



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRANTS COMMITTEE
AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MARKET HARBOROUGH
10th April 2025 – 4:30 pm**

1 Participants

Jenny Balme	Chair of General Grants and Trustee
Wendy Hempson	Charity Secretary
Dr Sarah Hill	Trustee
Kerry Merryweather	Trustee

Apologies

Chris Davies	Trustee
Tony Walters	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. Sarah explained that she had some association with The Ridgeway Academy through her involvement with the Learn Academies Trust.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting on 20th February 2025

The draft minutes of the meeting of the General Grants Committee on 20th February 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

4 Actions from meeting on previous meetings

The table of 2024 grants would be shared with the May 2025 Board.

5 Matters arising not on main agenda

Trustees noted that Ed Green had stepped down from the committee due to his many work commitments. It was agreed not to recruit another trustee to replace him.

6 Budget for 2025 - £160,000

£32,106 had been granted thus far in 2025. The £30,000 granted to Home-Start South Leicestershire would, however, be allocated from the Board's reserves.

7 Charity Secretary's Report

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

8 Project Applications

8.1 Contact Group Report re Ridgeway Primary Academy – 2025-P2

An application for £20,000 to transform a play area from a concrete slab into a stimulating and purposeful playground to serve approximately 150 children. The Contact Group met with representatives from Ridgeway Primary Academy at the school on 14th March 2025. The school appeared to be doing much to improve the physical and thereby mental health of their pupils at an early stage in their lives. Post Covid, an increase in SEN pupils had been recognised nationally as an issue for schools, and the Contact Group recommended that a grant of £20,000 be proposed for approval at the May 2025 Board meeting.

Action: Recommend to the Board that £20,000 be granted to Ridgeway Primary Academy for a new playground – Charity Secretary

9 Grants

9.1 Harborough Blues – Lighting 2025-G5

An application for £700 to purchase a set of portable stage lighting suitable for Louisa's and other small venues in Market Harborough, to be used by musicians engaged by Harborough Blues, a non-profit community organisation whose purpose was to bring professional blues music to the town. The lighting equipment would be available free of charge for use by other non-profit or voluntary organisations using the venue. Trustees supported the application.

Action: Grant £700 to Harborough Blues and ensure their report details how often the lighting was used and by whom – Charity Secretary

9.2 Little Bowden PTA – Storage Container 2025-G6

An application for £3,084 to fund an insulated storage container at the school, to be used by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for the storage of equipment, fundraising materials and specifically second-hand school uniforms, which could be kept damp and mould free and available for families in need. Trustees supported the application for the full amount, on condition that the PTA had secured the required planning permission for its location.

Action: Grant £3,084 for an insulated storage container for Little Bowden Parent Teachers' Association – Charity Secretary

9.3 Harborough Christmas Fayre 2025-G7

An application for £4,000 to fund the cost of road closures and traffic management for the Christmas Fayre on 5th December 2025. The fayre was a popular part of Christmas festivities in the Charity's Area of Benefit and had reached the finals of the Leicestershire Tourism and Hospitality Awards in both Best Day Out and Best Free Event categories. The Charity had financed the cost of the road closures for the event for the past four years.

Trustees were disappointed that the organisers had again donated part of the profits from the event, instead of rolling the funds to build up a reserve to help fund the subsequent year. Trustees also regretted that the organisers had not consulted the Charity about the donation made. It was decided to grant £1,000 to the event.

Action: Grant £1,000 to Harborough Christmas Fayre, and clarify again that any profits should be retained to build robust reserves, or returned to the Charity – Charity Secretary

9.4 Market Harborough Litter Wombles 2025-G8

An application for £500 to fund a community art project to transform a graffiti covered utility box with student-designed artwork. Support had been secured from Virgin Media, a local councillor and from Welland Park Academy – year 7 students would design the artwork as part of a school competition. If successful, the project would form a template for transforming additional utility boxes across Market Harborough, with the involvement of more schools, artists, and community groups. Trustees supported the application.

Action: Grant £500 to Market Harborough Little Wombles – Charity Secretary

9.5 Market Harborough Fixers 2025-G9

An application to £2,300 to fund the training of one volunteer in social media usage and another in high level electronic fault finding and repair. Market Harborough Fixers' objective was to encourage the local community to repair and save household items from going to landfill. Further information regarding the courses and the reasons for attendance had been received and Trustees were in favour of supporting the application.

Action: Grant £2,300 to Market Harborough Fixers – Charity Secretary

10 Reports

10.1 Report from The Cube – 2025-G2

The Report from The Cube regarding the new furniture purchased with a grant from the Charity was noted.

11 Any other business

There was none.

12 Any matters for the Board

To recommend to the Board that £20,000 be granted to Ridgeway Primary Academy for a new playground – Charity Secretary

15 Dates of meetings in 2025

- Wednesday 14th May
- Thursday 10th July
- Thursday 7th August
- Thursday 18th September
- Thursday 6th November