

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL HELD AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST HALL, MOREHEAD STREET LAMBTON, ON THURSDAY, 27 APRIL 2006 AT 10.00AM.

2006.037 THE MEETING opened with Prayer.

2006.038 PRESENT The Right Reverend Dr B Farran (Chairman); His Honour Judge JF Lincoln (Chancellor); Mr MS Campbell (Diocesan Business Manager); The Very Reverend GR Lawrence; The Venerable Dr JF Perry; The Reverend Canons SL Benson, CL Bullock and PS Robertson; The Reverends B Pate, AJL Copeman, SR Pullin and S Roulston; Messrs WK Allen, JA Helman, JC Price and C Shevels; Ms R Brand and Mrs B Fenwick.

APOLOGIES The Right Reverend GS Rutherford; The Reverend HN Bright; The Reverend ML Davies; The Venerable DS Simpson and Mr AG Green.

IN ATTENDANCE The Reverend Canon Gary Harman; The Reverend David Battrick (Ministry Development Officer); Mr TS Mawson (Diocesan Secretary) and Miss Katrina Stevens (Minute Secretary).

2006.039 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr John Price declared interest in the item relating to the Parish of Gresford Paterson.

2006.040 BISHOP'S REPORT TO COUNCIL [pages 1-9 of the business paper]

The Bishop advised his appointment of The Reverend Brian Douglas as Honorary Canon Residentiary of the Cathedral and the significant contribution of chaplains to school life.

He further advised of his appointment of The Reverend Anne Watson as the Chaplain to the Professional Standards Committee.

The Presentation Board for Muswellbrook have made an offer and are awaiting acknowledgement of acceptance.

The Bishop advised the Council of his having signed a letter of protest to Bishop Carey in relation to the apparent criticism of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the threat to unity of the Communion.

Then the Bishop highlighted the following points:

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Chancellor, the CEOS of Samaritans and Anglican Care, The Diocesan Schools Officer, the Business Manager and the Bishop a decision was made in an attempt to resolve the difficulty that Faithfulness in Service was causing organisations such as Anglican Care and Samaritans.

The meeting resolved to formulate a recommendation to Diocesan Council as follows:

'That all Diocesan entities review the Faithfulness in Service document as revised by General Synod Standing Committee March 2006, and provide information to Diocesan Council which paragraph should not be applicable to their specific entity along with appropriate justification.'

It is requested that the responses be received by the Bishop before the June meeting of the Diocesan Council.

Moved: The Rev Canon P Robertson Seconded: The Revd AJL Copeman

CARRIED

CEY Ministries

The Bishop spoke about whether the Diocese has an appropriate model for youth ministry, and had it been properly financed and organised?

The Bishop was of the view that the Diocese should trial a new model in the Area Deanery of Newcastle West to develop leadership in congregations.

SUDANESE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY

The Bishop would commission The Reverend Andrew Cholter Dut, as Deacon Assisting in the Parish of Merewether to work in conjunction with the parish's Saturday morning literacy programs with the Sudanese community. Fr Andrew had previously worked by contract for the local Baptist community and was previously in Footscray Melbourne.

DR JOHN THOMPSON

Dr John Thompson had arrived from London in preparation for the Diocesan Convention and for the Morpeth Lecture on Thursday at the Cathedral.

CYCLONE DAMAGE: INNISFAIL

The Diocesan Business Manager had spoken to the diocese who had reported collecting approximately \$90K to date. It would take considerable time to rebuild and the diocese offered its thanks for the money that had been forwarded to them.

The Bishop's Report was **received**.

2006.041 MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The Reverend David Battrick was introduced as the Ministry Development Officer and welcomed with applause by the Council.

In his introduction the Reverend David Battrick gave details of his plans for the immediate future and indicated what he regarded as the key themes for the MDO and the vision for this diocese.

2006.042 DIOCESAN STRATEGY [page 10 of the business papers]

The Bishop had requested Archdeacon Julia Perry to bring regular reports to the Diocesan Council. Archdeacon Perry spoke briefly to her report.

2006.043 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON 16 February 2006

[pages 11-23 of the business papers]

The Reverend Canon Stuart Benson asked that his name be removed from the list of apologies as he was not a member of the Council at that point.

The minutes were then **approved** for signature as a correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

2006.044 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**(A) 0.7% Overseas Aid: Egypt** [page 24 of the business paper]

The Reverend Canon Gary Harman (Canon in Charge of Missionary Affairs) and Miss Katrina Stevens (Diocesan Missions Committee) presented a project from the Anglican Board of Mission which was believed to have reflected both the spirit of the initial Synod motion and the preferences of the Diocesan Council.

