

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL HELD AT BIMET EXECUTIVE LODGE, UNION STREET, NEWCASTLE ON FRIDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2003 AT 10.00AM.

2003.115 **THE MEETING** opened with Prayer.

2003.116 **PRESENT** The Right Reverend RA Herft (Chairman); The Right Reverend GS Rutherford; The Venerable CL Ford; The Venerable B Pate; The Venerable DS Simpson; Mr B Hockman (Diocesan Manager); The Reverend Canon PS Robertson; The Reverend Dr JF Perry; The Reverends HN Bright, AJL Copeman, GC Dodd and RL Zohrab; Mr WK Allen, Ms R Brand, Mrs B Fenwick, Mr RA George, Mr AG Green and Mr JA Helman.

APOLOGIES were received from His Honour Judge JF Lincoln (Chancellor); The Very Reverend GR Lawrence and Mr JC Price.

2003.117 **BUSINESS OF MEETING**

The Council had been called as a special session to consider presentations from the four property developers who were interested in acquiring the St John's Ministry Centre land. These were:

- 1 Mirambeena Property Development
- 2 Hunter Land
- 3 Impala Properties
- 4 Dobler Consultants

The Council heard presentations from representatives of each of these organisations and following the presentations the Diocesan Manager summarised the strengths and the weaknesses of each submission. The Council discussed the proposals at some length and during these proposals the Bishop reminded the Council that Synod had indicated that Morpeth was to be a site for theological residential education and hospitality.

It was **resolved**:

‘That the Diocese of Newcastle retain approximately 4 hectares of buildable land for its use as a theological college and centre of hospitality.’

Mover: Mr A Green Seconder: Mr A Copeman

It was further **resolved**:

‘That a group from this Council negotiate with all four developers in relation to the retention of approximately 4 hectares of buildable land and in relation to their sensitivity to the Diocesan use of the remaining land and to bring a resolution to Diocesan Council on 18 December 2003.’

The group appointed by the Council to further the above resolution comprised the Venerable DS Simpson, the Reverend RL Zohrab and the Reverend AJL Copeman, Mr AG Green and Mr JA Helman. It was decided that this group would formulate questions to be delivered to the four developers by fax in time for a response for the Diocesan Council meeting on 18 December.

2003.118 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 18 December 2003 at 10.00am

2003.119 **THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS** the meeting closed with The Grace at 3.26pm.