

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL HELD AT THE NEWCASTLE CLUB, NEWCOMEN STREET NEWCASTLE ON THURSDAY, 7 July 2005 AT 10.00AM.

2005.045 THE MEETING opened with Prayer.

2005.046 PRESENT The Right Reverend Dr B Farran (Chairman); The Right Reverend GS Rutherford; His Honour Judge JF Lincoln (Chancellor); Mr MS Campbell (Diocesan Business Manager); The Very Reverend GR Lawrence; The Venerable SL Benson; The Venerable IS Palmer; The Venerable B Pate; The Reverend Dr JF Perry; The Reverend HN Bright; Ms R Brand; Mrs B Fenwick; Messrs WK Allen, JA Helman, RA George, JC Price and C Shevels.

APOLOGIES The Venerable DS Simpson (late arrival); The Reverend Canons CL Bullock and PS Robertson; The Reverends AJL Copeman and RL Zohrab; Ms G Mercier; Mr AG Green and Mr JC Price (late arrival).

IN ATTENDANCE Mr TS Mawson (Diocesan Secretary)

Bishop Graeme Rutherford warmly welcomed Bishop Brian Farran in his new capacity as Chair of the Diocesan Council, and noted the significant contribution that Mr Malcolm Campbell has made to the Diocese thus far.

Bishop Brian responded with thanks for the welcome and thanked the Dean particularly for the inspirational service at the cathedral. All Diocesan Council members were invited to join Bishop Brian and Mrs Robin Farran for afternoon tea at Bishopscourt at the conclusion of the meeting.

2006.047 GOVERNANCE OF THE DIOCESE [page 1 of the business paper]

Bishop Brian gave an overview of his vision statement for the Diocesan Council and highlighted the need for the Council to understand the importance of everyone's participation in discussion.

He urged the Diocesan Council to stay focussed on the issues of the Diocese and stated that he would expect the Council to respectfully challenge relevant issues and invited healthy debate, mindful however that the Council exists to do business.

The Chancellor challenged the opening paragraph of the Bishop's paper stating that the Diocesan Council did not exist 'to lead'. Bishop Brian clarified his statement that the Diocesan Council existed to support the Bishop whose role it was 'to lead'.

2005.048 COMMISSARY'S REPORT TO COUNCIL [pages 2-6 of the business paper]

Bishop Graeme Rutherford reported that several members of the Diocesan Council had been privileged to attend the enthronement of Archbishop Roger Herft in Perth and thanked the Diocese for assisting him to attend.

The resignations of The Reverend Garry Dodd from Diocesan Council and The Venerable Ian Palmer as Archdeacon of the Hunter were noted.

The Assistant Bishop sought the Council's understanding with the breaking of the confidentiality of the last meeting of the council in

Archdeacon Benson reported that it had been difficult to get a straight answer from The Camden Haven. The Rector was not willing to confirm that the matter would be resolved within the given timeframe because it would all depend on the Shire Council raising a sum of money to complete the purchase of the property of the church. The resulting consequences being that until this money is received, the parish would not have the money to direct towards adequate accommodation for the youth worker.

Archdeacon Benson mentioned that whilst the Parish had sent documentation to the diocesan solicitors regarding the lease, no response had been received. The Diocesan Business Manager was to follow this up and respond directly to the Parish.

Archdeacon Benson was requested to work with the Diocesan Business Manager to compile a brief of the situation and how it should best proceed.

(H) Grievance Procedures – Parish Officers [page 37 of the business paper]

It was resolved:

‘That Diocesan Council adopt the following procedures:

1. A policy to resolve grievances alleged to be suffered by Parish Officers from their relationship with the Parish Council causing unfair treatment, discrimination or harassment to the said Officers.
2. If the grievance cannot be resolved by the Parish Officer concerned, he or she should cause a formal complaint to be lodged with the Diocesan Business Manager setting out the details of the relevant grievance.
3. The Diocesan Manager shall forthwith appoint one or more persons (herein called the Mediator) to mediate between the Officer and the Parish Council concerning the grievance, and supply such mediator with the details of the grievance. Either party may object to the mediator in which case the Diocesan Business Manager may appoint another mediator.
4. The mediator shall arrange a joint meeting convenient to the parties and give both the Officer and the Secretary of the Parish Council formal notice of the date, time and place for the meeting. The mediator may appoint further joint meetings in furtherance of the mediation.
5. The mediator shall give the Officer a fair opportunity to expound the grievance and the Parish Council to reply to the same.
6. The mediator shall exercise natural justice between the parties and ensure that the proceedings and matters arising therefrom are confidential and if possible resolved within 4 weeks.

7. The mediator may require the Parish Council to give an apology to the Officer or give a satisfactory undertaking as to its future conduct in the matter or suggest any other legal step which might resolve the grievance. The mediator may dismiss the complaint if the grievance is not established.

8. The mediator shall report its determination to the Diocesan Manager at the conclusion of the mediation.'

ADOPTED

The chancellor was thanked for his work regarding this matter.

(I) Parish Administration - Bankruptcy [page 38 of the business paper]

Following receipt of a letter from the Reverend David Smith (Rector- Hamilton) dated 22 February 2005 regarding the lack of clear provision in the Parish Administration Ordinance preventing a person who has been declared bankrupt from either holding the office of Churchwarden or being elected to a Parish Council, it was agreed that the following recommendation be taken to the next Diocesan Synod.

