



**Market Harborough
and the Bowdens Charity**
changing people's lives

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**RELIEF IN NEED COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
ON TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2025**

Present:

Mrs Sue Berridge, Trustee
Mrs Chris Davies, Trustee
Mrs Dawn Dyke, Assistant Charity Secretary
Mrs Linda Kvatch, Chair of Committee

- | | Action |
|--|---------------|
| 1 Apologies
Apologies had been received from Jenny Balme, Rohini Corfield and John Feavyour. | |
| 2 Conflicts of interest
All the Trustees present confirmed that they had no conflicts of interest or loyalty arising from any item on the agenda. Furthermore, that if any such conflict emerged, they would declare it and not participate in any related decisions or votes. | |
| 3 Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising
The minutes of the meeting held on the 28 January 2025 were approved as a correct record and there were no matters arising. | |
| 4 Secretary's Report
The application updates in the Secretary's report were noted. | |
| 5 Budget
Grants pledged in 2025 totalled £10,225.67 leaving a balance of £39,774.33. | |
| 6 New applications | |
| 6.1 <u>R06/25</u>
The application was supported by the Family Liaison worker at a local primary school. The applicant is a single parent who works part-time and whose income is supplemented by government benefits. The applicant's fridge freezer and toaster were faulty so a grant had been requested to replace these items. The Trustees agreed to award a grant for these items.

<u>Addendum:</u> The applicant had advised that their parent had bought the fridge freezer as this was needed urgently. The Chair had agreed that the grant offer could be transferred to replace the applicant's vacuum that had recently broken.

<u>Grant of £200 awarded for vacuum cleaner and toaster</u> | DD |
| 6.2 <u>R07/25</u>
The application was supported by the Family Liaison worker at a local primary school. The applicant is a single parent who works part-time and whose income is supplemented by government benefits. The applicant had been given a new property and a grant was requested for household items: carpets, cooker, fridge, washing machine and bedroom furniture. The applicant has managed to source some household goods second hand. | DD |

The Trustees were pleased to note that the applicant had sourced some goods second-hand and agreed to award a grant for the goods requested. Dawn agreed to liaise with the applicant to determine before ordering the goods.

Grant of £2000 (approx.) awarded for white goods and household items

6.3 R08/25

DD

The application was supported by a Children's Physiotherapist from Leicester NHS. The applicants who both work requested a grant for a specialist wheelchair for their disabled child at a cost of £5423. The Trustees considered this application and noted that the applicants had not been successful in applying for a grant from another Charity. Following discussion it was agreed to award a grant for the full cost of the wheelchair.

Grant of £5423 awarded for a wheelchair

6.4 R09/25

DD

The application was supported by Citizens Advice. The applicant is unable to work due to various medical problems and relies on government benefits. The applicant's TV had broken so a grant for a replacement had been requested at a cost of £128.

Grant of £128 awarded for a television

7 Small Grant Applications

The Trustees discussed the possibility of considering small grant applications in between meetings. It was agreed that the Charity did not offer an emergency service and as the Trustees met monthly, applicants did not have to wait too long. Linda preferred applications to be discussed at a meeting and did not favour the fast track method where views were sought via email.

Dawn explained that the new application process, which could be completed by applicants via the Charity's website, would not be as complex and would hopefully be easier for applicants to complete. The application process was currently being reviewed and updated by the Charity's website provider and would be available for Trustees to view in due course.

8 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

9 Matters for the Board

There were no matters for the Board.

10 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 31 March at 4.00 pm in the OGS. Sue offered her apologies as she would be away for this meeting.