problem solving
- Partnership

Action: Measure all grants awarded against the following categories: Public Benefit, ESG, Problem Solving and Partnership, and record the results in the committee's minutes – Trustees & Charity Secretary

11 Any matters for the Board -

There were none.

12 Dates of meetings in 2024

- Wednesday 14th August 2024
- Wednesday 25th September 2024
- Wednesday 6th November 2024
- Wednesday 11th December 2024