



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
BISHOP-IN-COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF GRAFTON
CONFERENCE ROOM
THE BISHOP'S REGISTRY
50 VICTORIA STREET, GRAFTON**

Thursday 6 December 2007

Present:

Clergy: The Right Reverend Keith Slater (Chairperson), The Reverend Gary Atherton, The Venerable David Hanger, The Reverend Canon Bruce Turner, The Reverend Canon Brian Müller.

Laity: Mr Gordon Mitchell, Canon Terry Shorten, Mr David Miller, Mrs Madeline Pearce, Mrs Lorraine Dixon, Mr Keith Bevan, Mrs Ann Emery, Mrs Leone Hanger.

In Attendance: Mr Peter Roland (Advocate), Mrs Rosie Catt, Mr Greg Nelson (for part of the meeting),

1. Prayer:

The meeting commenced with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral.

The Bishop opened the meeting at 10.05 with prayer.

2. Governance and Reflection

The Bishop handed out the "Mission Together" diagrams and a Mission document for Council members to read and bring back to the next meeting of Bishop-in-Council.

3. Apologies

The Reverend Canon Gary Priest
The Reverend David Jones
The Hon. Reverend Pat Comben (overseas, but participated by teleconference for one agenda item)
The Reverend Russell Trickey

MOTION

"that the apologies as received be accepted."

MOVED: The Reverend Canon Bruce Turner

SECONDED: Mrs Leone Hanger

CARRIED

The Bishop also read out an email he had received from The Reverend David Jones, who is leaving the Diocese to take up a position within the Diocese of Melbourne, expressing his regret at being unable to attend what would have been his last Bishop-in-Council meeting in the Diocese of Grafton.

4. Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting

MOTION

"that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2007 be accepted as a true and correct record."

MOVED: Mr David Miller

SECONDED: Mrs Madeline Pearce

CARRIED

5. Business Arising**Mullumbimby Church Tower**

Mrs Lorraine Dixon gave Council members an update on the Bell Tower. Money raised to date - \$38,382 which includes \$10,000 from the Diocese. Need at least \$120,000.

There had been a meeting with the Byron Shire Council. Looking at donations from Council, State Heritage. Council have implied that they will match dollar for dollar with State Heritage. Have appointed a builder - Al East. Fundraising ongoing.

6. Bishop's Matters

There were no Bishop's matters

7. Matters for Decision**(a) Corporate Trustee Vacancy**

Discussion took place regarding the five excellent candidates to fill the Corporate Trustees vacancy.

Nominations were called

- The Reverend Canon John Barrett
- Mrs Camellia Flanagan
- Ms Fiona Miller

MOVED: Mr David Miller

SECONDED: Mrs Leone Hanger

A secret ballot then took place with the Reverend Canon John Barrett being elected.

CARRIED

(b) GDIF Board Vacancies (2)**Recommendation**

"That Mr Bill Upton and The Reverend Peter Richards be appointed to the GDIF Board

MOVED: Mr David Miller

SECONDED: Canon Terry Shorten

CARRIED

(c) North Coast Anglican

Appointment of new Editor following the resignation of The Reverend Bruce Hancock

MOTION

"That the recommendation to appoint Mrs Penelope Richards as interim editor for a period of three (3) months be accepted and during that time a comprehensive review of the North Coast Anglican take place from an editorial and Diocesan perspective."

MOVED: The Venerable David Hanger

SECONDED: Mr David Miller

CARRIED

(d) St Cuthbert's Retirement Living Complexes Board Vacancy Recommendation

"That Bishop-in-Council accepts the nomination of Mary Elizabeth Wardrop to the Board of St Cuthbert's Retirement Living Complexes for the period from 6 December 2007 until 31 March 2010.

MOVED: Mr David Miller

SECONDED: The Reverend Canon Brian Muller

CARRIED

(e) Clarence Valley Anglican School

The Registrar on teleconference from India gave an indepth overview in addition to the detailed written submission presented in the members papers, of the financial situation at The Clarence Valley

Anglican School. He invited questions from members to ensure as much clarity as possible on this important issue.

After discussion it was agreed that there was no alternative but to support the proposed support package.

