



**Minutes of Bishop-in-Council Meeting
Held at the Bishop's Registry
50 Victoria Street, Grafton**

Thursday 28 June 2007

Present:

Clergy: The Right Reverend Keith Slater (Chairperson), The Reverend Canon Gary Priest, The Very Reverend Dr Peter Catt, The Venerable David Hanger, The Reverend Canon Brian Muller, The Hon. Reverend Pat Comben (Registrar), The Reverend David Jones, The Venerable Greg Ezzy, The Reverend Canon Bruce Turner

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

In attendance: Mr Peter Roland (Advocate)

1. Prayer:

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

The Bishop opened the meeting at 10.10am with prayer.

2. Welcome:

The Bishop welcomed all Bishop-in-Council members and called for updates on happenings in and around the Diocese.

3. Continuing Reflection and Strategic Plan

Bishop Keith introduced his first draft of a Strategic Plan for Bishop-in-Council. The Strategic Directions included The Diocesan Vision Statement, Diocesan Values, and Diocesan Beliefs, The Role of Bishop-in-Council and Bishop-in-Council Values.

The Bishop then called for general views on the document and the following are points or issues raised during interesting and varied discussion.

- Build an emphasis on marketing the Church using professional help
- General population does not understand our role
- Does this document invite questions re Governance. We need to give a lead to the Governance Ordinance.
- Commendation for the Bishop for putting this document together in this form, making us the focus on what we need to do. We should not move to adopt this too quickly, there is a need to keep talking about it until we own it.
- Each Priest needs to be an individual - do not need guidelines that leave no individuality.
- Live in notion of autonomous groups.
- Need to know if it is effective in Parishes
- Parishes do not report where they are headed financially until the end of each year.
- Resourcing place - feed in mechanism.
- Needs to overflow from financial into faith.
- Qualitative and Quantitative data - difficult to report without this data.

After the General Views discussion and input was completed each heading was discussed separately.

Role of Bishop-in-Council

1 - 4 accepted

other areas that should be included were:

5. Governance
6. Diocesan wide leadership
7. Listening - (broad-based - parishes and whole region - could be initiated through RMC's)

Bishop-in-Council's Values

Diocesan values accepted

Steward's responsive relational interactive values could have

- Initiative Taking

added to it.

Implementation through the following for the next five years

It was suggested that added to the presented dot points could be

- Additional support resources for ministry units (finance - controlled by the Registry)

Further discussion took place with the following points being made:-

- Parish Councils need to be aware of what is happening from month to month.
- How do we know what is happening in the life of a Parish
- What needs to be resourced
- What mechanism relates between Bishop-in-Council and ministry units.

It was then suggested that the following mechanism could be put in place that the Parish gives a written report to the RMC who presents it to the RMC meeting's held with the Bishop. It could then come to Bishop-in-Council.

Proclamation and Evangelism

Vision:

Point two to read:-

- Seeks to give initiative and leadership through the proclamation and modelling of the Good News through its decisions and actions.

Discipling and Formation

No changes indicated at this time

Pastoral Care and Outreach

Vision

To be a Bishop-in-Council which:

After discussion it was agreed to delete the first two dot points and insert:-

- Supports and seeks to resource pastoral care and outreach in the Diocese.

Actions

Add the following point:

- Encourage and support all ministry units.

Justice Reconciliation and Peace

Actions

Include the following dot point:-

- Establish a Justice, Reconciliation and Peace Commission

Stewardship of the Earth

Vision

Following discussion to was decided that point 2 should be re-worded

Strategies

Point 2 to read:-

- To provide clear environmental church use guidelines

Discussion ensued with regards to different areas within the Plan - finance, appointments etc. Relevant parts of the Governance Ordinance ofr next Bishop-in-Council.

4. Apologies

The Reverend Russell Trickey

MOTION

"that the apology be accepted."

MOVED: The Reverend Canon Bruce Turner

SECONDED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

CARRIED

5. Resignations

Resignations had been received from Mr Kevin Knott and Mr Peter Sutton. The Bishop indicated that he had already written to Mr Knott and would write to Mr Sutton.

MOTION

"that the resignations of Mr Kevin Knott and Mr Peter Sutton be accepted."

MOVED: The Reverend Canon Bruce Turner

SECONDED: Mr David Miller

CARRIED

6. Minutes from the Meeting held 19 April 2007.

MOTION

"that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record."

