



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

**20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – 4:30 pm**

### **1 Participants**

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Chris Davies  | Trustee           |
| Wendy Hempson | Charity Secretary |
| Dr Sarah Hill | Trustee           |
| Tony Walters  | Trustee           |

### **Apologies**

|                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jenny Balme        | Chair of General Grants and Trustee |
| Ed Green           | Trustee                             |
| Kerry Merryweather | Trustee                             |

### **2 Conflicts of Interest**

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

### **4 Minutes of Previous Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Appendix I**

The draft minutes of the meeting of the General Grants Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

### **5 Actions from meeting on previous meetings**

All actions had been completed.

### **6 Matters arising not on main agenda**

There were none.

### **7 Budget**

£1,695 had been granted thus far in 2025 from the budget of £160,000.

### **8 Charity Secretary's Report – Appendix III**

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

## **9 Project Applications**

### **9.1 Home-Start South Leicestershire – 2025-P1 – Appendices IV, V, VI and VII**

A request for £20,000 towards the cost of Home-Start's 'Family Know How' project, which supports families in need to maintain healthy lifestyles and reduce family stress from ill health, disability, lack of parenting skills, poverty and inadequate housing. The Contact Group visited Home-Start on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and were very impressed by the work being carried out there with very vulnerable young families. The Contact Group's report was shared with the committee and trustees decided to recommend to the Board that £30,000 be granted to Home-Start South Leicestershire for 2025 and that at least £20,000 be granted to them for 2026 & 2027.

**Action: Recommend to the Board that £30,000 be granted to Home-Start South Leicestershire for 2025 and that £20,000+ be granted to them for 2026 & 2027 – Charity Secretary**

### **9.2 Ridgeway Academy Playground – 2025-P2 – Appendices VIII, IX and X**

An application for £20,000 to transform a main play area from a concrete slab into an interesting and purposeful playground for use by approximately 150 children. Many children have had limited access to exercise and would benefit greatly both physically and mentally from a more stimulating and challenging playground. Trustees decided to form a contact group for this project.

**Action: Form a Contact Group for the Ridgeway Academy Playground project – 2025-P2 – Charity Secretary**

## **Grants**

### **1. Great Bowden Music Fest – 2025-G4 – Appendices XI and XII**

A request for £1,500 out of £11,350 to help fund this local annual musical event which provides reasonably priced classical concerts of a high standard. Local young musicians would have the opportunity to perform at a Rising Starts concert and to play with world class musicians, plus there would be a concert for primary school age children. The Charity had supported the event for five years and Trustees decided to grant £750 to the event, with the hope and expectation that the music fest would become self-sufficient in the near future.

### **2. Harborough Blues 2025-G5 – Appendix XIII**

A non-profit organization run by five local enthusiasts, Harborough Blues' aim is to bring quality live blues music to Market Harborough. Trustees considered the pre-application for £1,500 for portable stage lighting, and underwriting of £2,000 to provide Harborough Blues with the security to enable them to stage a much larger

event in the town. Trustees agreed the Charity could not underwrite any events, but they would welcome an application for portable lighting, together with clarity over how such lighting would be made functionally portable.

**Action: Inform Harborough Blues that it would not be possible to provide financial underwriting but that an application for portable lighting (with sufficient detail) would be welcomed – Charity Secretary**

## **Reports**

1. The table of the 2024 grants awarded by the General Grants Committee (**Appendix XIV**) and the reports received so far from 2024 grants (**Appendices XIVa-k**) were noted. The table of 2024 grants would be shared with the Board.
2. The report from High Impact Education Services – UP Project 2023-25 – (**Appendix XV**) was noted.

**Action: Share the table of 2024 grants with the Board – Charity Secretary**

## **Other**

### **Dingley Green Wheel project – Appendix XVI**

Only one cycle path leads directly into countryside from Market Harborough, as other routes require users to cycle on roads. Trustees noted the Dingley Green Wheel project with interest, while noting that it was outside the Charity's Area of Benefit.

### **13 Any other business**

There was none.

### **14 Any matters for the Board**

There were none.

### **15 Dates of meetings in 2025**

- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November