



**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 29 JUNE 2026**

Present:

Mrs Sue Berridge, Trustee
Mrs Rohini Corfield, Trustee
Mrs Chris Davies, Chair of the Committee
Mrs Dawn Dyke, Assistant Charity Secretary
Mrs Emma Klimowicz, Trustee
Mr Mark Merryweather, Trustee

In attendance:

Sarah Hill, Chair of the Charity

- | | | Action |
|------------|--|---------------|
| 1 | Apologies
No apologies had been received. | |
| 2 | Conflicts of interest
The Trustees present confirmed that they had no conflicts of interest or loyalty arising from any item on the agenda. Furthermore, that if any such conflict emerged, they would declare it and not participate in any related decisions or votes. | |
| 3 | Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising
The minutes of the meeting held on the 26 May 2026 were approved as a correct record. | |
| 4 | Secretary's Report
The application updates in the Secretary's report were noted, and photographs of applicants' carpets and doors were shown to the Trustees. | |
| 5 | Budget
Budget of £50,500 for 2026 – grants pledged to date total £17,041.32 leaving balance of £33,458.68. | |
| 6 | New applications
Chris stated that Trustees should take into account that the financial information provided by applicants was not always accurate, so some latitude should be given when considering the applications. | |
| 6.1 | <u>R39/26</u>
In May the Trustees had awarded a grant of £622.35 awarded for fridge freezer, bed mattress and school items to the applicant. The applicant had also requested a grant for new flooring following a washing machine leak. The applicant had subsequently confirmed that they did not have house insurance at the time of the water leak but had now taken out a home insurance policy. The Trustees reconsidered the application and agreed to offer a grant for flooring for the kitchen/living room only. | DD |

Grant of £700 approx awarded for flooring

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|--|---------------|-----------|
| 6.2 | <u>R41/26</u> | DD |
| <p>The Housing Officer from HDC was named as a professional in support of the application. The applicant requested a grant for flooring and curtains/blinds for their new property. The applicant had recently moved back to the UK after living abroad and was now working part time. A grant for white goods had been awarded by Charity Link Leicester. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for flooring only.</p> <p><i>Grant of £800 approx awarded for flooring</i></p> | | |
| 6.3 | <u>R42/26</u> | DD |
| <p>The applicant named Beacon Care and Advice as their referrer. The applicant could not work due to ill health and relied on government benefits. A grant for a new electric cooker, a cooker hood and microwave was requested. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for a cooker and microwave only.</p> <p><i>Grant of £580.75 offered for a cooker and microwave</i></p> | | |
| 6.4 | <u>R43/26</u> | DD |
| <p>The applicant applied for a grant to replace a fridge freezer but had not provided the name of a referrer. The applicant suffered from mental health problems so was unable to work and relied on government benefits. As the applicant had not replied to any correspondence from the Charity the Trustees agreed that a grant would not be offered.</p> <p><i>No grant offered</i></p> | | |
| 6.5 | <u>R44/26</u> | DD |
| <p>The application was supported by the Family Liaison Officer at Ridgeway Primary School. The applicant had applied for a grant for a gym/swim membership for their teenager to help their mental and physical health. The applicant was disabled and their partner worked part-time. The Trustees considered the applicants' personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for the membership.</p> <p><i>Grant of £250 offered for a leisure centre membership for one year only</i></p> | | |
| 6.6 | <u>R45/26</u> | DD |
| <p>The applicant had submitted 2 applications in the past 9 months for removal costs, bicycle, clothing, phone, kitchen items, TV and a property deposit. Both applications were rejected as the applicant didn't have a fixed address in the Charity's area of benefit. The applicant had now applied for a grant for dental work, clothing, bicycle and the cost of a counselling course qualification. The applicant was currently living with a friend in Market Harborough.</p> <p>The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for dental work only.</p> <p><i>Grant of £300 offered for dental work</i></p> | | |
| 6.7 | <u>R46/26</u> | DD |
| <p>The applicant had named their Housing Officer as the referrer. The applicant was working but could not afford flooring for their new home so requested a grant for flooring and decorating materials. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for the items requested.</p> <p><i>Grant of £800 approx awarded for flooring and decorating materials</i></p> | | |

- 6.8 R47/26 **DD**
The applicant named their Housing Options Officer, Homes for Ukraine at LCC as the referrer. The applicant had been offered a flat in our area of benefit after being homeless and in temporary accommodation. The applicant wasn't working at present, so relied on government benefits. A grant for flooring for the 2 bed flat had been requested. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for flooring,

Grant of £800 approx awarded for flooring
- 6.9 R48/26 **DD**
The applicant named the HDC Housing Officer as the referrer. The applicant had been offered a property in Market Harborough and requested a grant for carpets, cooker, fridge freezer and blinds. The applicant works and receives Universal Credit. A copy of the tenancy agreement was awaited as the property is a new build. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for flooring and a fridge freezer only.

It was agreed, with the applicant's permission, to send the application to Charity Link Leicester to ask if they would consider a grant for the other white goods requested.

Grant of £1000 approx awarded for flooring
- 6.10 R49/26 **DD**
The applicant had submitted an application but couldn't name a referrer. The applicant lives with and cares for their mother and wished to apply for a grant for cooker, clothing and footwear. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for a cooker only.

Grant of £540 awarded for a cooker
- 6.11 R50/26 **DD**
The application had been submitted by the applicant's referrer, a Community Link Worker for Support North Northants. The applicant had been rehoused in our area of benefit after fleeing domestic violence. The applicant had managed to source a lot of second-hand goods but was unable to fund a cooker or a chest of drawers for clothes so requested a grant from the Charity. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for the items requested.

Grant of £590 awarded for a cooker and chest of drawers
- 6.12 R51/26 **DD**
The applicant had named their employer as the referrer and the manager confirmed that the applicant needed financial assistance. The applicant works but was experiencing financial difficulties, so was unable to afford a new fridge freezer. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for a fridge freezer.

Grant of £366 awarded for a fridge freezer
- 6.13 R52/26
A late application had been received on the day of the meeting, so the Trustees agreed to consider it. The applicant had not named a referrer. The applicant was a single parent with young children and had just started a new job. The family's fridge freezer had suddenly stopped working so a grant was requested for a replacement. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant.

Grant of £333.10 awarded for a fridge freezer

7 Any other business

7.1 An enquiry had been received from a person on behalf of a family who were experiencing financial difficulties. It was noted that the Charity had previously awarded a large grant to the family concerned for house repairs, however, the Trustees agreed that they would consider a further request for a grant from the applicant. **DD**

7.2 Sarah explained that she was considering renaming the committees and grants awarded by the Charity. The Trustees considered various possibilities for the Relief in Need grant such as Help with Living, Hardship Grant etc. Sarah confirmed that there would be a publicity exercise once a new name for the grant giving committees had been agreed. **SH**

8 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 27 July at 4.00 pm in the Old Grammar School.