The project, Harpur Community Health Centre in Sadat City, Egypt, is seen as a fulfilment of interfaith dialogue between the Anglican Communion and Al Azhar, and once functioning will provide a model of a Christian institution that serves a predominantly Muslim community. The Diocese of Egypt had requested funding assistance to purchase

equipment and furnishings for the Clinic. Miss Stevens provided photographs and a brief commendation from her visit to Sadat City and the construction site for the clinic some 18 months prior.

The Anglican Board of Mission had offered to create a brochure which could be circulated to raise awareness within the Diocese of Newcastle.

The 0.7% would be levied to the diocesan budget and shown as a line item for a period of three years.

It was **resolved**:

'That the Diocesan Council support the Harpur Community Health Centre for three years at 0.7% of the Diocesan budget (approximately \$15K per annum) and that Bishop Mounier be requested to advise exactly how the money is expended.'

Moved: Mr J Helman Seconded: The Revd Can CL Bullock

Action: (DBM) to advise the Diocesan Missions Committee and ABM.

(B) Long Service Leave [page 25 of the business paper]

The correspondence on page 25 was received.

(C) Gresford Paterson – Return of Grant [page 26 of the business paper]

The correspondence on page 26 was received.

(D) Boundary Consultation [pages 27-29 of the business paper]

This report was presented by Archdeacon Julia Perry who gave further update on this report. The Diocesan Council received the information provided.

Action: (ADD) – to continue investigations

(E) Ordinance Review [pages 30-36 of the business paper]

The report was presented by Archdeacon Julia Perry and was received. The Chancellor drew attention to the fact that the Church derives its ability to generate ordinances from acts of State Parliament. The Chancellor cautioned against unadvised changes as they could lead to the ultimate withdrawal of privileges provided by those acts.

Archdeacon Perry indicated that there were some very good reasons for changing the ordinances to ensure ministry is facilitated. The Archdeacon noted there will not be a quick change, but more of a pattern of change that will ultimately occur.

The Chancellors comments above were noted.

Mr JC Price expressed extreme caution regarding the use of 'flying minutes' in any format.

The Reverend Canon CL Bullock was concerned that in any redrafting of ordinances generally we did not divorce ourselves from the history and heritage of the diocese.

The Reverend AJL Copeman believed that in any redrafting of ordinances we should ensure that people who had to deal with them at both parish and diocesan level understood the intent and purpose of the ordinance.

(F) Mission & Attendance Report [pages 37-41 of the business paper]

The report was received and the recommendations adopted.

It was **resolved**:

1. Encourage the Bishop to explore ways in which financial resources within wealthier parishes might be able to support another parish for a given amount and clearly specified missional ministry.
2. Ministry Development Officer (MDO) establish training for coastal and hinterland clergy and laity in Evangelism and Mission strengths in order to help 'sea change' and 'tree change' people integrate into the community and integration into the community of faith.
3. MDO investigate by August use of Church Army personnel for three or five year terms specifically for youth and family ministry. Church Army staff to work under guidance of MDO and/ or Rector, ensuring clear understanding of Anglicanism in all its varied shapes of worship and ministry.
4. MDO to establish training for clergy and laity to convert established parish structures and programs from 'chaplains community contracts' to intentional missional contacts.
5. Direct Archdeacon for Diocesan Development (ADD) when reshaping Ordinances to allow for purchase and use of buildings which have built-in ability for transients, eg a shop-front which can be adaptable and flexible to varying ministry use in the future.
6. Direct ADD to have simpler form of Parish and Community audit available for general use by June, and by September explore its use alongside Annual Parish Returns.
7. ADD to establish group experienced with Pastoral Partners to encourage parishes to put in place such programs in order to free lay and clergy leadership for mission focus.
8. Direct the ADD to establish a committee which would develop guidelines for Anglican contemporary worship with particular attention to Anglican non-Eucharistic worship. These guidelines would establish standards acceptable to the Bishop and minimise need for approval for every experiment of contemporary worship to be considered by the Bishop.

Moved: The Venerable Dr J Perry Seconded: Mr JC Price

Action: (ADD) – Follow up.

(G) Anglican Consultative Council - Environment [pages 42-46 of the business paper]

The correspondence from Mr G Rigby was received and noted.

