



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL GRANTS COMMITTEE AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MARKET HARBOROUGH

10th March 2026 – 4:30 pm

1 Participants

Jenny Balme	Chair of General Grants and Trustee
Chris Davies	Trustee
Iain Miller	Trustee
Linda Pentland	Finance Officer
Dr Sarah Hill	Trustee
Emma Klimowicz	Trustee (for presentation)

Apologies

Kerry Merryweather	Trustee
Tony Walters	Trustee

Jenny thanked everyone for attending this meeting and welcomed Ron Counte, James Carpenter, Dr Len Holden and Daniel Thomas from Harborough Story Centre. Ron talked briefly through the tender they had submitted in December and then took questions from the Trustees. In brief, the additional information given:

- The presenter/narrator will be a local young drama student
- Trustees will be able to see a private screening as the film develops, as well as seeing the storyboard/script before it is finalised.
- The Intellectual Property in the film will belong to the Charity once it is complete.
- Short excerpts from the film can be uploaded to Youtube and then accessed via QR code. So for example a QR code could be located by the front door, which people can use to get a brief history of the building while they are standing outside. This is outside the initial brief, but Daniel confirmed that the group will be happy to help.
- The film will be as historically accurate as possible, but as there is little surviving evidence of the actual street scene at the beginning of the life of the Old Grammar School, some will be based on assumptions. Modern elements of the street scene will be removed technically.
- Production will take approximately 3 months but there is a pre-production process to go through first. Ideally filming will take place in July/August. Filming can be done using just half of the interior so the office furniture should not be a problem.
- The film will cover past and present, but any information we are able to give about future plans for the building will be useful and can be incorporated.
- There is a strong educational emphasis, suitable for both primary and secondary students as well as the general public.
- A grand opening premiere at Market Harborough Theatre was discussed.

The four representatives of the Story Centre then left the meeting. Trustees agreed that the proposal met the brief and agreed to proceed with The Old Grammar School film project using Harborough Story Centre to deliver the project.

Action: Confirm the decision with Ron Counte and advise the two other bidders that they had been unsuccessful – Charity Secretary

Action: Arrange meeting with Ron to agree and plan a more detailed timetable – Charity Secretary

2 Conflicts of Interest

Sarah disclosed a conflict of interest with Great Bowden Primary School. Chris disclosed a conflict of interest with St Dionysius and potentially The Cube. Iain also disclosed a potential conflict of interest with The Cube. The remaining Trustees present declared they had no conflicts of interest or loyalty but would declare it if one came up during the meeting.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting on 27th January 2026

The draft minutes of the meeting of the General Grants Committee on 27th January 2026 were agreed as an accurate record.

5 Actions from previous meetings

The actions from previous meetings were noted as completed. Jenny noted that following agreement at the Board, the Risk Register should be reviewed at every meeting.

Action: Add to standing agenda – Charity Secretary

6 Matters arising not on main agenda

There were none.

7 Budget for 2026 - £120,000

Trustees noted that £5,160 of the £120,000 budget had been spent.

8 Charity Secretary's Report

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

9 Project Applications

Trustees noted that, following the Board meeting, applications for larger grants are now paused pending a decision on the strategic priorities of the Charity due in May 2026.

However, Trustees agreed that these applications should continue to be discussed as normal so that any which are not to be supported can be advised. Any applications which may be

supported will be advised that they will be fully considered once the Board decision has been made.

Trustees also agreed that a list of these pending projects should be included on the agenda for each meeting as an aide memoire.

9.1 Somewhere Records – 2026-P3

An application for £20,000 of £31,200. Trustees requested clarity on the numbers presented and decided to set up a contact group to explore the application further.

Action: Form a contact group of Iain plus either Kerry or Jenny – Charity Secretary

9.2 The Cube Youth and Community Centre– 2026-P4

An application for £273,740 over 5 years to fund a Youth Counselling and Mentoring Service. Trustees decided to decline this application as the charity does not support multi-year projects.

Action: Inform The Cube that it was not possible to support the application – Charity Secretary

9.3 St Dionysius Church – 2026-P5

An application for £150,000 for church re-ordering and accessibility work. Trustees agreed to form a contact group to discuss this application further.

Action: Form a contact group of Jenny, Kerry and Tony and then agree dates with the church. In the meantime advise the church that applications of this size are currently paused but that a meeting will be arranged. – Charity Secretary

10 Grant Applications

10.1 Wellington Place Primary School – 2026-G4

An application for £2000 of £5000 for a sensory-informed classroom. Trustees decided not to allow this application as it was felt that the cost should be fully met from the school funding.

Action: Inform Wellington Place School that it is not possible to support the application – Charity Secretary

10.2 Market Harborough Fixers 2026-G5

An application for £3600 of £7150 for a 3rd cabin to enable reception and training. Trustees agreed to support the application.

Action: Grant £3600 to Market Harborough Fixers towards a 3rd cabin – Charity Secretary

10.3 Great Bowden Music Fest 2026-G6

An application for £1,000 out of a total of £11,000 to part fund Great Bowden Music Fest 2026. Trustees felt unable to support the application as they felt that we had supported the Fest for a number of years and the number of beneficiaries was relatively small.

Action: Inform Great Bowden Music Fest that it is not possible to support the application – Charity Secretary

10.4 Women Only Walks (WOW) 2026-G7

An application for £2000 of £8000 to deliver a women's safety walking programme. Trustees were happy to support the application.

Action: Grant £2000 to WOW towards a women's safety walking programme – Charity Secretary

10.5 Great Bowden Academy 2026-G8

An application for £1000 towards installing an electrical socket for an onsite swimming pool. Trustees were happy to support this application.

Action: Grant £1000 for installing an electrical socket for an onsite swimming pool – Charity Secretary.

11 Any Other Business

Sarah advised that Howard Watson Symington Memorial Charity are restarting their grant programme, likely during April 2026.

12 Any matters for the Board

There were none.

13 Dates of meetings in 2026

- Tues 7th April
- Thursday 14th May
- Thursday 25th June
- Thursday 6th August
- Thursday 24th September
- Thursday 5th November