



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRANTS COMMITTEE
AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MARKET HARBOROUGH
14th May 2025 – 4:30 pm**

1 Participants

Jenny Balme	Chair of General Grants and Trustee
Wendy Hempson	Charity Secretary
Sarah Hill	Trustee
Tony Walters	Trustee

Apologies

Chris Davies	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.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting on 10th April 2025

The draft minutes of the meeting of the General Grants Committee on 10th April 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

4 Actions from meeting on previous meetings

The actions from previous meetings were noted as completed.

5 Matters arising not on main agenda

There were none.

6 Budget for 2025 - £160,000

Trustees noted that £37,306 had been granted so far in 2025, but that the £30,000 granted to Home-Start South Leicestershire would come from general reserves and not from the committee's budget.

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

The Contact Group's report was presented at the April 2025 committee meeting where trustees supported the recommendation to grant £20,000 to the school in order to transform a concrete slab into a stimulating playground for 150+ children. Approval for this grant will be sought at the May 2025 Board meeting.

8.2 VASL Community Champions – 2025-P3

An application for £27,500 annually for three years for VASL's Community Champions Project, which supports residents of Market Harborough who are over 60 years of age and who are lonely. Approximately 95 volunteers work on the project which aims to help people to feel involved and comfortable in their communities, to help them make new friends and even to learn new IT skills.

Trustees decided to form a Contact Group, and to ask a trustee from outside the committee to join it. [This was a late addition to the meeting, considered in order to give the Contact Group time to report to the next meeting on 10th July 2025.]

Action: Form a Contact Group for the VASL Community Champions Project – 2025-P3 – Charity Secretary

9 Grants

9.1 Welland Park Academy - Work Experience for students 2025-G10

An application for £1,000 to pay for a week of work experience for disadvantaged students who have struggled to find work placements. 12 students would participate in the weeklong programme which would include leadership talks, networking events, website design and more. The students would create their own business and invite local employers to take part in a networking event.

Trustees supported the application for the full amount requested, but the school should be advised that the Charity did not fund projects long-term.

Action: Grant £1,000 to Welland Park Academy for the work experience project 2025-G10 – Charity Secretary

9.2 Little Bowden Primary - Gazebo and second-hand uniform store 2025-G11

The Head of Little Bowden Primary School had apologised for the fact that two very similar applications had been submitted simultaneously from the school. The school and PTA had been working closely on this project for more than three years. The application was for £7,942.46 (out of a total of £8,250) for a gazebo to be used for events and to provide shelter for the children during playtimes, and for a shed for use as a shop for second-hand uniform, which was increasingly needed.

The committee had agreed to grant £3,084 to Little Bowden PTA for a storage container (2025-G6) on 10th April 2025, but the grant had not as yet been paid. The school and the PTA had clarified that the gazebo and shed application was their priority.

After discussion, Trustees agreed to cancel the grant of £3,084 to project 2025-G6, and to grant £6,000 to Little Bowden School for the gazebo and shed project – 2025-G11. The school would be asked to keep the Charity informed about how the funding was to be used.

Action: Grant £6,000 to Little Bowden Primary School – 2025-G11 – Charity Secretary

10 Reports

- **Report from Harborough Band re new timpani - 2024-G10 – Appendix IX**

The excellent report from Harborough Band was noted and much appreciated. Trustees proposed making use of the better reports received on the Charity's website.

11 Any other business

There was none.

12 Dates of meetings in 2025

- Thursday 10th July
- Thursday 7th August
- Thursday 18th September
- Thursday 6th November