



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

Principal office:

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**RELIEF IN NEED COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 30th MARCH 2026**

Present:

Mrs Chris Davies, Chair of the Committee
Mrs Sarah Merry, Charity Administrator
Mr Mark Merryweather, Trustee
Mrs Emma Klimowicz, Trustee

- | | | Action |
|------------|--|---------------|
| 1 | Apologies
Mrs Rohini Corfield, Trustee, Sue Berridge, Trustee and Dawn Dyke, Assistant Charity Secretary had sent their apologies. | |
| 2 | Conflicts of interest
Mrs Emma Klimowicz, Trustee declared an interest regarding R23/26 and R28/26 as the applicant's children attended Little Bowden primary School and were known to her. It was agreed that Mrs Klimowicz would not participate in any related decisions or votes. | |
| 3 | Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising
The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 February 2026 were approved as a correct record. | DD |
| 4 | Secretary's Report
The application updates in the Secretary's report were noted. | DD |
| | <u>R14/26 23.02.26</u>
It was agreed that if the applicant failed to confirm the choice of sofa by the date of the next RIN Committee meeting, the case would be closed. | |
| 5 | Budget
The budget for 2026 was £50,500 – pledges made to date totalled £8,348.28. | |
| 6 | New applications | |
| 6.1 | <u>R23/26</u>
The applicant named the School Liaison Officer at Little Bowden Primary School as the referrer. The applicant had requested a grant for a double bed and microwave. The Trustees considered the applicant's financial situation and agreed to award a grant.

<i>Grant awarded for double divan bed (£276)</i> | DD |
| 6.2 | <u>R24/26</u>
The applicant named the School Liaison Officer at Ridgeway Primary School as the referrer. The applicant had requested a grant for baby equipment. The Trustees discussed the application and agreed that a decision should be postponed until July, with an update being requested from the applicant at this time.

<i>No grant awarded at present - obtain update in July 2026</i> | DD |

- 6.3 R25/26 DD
The applicant named the HDC Housing Officer as the referrer. The applicant has been offered a property in Market Harborough after being homeless for 12 months. The applicant had asked for a grant for white goods for the new property. The Trustees discussed the application and agreed that a decision could not be made until a tenancy agreement had been submitted confirming that the applicant lived in the Charity's area of benefit.
No grant awarded at present – on hold until Tenancy Agreement obtained to ensure lives in AOB
- 6.4 R26/26 DD
The application had been submitted by a Key Worker at the MH Family Hub. The applicant had financial difficulties and large debts. A grant for a bedroom carpet, a chest of drawers and internal doors had been requested. A quote for the installation of the doors had been requested but not received. The Trustees discussed the application and agreed that further information was required about the applicant's housing and financial situation.
No grant awarded at present – Key Worker to be contacted
- 6.5 R27/26 DD
The applicant named the Headteacher from Great Bowden Academy as a referrer. The applicant had recently moved into property and requested a grant for carpets. The Trustees considered the applicant's financial circumstances and agreed to award a grant.
Grant awarded for carpets (quote to be obtained)
- 6.6 R28/26 DD
The application has been supported by a member of the admin staff at Little Bowden Primary School. The applicant had requested a bed for a child. The Trustees considered the applicant's financial circumstances and agreed to award a grant.
Grant awarded for double divan bed (£276)
- 6.7 R29/26 DD
A member of staff from Platform Housing had supported the application and confirmed that they had been able to gift carpets/flooring. The applicant is disabled and unable to work so relied on government benefits. The applicant had recently moved into a new property and had asked for a grant for curtains and blinds. The Trustees considered the applicant's financial circumstances and agreed to award a grant.
Grant awarded for curtains & blinds (£400)
- 6.8 R30/26 DD
The applicant named Kim McMullen, the Housing Officer from Platform Housing as the referrer. The applicant didn't work due to health issues and so relied on government benefits. The applicant had requested a grant for a new cooker. The Trustees considered the applicant's financial circumstances and agreed to award a grant.
Grant awarded for a cooker (£500 approx)
- 7 **Any Other Business**
There was no other business.
- 8 **Matters for the Board**
There were no matters for the Board.
- 9 **Date and time of next meeting**
The next meeting will be held on Monday 27 April at 4.00 pm in the OGS.