(H) Synod Motion Retirement Age [page 47 of the business paper]

The Dean advised that a draft ordinance had been given to the Chancellor for his advice prior to the June meeting of the Diocesan Council.

2005.045 REPORTS

- (A) **Bishop's Official Acts and Record** [pages 48-49 of the business papers]

The list of Bishop's Official Acts and Record was **received**.

- (B) **Property Approvals Board Minutes 6 April 2006** [pages 50-53 of the business papers]

GORKAN PARISH

Redevelopment of Existing Facilities [extra documents circulated]

Additional documentation regarding approval of an Episcopal Certificate for \$500,000 was circulated by the Diocesan Business Manager. The borrowing was required to achieve a new building on the Gorokan church site which the parish had been working towards for almost ten years.

It was **resolved**:

'That Diocesan Council approve an Episcopal Certificate to Gorokan Parish for their redevelopment project for \$500,000 and to provide interest equalisation on the loan for a period of five years.'

Moved: Mr M Campbell Seconded: The Revd AJL Copeman

TERRIGAL

It was noted that the Diocesan Business Manager, Mr Jim Helman and the Venerable David Simpson will meet with the Terrigal parish council and building committee to provide guidance.

Mr Keith Allen advised the Council that he was no longer a member of the Parish Council and no longer Chairman of the building committee. Mr Allen advised that he believed there were serious legal issues relating to St Mark's Church site and he expressed concern that no one in the parish appeared to be dealing with these issues.

Changes to Property Approvals Board Minutes of 6 April 2006:

The Reverend Stephen Pullin advised that the reference to the vehicular access from Wallarah Road in the minutes should be changed to record the fact that the Roads and Traffic Authority wished 'No' access at all from that road.

Mrs Beryl Fenwick advised that the use of the word 'Cundletown' in the heading should be deleted in favour of the words 'St Marks'.

The Property Approvals Board Minutes of 6 April 2006 were **received**.

- (C) **Diocesan Council Executive Minutes 2 March 2006** [page 54 of the business papers]

Grievance Procedures

It was **resolved**:

'That Diocesan Council:

- allocate a budget line item for the handling of grievance matters
- the grievance policy be provided to school boards, if the school is not using an AIS grievance policy, who has approved them? The Diocesan Schools Officer is to staff
- A member of the Diocesan Office staff be upskilled to determine the nature of complaints as either major/ minor and refer as required'

The Diocesan Council Executive Minutes of 2 March 2006 were **received**.

(D) St John's College Minutes 16 March 2006 [pages 55-60 of the business papers]

The St John's College Minutes of 16 March 2006 were **received**.

Meeting adjourned at 11.50am for the Celebration of the Eucharist and lunch.

Mr Jim Helman left the meeting.

The meeting resumed at 1.08pm.

2006.046 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(A) Budget Account as at 31 March 2006 [pages 61-92 of the business papers]

The Diocesan Business Manager spoke to the financial reports highlighting his request for prior notice of financial questions, explaining that much of the data is accessible only via computer.

The Trustees had agreed to pay 2% on temporary trusts and 7% on permanent trusts for next two years.

Mr Campbell advised that investment of church money was being handled in a professional way via Westpac bank and such investments were currently performing quite well.

The Diocesan budget was currently running a deficit of \$38,579 of actual expenditure against budget expenditure to 31 March 2006.

The deficit lies largely in the following areas.

Office salaries: There was an unexpected expenditure of \$11K in salaries due to dealing with the medical retirement of a staff member.

College training: The budget catered for two students and there were now four students, which has doubled the cost.

Clergy Removals: currently over budget by \$6K

Clergy Super Increase: the increase to an overall 18% of stipend as the superannuation premium to be paid in respect of each clergy person has caused an extra expenditure of \$25K per year.

Mr Campbell advised that preparatory work on the 2007 budget is underway with a major change in the design of the budget. In 2007 there will be a visual division between the administrative costs of the diocese and the missional costs (Chaplains, CEY Ministries, Ministry and Ordination Training).

The Diocesan Office is funded alone by 0.5% administrative levy and interest from specific trusts. Parishes are confused and believe that their contributions are used to fund the Diocesan Office.

Canon Paul Robertson raised the issue of the 1/12th stipend advance payment scheme as he was concerned that deficits in the budget should be covered by this scheme. However, it should be noted that the scheme was initiated several years ago to ensure that no member of the clergy remained unpaid because parishes had not made their appropriate remittances. The scheme was not designed as a budget back-stop.

The support and co-operation of the Trustees was noted.