MOTION 1

That Bishop in Council:

- (1) notes the correspondence from Mr Jeremy Chalacombe requesting assistance from Bishop-in-Council, The Corporate Trustees of the Diocese of Grafton and GDIF in respect of the financial position of the Clarence Valley Anglican School;
- (2) notes the "in principle" support of the GDIF Board and The Corporate Trustees to the letter;
- (3) notes with considerable concern the state of the school finances and borrowings;
- (4) requests the Council of the school to address any governance issues which have allowed the school loans to build to an unsustainable level;
- (5) commits itself to a long term Support Package which will allow the school to return to a sustainable position;
- (6) directs, to the extent that it is able, the Board of GDIF and The Corporate Trustees to assist in the Support Package to the maximum extent possible;
- (7) provides to the Board of GDIF an irrevocable guarantee of sufficient securities to guarantee the school loans;
- (8) directs the Registrar to immediately call together all interested parties including the Diocesan Auditor to finalise a Support Package in broad conformity with the concepts within the submission presently before Bishop-in-Council and the discussion on the submission;
- (9) establishes a committee, as suggested by the Diocesan Auditor, to protect the Diocesan interests comprising representatives from B-i-C, GDIF and Corporate Trustees and that they meet regularly to review the financial position and performance of CVAS;
- (10) requires a schedule of regular reporting from the School Board to the Diocese, GDIF and The Corporate Trustees (as per the Auditor's email – 30 November, 2007) which will include reporting to a series of Key Performance Indicators; and
- (11) advises the School Board that Bishop-in-Council and all Diocesan agencies specifically retain all their legal rights under the mortgage document and the law.
- (12) commits itself to strict discretion in this matter.

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

SECONDED: Mr David Miller

CARRIED

MOTION 2

That Bishop-in-Council:

Directs the Registrar to advise the Board of the Grafton Diocesan Investment Fund that Bishop-in-Council irrevocably guarantees the following security to GDIF to guarantee and secure the loans of Clarence Valley Anglican School:

- The Managed Funds of GDIF \$1.2m
- The GDIF/Diocesan Capital \$.8m (after 1/1/08)
- Bishopsholme and McWilliam Lodge \$1.m
- Gunundi \$2m

- The Clarenza School land \$4m
- The Bishopric Endowment Investments \$3m
- Ministry Development Fund (if possible) \$1.2m

MOVED: Mr David Miller
SECONDED: Mr Gordon Mitchell
CARRIED

A further motion resulting from motion 1 was put

MOTION

"That The Bishop form a Committee of four which will have conversation with GDIF, The Corporate Trustees and Bishop-in-Council as per part 9 of Motion 1 (above) on this matter.

MOVED: Canon Terry Shorten
SECONDED: The Reverend Gary Atherton
CARRIED

MOTION

"that the minutes of the Audit Committee be noted."

MOVED: Canon Terry Shorten
SECONDED: Mrs Madeline Pearce
CARRIED

(f) Stipends and Allowances
MOTION

Mr Miller stated that Mrs Syama Trickey has indicated that she is prepared to accept appointment if that be Bishop-in-Council's wish.

"The Stipends and Allowances Committee recommends that Mrs Syama Trickey of Bangalow be appointed to the Committee to represent the interests of Clergy spouses."

MOVED: Mr David Miller
SECONDED: The Reverend Canon Bruce Turner
CARRIED

Mr Miller then presented the Stipend and Allowances Committee's Report to Bishop-in-Council.

MOTION

"that recommendations 1 - 3 be accepted."

MOVED: Mr David Miller
SECONDED: Mr Gordon Mitchell
CARRIED

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. "that as from 1 January 2008 the Bishop's stipend be 200% of a Rector's Stipend."
5. "that the Stipend of the Registrar in the range of 155% to 195% of a Rector's Stipend and in the present instance be 195% of a Rector's Stipend with effect from 1 January 2008."
6. "that responsibility for an annual review of the Registrar's stipend be delegated to the Stipends and Allowances Committee."

MOVED: Mr David Miller

The Chairperson (Bishop Slater) left the room to enable members to discuss freely these recommendations that involved the Bishop