



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

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**RELIEF IN NEED COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 27 JULY 2026**

Present:

Mrs Sue Berridge, 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
Rohini Corfield had submitted apologies. | |
| 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 29 June 2026 were approved as a correct record. | |
| 4 | Secretary's Report
Dawn explained that the Secretary's report should be read in conjunction with applications, as the report often contained additional information.

The application updates in the Secretary's report were noted. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• R45/26 - The Trustees agreed that if no communication had been received from this applicant by the next meeting (1 September), the grant offer of £300 for dental work should be withdrawn.• R48/26 – The applicant had been offered an alternative property which had flooring in most rooms except the main bedroom. The applicant asked if the grant could be used for blinds for windows instead. It was agreed to offer £200 for blinds and one room would be carpeted. A fridge freezer would also be purchased by the Charity. | DD

DD |
| 5 | Budget
Budget of £50,500 for 2026 – grants pledged totalled £24,292.32 leaving a balance of £25,579.68. | |
| 6 | New applications | |
| 6.1 | <u>R53/26</u>
The applicant named their Family Support Worker as the referrer. The applicant and family had recently moved into a new property and were experiencing financial hardship as they did not work and relied on government benefits. The applicant had requested a grant for a new sofa. The | DD |

Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for a sofa.

A grant for a new sofa costing £549 was approved.

6.2 R54/26

DD

The applicant did not have a referrer to support the application. The applicant was not able to work due to ill health, so relied on government benefits. A grant for a washing machine and microwave had been requested. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for the goods requested.

A grant for a washing machine and microwave totalling £427 was approved.

6.3 R55/26

DD

The applicant had named the Platform Housing Officer as their referrer. The applicant had recently moved back to the UK after living abroad and had moved into a retirement property in our area of benefit. It was noted that the applicant had also received a grant from Platform Housing for household essentials. A grant for flooring, cooker, bed, small table and crockery had been requested. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for flooring, cooker and bed only.

A grant for flooring, cooker and bed totalling £1500 (estimate) was approved.

6.4 R56/26

DD

Home-Start South Leicestershire had supported this application. The applicant was a single parent with children and didn't work so relied on government benefits. A grant for school uniforms, a school residential, single bed and double mattress had been requested. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for the requested items.

A grant for the above items totalling £1489 was approved.

6.5 R57/26

DD

The Trustees agreed to consider this late application. The applicant was a single parent who had recently moved into a new property in our area of benefit. The applicant worked but was unable to afford some items for the new house: flooring, washing machine, fridge freezer and cooker. The Trustees considered the applicant's personal and financial circumstances and agreed to offer a grant for the flooring, washing machine and fridge freezer. It was agreed to ask Charity Link, Leicester if they could provide a cooker.

A grant for the above items totalling £1310 was approved.

Addendum: *Charity Link have agreed to provide a cooker.*

7 Any other business

There was no other business to be considered.

8 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 September at 4.00 pm in the Old Grammar School.