MOVED: Mr David Miller

SECONDED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

CARRIED

7. Bishop's Matters

Special Tribunal Canon 2004

This replaced a previous canon which covered similar matters. The Tribunal determined that the Canon affected the good order and government of the church in the dioceses of Sydney and Wangaratta. The Tribunal also ascertained that the Canon is precluded by proviso (a) to Section 30 of the Anglican Church of Australia. Which means that the Canon has no force in a diocese unless it is adopted by ordinance or canon. It is however, essential that there is a single procedure that can be agreed by all dioceses, which would be formulated at 2007 General Synod

National Register Canon

This Canon will apply in all dioceses irrespective of whether or not they have adopted the Canon. This Canon enables the National Church to establish and maintain a register of clergy and lay church workers against whom allegations of child abuse and adult sexual abuse have been made. The aim of the register is to provide information so that people can make an assessment about risk. It is not a register of criminality.

Draft Covenant for the Anglican Communion

A draft Covenant for the Anglican Communion has been drafted and circulated by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Covenant Design Group. How will it be adopted in Australia? This would depend on its course through General Synod. The Primate indicated that whatever the Australian process, it will be vital to obtain the views of each diocese

North Coast Children's Home

This is still on-going. The leader in this matter has still not settled and there is a suggestion that there are other people emerging in relation to the Home. Bishop Slater informed members that he begins to meet with some who require a face-to-face apology and others with whom we are still dealing.

Consecrations

Darwin Rt Rev'd Greg Thompson - Diocese sent a gift to support the renovation of the Minyerri Church.

Consecrations to take place shortly

Canberra The Venerable Len Eacott - Bishop for the Australian Defence Forces

Brisbane - the Very Reverend John Parkes - Assistant Bishop

Brisbane - the Venerable Geoff Smith - Assistant Bishop

As Geoff Smith had served in the Grafton Diocese in a number of Parishes it was felt appropriated that the Diocese make a gift to Geoff at the time of his Consecration.

MOTION

"that the Diocese send a gift to Geoff Smith"

MOVED: The Reverend David Jones

SECONDED: Mrs Leone Hanger

CARRIED

Professional Standards Conference - Sydney

Canon Ann Skamp presented a report she had compiled after attending the National Professional Standards Conference held in Sydney with Bishop Slater. Ann spoke on the following topics that had been agenda items at the Conference:-

- Child Protection and the Churches
- Ministering to those who have been abused
- Where to for Abusers

Canon Skamp also informed council that the diocesan Professional Standards have been in place for three years and should be reviewed.

Bishop-in-Council gave a vote of thanks to Canon Skamp for her report

Meeting of the **Cathedral Chapter and the Cathedral Parish** on Wednesday 27 June. Discussed was the functions of the Cathedral. The Cathedral Council (a combination of the Chapter and the Parish) was set up and will meet in November for setting up the Vision. The feeling at the meeting was extremely positive. The Registrar is to write to the Apologies to make them aware of the outcome of the meeting.

Appointments:

The Reverend Samuel Marsden

The Reverend Thea Archinal

The Reverend Vivian Hoskins

Mr Gareth Leachman

Coffs Harbour

Assistant Priest, Cathedral

extension of 3 years granted

Principal of CVAS from beginning of next semester.

Parishes Vacant

Sawtell/Bonville

Macksville

Wauchope

Celebrations:

Centenary of Holy Trinity, Macksville

Centenary St Cuthberts, Ellenborough (Wauchope)

PSTF was an exciting and enriching week. The Festival was highly successful, with all presentations being available on disc for \$40. Financially successful as well.

MOTION

"that Bishop-in-Council convey its congratulations to the PSTF Committee."

MOVED: Canon Ann Skamp

SECONDED: Canon Terry Shorten

CARRIED

8. Matters for Decision

8.a) Anglicare Agreement

Recommendation

That the proposed draft Agreement between the Dioceses of Grafton and Newcastle be signed, subject to minor amendments, by the Bishop.

MOTION

"that the Recommendation be accepted."

MOVED: Mr David Miller

SECONDED: the Reverend Canon Bruce Turner

CARRIED

8.aa) Anglicare Board Vacancy

There is a vacancy on the Anglicare Board for a Bishop-in-Council Appointment.

MOTION

"that the Reverend Colin Tett be appointed to the Anglicare Board."

MOVED: The Dean

SECONDED: Mrs Madeline Pearce

CARRIED

8.ab) Audit Committee and Auditor

MOTION

"that the Diocesan Audit Committee and present Auditor remain in place for the coming year, which will now include Anglicare."