It was resolved:

'That the Parish Administration Ordinance 1995 (as amended) be further amended by Synod as follows:

A. That after Clause 83 there be inserted a new Clause 83(ii) as follows:

ii) No undischarged bankrupt may be elected to the office of, or remain a churchwarden, member of a Parish Council, or be or remain a vestry person.

B. That Clause 83 be renamed 83(i).'

(J) Policy Document - Memorials [pages 39-40 of the business paper]

The Council confirmed the policy document as prepared by the Property Approvals Board and shown in the business papers.

It was noted that these papers belong as part of a larger document relating to the procedure for closure of a centre of worship.

Discussion followed regarding the desperate need for clergy to have access to procedural documents.

(K) National Church Life Survey 2006 [page 41 of the business paper]

Further information was received that in mid July a diocesan representative would travel to Sydney to attend a National Church Life Survey briefing to attend to collect info about the 2006 survey. Diocesan Council highlighted that it would prefer that the chosen representative be someone who has a general enthusiasm for this area of statistical analysis. Any

and report to Diocesan Council with a recommendation for the August meeting.' **CARRIED**

Moved: Mr WK Allen Seconded: The Rt Revd GS Rutherford.

- (G) Cockle Bay – Request for funds from Temporary Trust**
[page 89 of the business paper]

It was resolved:

'That the request from the Parish of Cockle Bay be deferred pending the appointment and plan development by the Lake Macquarie Strategic Planning Committee. Such Committee to include, Mr John Kilpatrick, The Archdeacon of the Area, The Diocesan Business Manager plus persons of the Committee's choosing.' **CARRIED**

- (H) Parish Aid & Development** [page 90 of the business paper]

Windale

It was resolved:

'That a grant of \$4,500 be paid to the Parish of Windale from the Parish Aid & Development Fund for the year 2005.' **CARRIED**

Denman

The Parish of Denman had made a late request for consideration. The Venerable Ian Palmer as Archdeacon of the Upper Hunter was to undertake research and provide a recommendation to the August meeting of the Council.

- (I) Audited Financials as at 31/12/05 signing authority** [page 91 of the business paper]

It was resolved:

'That Ms Ruth Brand and The Venerable Beatrice Pate be authorised to sign these documents as requested by the auditors.' **CARRIED**

- (J) Delays in having Trustees Cheques Signed**

The Dean raised the issue of the difficulties the Diocesan Office had been experiencing with getting Trustees to sign cheques within a reasonable period.

It was noted that the Trustees of Church Property would deal with this matter at their next meeting. Creation of a drawing account for up to \$100,000 with Bishop and Diocesan Business Manager as signatories was in progress.

2005.053 GOVERNANCE – Protocols for Conflict of Interest [page 92 of the business papers]

It was resolved:

'That a temporary committee be formed for the purpose of recommending conflict of interest guidelines within the Diocese. Such committee to comprise the Diocesan Business Manager, The Reverend Dr Julia Perry, Mr Malcolm McDonald and Mr John Price.'

CARRIED

Mr WK Allen took over as Chairman of Committees.

2005.054 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DOCUMENTS [see separate papers]

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Documentation about this was circulated separately and was presented by Archdeacon Ian Palmer.

It was resolved:

‘That Diocesan Council approve the appointment of a chaplain to the Professional Standards Commission. The chaplain would probably, but not necessarily be a priest. Working one day per week (48 days per year) the cost being 1/6th stipend.’ **CARRIED**

Moved: The Venerable IS Palmer Seconded: The Reverend Dr J Perry

The Council considered the prepared legislation and noted:

- a) minor changes to be made
- b) queries raised by the Bishop
- c) the need for further careful consideration of aspects with the Bishop.

It was agreed:

That the draft ordinance be accepted in principle for presentation to Synod and that the debate of the ordinance be made an order of the day, such time to be determined.

2005.055 DIOCESAN ORDINANCE REVIEW

The group co-ordinating the review had not met however endeavours would be taken to write a report for submission to the Diocesan Council.

2005.056 VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES [page 93 of the business papers]

A vacancy has arisen on both Diocesan Council and on the Board for Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College.

It was resolved:

‘That Diocesan Council defer any appointment to replace the Reverend Garry Dodd in view of Synod elections in October and defer action regarding the appointment of a Chairperson for Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College pending further advice regarding a suitable appointment.’ **CARRIED**

Moved: Ms R Brand Seconded: The Revd HN Bright

2005.057 GOROKAN – Temporary Rectory/ Emergency Relief [page 94 of the business papers]

It was resolved:

‘That the Diocesan Council authorise the Parish of Gorokan to house its Rector in temporary accommodation until such time as extensions to the Church are completed.’ **CARRIED**

Moved: The Very Revd GR Lawrence Seconded: Mr WK Allen

2005.058 CLERGY TIME OFF/ SUPERANNUATION [pages 95-96 of the business papers]

It was resolved:

‘That this matter be referred to the Clergy Emoluments Board to prepare recommendations on Clergy Superannuation and that a separate sub committee review ‘clergy time off’.’ **CARRIED**