



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRANTS COMMITTEE
AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MARKET HARBOROUGH
18th September 2025 – 4:30 pm**

1 Participants

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

2 Conflicts of Interest

Chris declared an interest in the Christmas Tree Festival 2025 at St Dionysius Church. The remaining Trustees 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 July 2025 – Appendix I

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

4 Actions from previous meetings – Appendix II

There were no outstanding actions.

5 Matters arising not on main agenda

There were none.

6 Budget for 2025 - £160,000

Trustees noted that £94,680 had been granted so far in 2025.

7 Charity Secretary's Report – Appendix III

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

8 Project Applications

1. 8.1 VASL Community Champions – 2025/P3

The contact group's recommendation to award £27,500 to fund one year of VASL's Community Champions project, was approved by the Board on 3rd September 2025. The

grant was for a specific project and not for on-going employment and it was agreed that the funds would be paid in quarterly instalments.

9 Grants

9.1 1st Bowdens Scout Kandersteg trip 2026 – 2025-G17 – Appendix III

This application was for £700 to top up the amount needed to make it possible for a scout to attend Kandersteg International Scout camp in Switzerland in 2026. In 2024, Harborough District Scouts had asked the Charity to support scouts who would have been unable attend the scout camp without financial assistance, and the Charity had supported the participation of the child's sibling in 2025 with a grant of £700. The benefits of participation were recognised and the request was granted in full.

Action: Grant £700 for the scout's participation in Kandersteg International Scout Trip 2026, to be paid to 1st Bowdens Scouts – Charity Secretary

9.2 The Bower House – mould problem – 2025-G18 – Appendix IV-VII

An application for £2,650 (from a total of £5,300) to fund damp-proofing and repairs to the roof caused by mould in two internal walls at The Bower House. Trustees considered this work to be on-going maintenance which could be covered by The Bower House's reserves.

Action: Inform The Bower House that its application had been unsuccessful – Charity Secretary

9.3 Harborough Community Church, 2 disabled spaces – 2025-G19 - Appendices IX-XI

An application for £2,875 to fund 50% of the cost of two disabled spaces at Harborough Community Church, a very popular space which is used seven days a week by more than 1,000 people. Trustees noted that the church's accounts were in a favourable financial situation, and it was decided not to grant the application.

Action: Inform Harborough Community Church that its application had been unsuccessful – Charity Secretary

10 Reports

10.1 Report from Harborough Anti-Bullying 2024-G14 – Appendix VIII

The report was noted, and Trustees agreed that Harborough Anti-Bullying could use the remaining £199 to help people on a one-to-one basis through support and counselling.

Action: Inform Harborough Anti-Bullying that the remaining funds could be retained and used for one-to-one support and counselling – Charity Secretary

10.2 Report from Litter Wombles re Cabinet Street Art project – 2025-G8 – Appendix XII

Trustees noted the excellent report on the Cabinet Street Art project which had garnered a lot of local attention and overwhelmingly positive reactions.

10.3 Report from Scout trip to Kandersteg International Scout Camp 2025 - Appendix XIII

The report from the teenage scout who had attended the camp in Switzerland demonstrated the value and learning for a young person of such an experience.

11 Any Other Business

11.1 Film of Old Grammar School Story

The possibility of commissioning a film of the history of the Old Grammar School had been raised and through Creative Harborough contact had been made with a local film maker. It was felt such a film could bring the Old Grammar School to life and make it more accessible for everyone. Trustees agreed that the Charity should be open to all ideas about the sort of film that could be made, with all formats considered, and the net cast wide to find the best people locally to collaborate on the project.

Action: Prepare brief Terms of Reference for a film of the Old Grammar School and continue exploring options – Chair and Charity Secretary

11.2 Christmas Tree Festival 2025 at St Dionysius Church

It was agreed to fund a Christmas tree, to be decorated by a partner (school, group or charity), with clear signage to promote the Charity.

12 Dates of meetings in 2025

- Thursday 6th November