The budget was **received**.

(B) Ministry Development Fund as at 31 March 2006 [pages 93-95 of the business papers]

The statement was **received**.

2006.047 EXTENSION OF CURRENCY [pages 96-97 of the business papers]

The Samaritans Foundation Land Sale Ordinance 2001

It was **resolved**:

'That the currency of The Samaritans Foundation (Vincent Street, Cessnock) Land Sale Ordinance 2001 be extended to 27 April 2007.'

Moved: Mr MS Campbell Seconded: The Revd Stephen Pullin

Action: (DS) – Write to Samaritans

2006.048 PROVINCIAL WELFARE COMMISSION [pages 98-121 of the business papers]

Mr Cec Shevels explained how the state-wide co-ordination of disaster funding operated and the need for the extension of chaplaincy services.

It was **resolved**:

'That the matter be deferred until further enquiries are made by Mr WK Allen and the Diocesan Business Manager.'

Moved: Mr C Shevels Seconded: The Very Revd GR Lawrence

Action: (WKA & DBM) to investigate further

2006.049 ST JOHN'S COLLEGE PUBLICATION – Request for Funding [page 122 of business papers]

It was **resolved**:

'That this Diocesan Council thanks The Reverend Sheila Bourne for her letter expresses our interest in the project but believes that at this point we would need a more accurate business plan for the venture before it could consider any funding.'

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

Action: (DBM) – write to Sheila Bourne

2006.050 BISHOP TYRRELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE EPISCOPAL CERTIFICATE [pages 123-137 of the business papers]

The Reverend Canon Chris Bullock declared an interest given he is a member of the BTAC Board.

It was **resolved**:

'The Diocesan Council recommend to the Bishop the approval of an Episcopal Certificate for Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College for stage 6A of up to \$4.1 million plus the remainder of the Trustee Loan.'

Before the contract for costs is signed, the budget must be approved by the Diocesan Business Manager. It is expected that on receipt of the Block Grant Authority amount for \$396K that this is to be taken from the principal indebtedness to the bank. At that time the Diocesan financial exposure guaranteed by the Episcopal Certificate is to be reviewed by the Schools Commission.'

Carried by a two thirds majority of Council members present and voting.

Moved: Mr MS Campbell Seconded: The Revd AJL Copeman

Action: (DBM) - Advise Diocesan Schools Commission and Schools Officer

2006.051 ENCOUNTER PRODUCTION (Bi-Monthly) [pages 138-139 of the business papers]

Following robust discussion at the Newcastle West area deanery, Canon Paul Robertson reported the disappointment of those among parishes that the Encounter was now produced bi-monthly.

Concern was raised from parishes at lack of consultation in the decision.

The letter was received and the concern noted.

2006.052 MOUNT VINCENT FUTURE VIABILITY [pages 140-141 of the business papers]

The Dean expressed concern that he had sought financial information but that it had not been provided until this advice from the Annual General Meeting.

It was **resolved**:

'That the Diocesan Council receive the letter from the Rector and ask the Archdeacon for Diocesan Development and the Ministry Development Officer to meet with the Rector and church wardens to discuss the situation in which the parish finds itself.'

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

Action: (DBM) Advise the Parish and Rector

2006.053 SUDANESE MINISTRY FUNDING [page 142 of the business papers]

It was **resolved**:

'The Diocesan Business Manager to meet with the parish executive to determine what funding might be required in the next diocesan budget.'

Action: (DBM) – Arrange to meet with the Parish executives.

It was **resolved**:

'That the Diocesan Council commends the Parish of Merewether and offers them congratulations them on this initiative.'

Action: (DS) – Write letter.

2006.054 APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES [page 143 of the business papers]**(A) Encounter Review Committee**

The appointments committee resolved to seek advice from Elizabeth Keevers prior to making any appointment.

(B) Social Responsibilities Committee

The appointments committee resolved to seek advice from Cec Shevels prior to making any appointment.

2006.055 BUSINESS REFERRED TO THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Nil

2006.056 OTHER BUSINESS**Diocesan Office Review**

Archdeacon Peter Stuart of the Diocese of Adelaide had been asked to review the Diocesan Office. The Diocesan Business Manager had already put in processes with the staff to obtain information for the consultancy.

2006.057 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date will be **Thursday 22 June 2006** at 10:00 am at the parish hall of St John the Baptist Church, Morehead Street, Lambton.

2005.058 THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS the meeting closed with The Grace at 2.23pm.