MOVED: The Venerable David Hanger

SECONDED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

CARRIED

8b) GDIF Board Positions (2)

Recommendation

That the Reverend Colin Tett, a former Banker and an economics graduate and who has undertaken work with the Institute of Company directors be appointed to the GDIF Board

MOVED: Canon Terry Shorten

SECONDED: The Reverend Canon Gary Priest

CARRIED

The decision was also made that the second appointment should, if possible, be a woman.

8d) Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School Council - Appointments

Recommendation

That Mr Christopher Goldstone and Mrs Josie James be re-appointed to the Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School Council for a period of two years pursuant to Clause 3.1.3. of the School Constitution.

MOVED: The Registrar

SECONDED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

CARRIED

8e) St Columba Anglican School Council - AppointmentsRecommendation

- That Dr Gordon Burch be appointed to the SCAS Council to fill the casual vacancy following the resignation of Mr Brian Manton.
- That Ms Andrina Dawson and Mr Bruce Nosworthy be re-appointed for a further two years.
- That Ms Susan Phillips be appointed to fill the casual vacancy following the resignation of Ms Julia Jenkins.
- That Ms Loris Hendy be appointed under Clause 6.1.4 to fill the vacancy left by Ms Susan Phillips.
- That Mr Michael Pauling be re-appointed to the School Council for a term of 3 years.

MOVED: the Registrar**SECONDED:** The Reverend Canon Bruce Turner**CARRIED****8f) Clarence Valley Anglican School Council - Appointments**

It was agreed to hold over discussion on the re-appointments of Mr John Higham and Mr Col Ware until the next Bishop-in-Council meeting as they have now both reached 70 years of age

MOTION

"that Mr Jeremy Challacombe be re-appointed to the Clarence Valley Anglican School Council for a period of three years as per recommendation"

MOVED: Mr David Miller**SECONDED:** The Registrar**CARRIED****8g) Bishop Druitt College Council - Appointments**Recommendation

That Mr Rob Anderson be appointed to the Bishop Druitt College Council

MOVED: The Venerable David Hanger**SECONDED:** Canon Terry Shorten**CARRIED**Recommendation

That Ms Wendy Phillips be appointed to Bishop Druitt College Council

MOVED: the Venerable David Hanger**SECONDED:** Canon Terry Shorten**CARRIED****8h) Amendment to the Buttery Constitution**

that upon the winding up of The Buttery any capital items financed by the New South Wales Department of Health, and any unexpected grant monies received from the New South Wales Department of Health, or other funding bodies, all remaining property and assets shall be transferred to a similar non-p[rofit organisation as determined by The Buttery Board of Management at the time of winding up

MOTION

"The Buttery Board to be advised by the Registrar that Bishop-in-Council notes the decision of the Buttery board to change the Buttery Constitution."

MOVED: The Registrar**SECONDED:** Canon Terry Shorten**CARRIED**

8i) Land Sale Ordinance - Kempsey, (Willawarrin)**MOTION**

"that the Bill be considered."

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

SECONDED: The Reverend Canon Gary Priest

CARRIED

Bishop-in-Council moved into Committee-as-a-Whole to consider the Bill.

The Chairman of Committees reported that the Bill had been considered by the Committee-of-the-Whole and agreed to.

MOTION

"that the Bill now be passed"

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

CARRIED

Land Sale Ordinance - Kempsey (Comara)**MOTION**

"that the Bill be considered."

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

SECONDED: Canon Ann Skamp

CARRIED

Bishop-in-Council moved into Committee-as-a-Whole to consider the Bill.

The Chairman of Committees reported that the Bill had been considered by the Committee-of-the-Whole and agreed to.

MOTION

"that the Bill now be passed"

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

CARRIED

8j) Wauchope Rectory Leasing Ordinance 2007Recommendation

That the Wauchope Rectory Leasing Ordinance be enacted

MOTION

"that the Bill be considered"

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

SECONDED: Mr Keith Bevan

CARRIED

Bishop-in-Council moved into Committee-as-a-Whole to consider the Bill.

The Chairman of Committees reported that the Bill had been considered by the Committee-of-the-Whole and agreed to with an amendment to Clause 1 - removal of "Parochial" and insert "Parish"

MOTION

"that the Bill now be passed"

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

CARRIED

8k) Kyogle Rectory Land Sale Ordinance 2007Recommendation

That the Kyogle Land Sale Ordinance 2007 be enacted, with the condition that money received and all interest be accrued as a trust account held by the Corporate Trustees until the Parish is ready to purchase or build a new Rectory

MOTION

"that the Bill be considered."

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

SECONDED: The Reverend Canon Bruce Turner

CARRIED

Bishop-in-Council moved into Committee-as-a-Whole to consider the Bill.

The Chairman of Committees reported that the Bill had been considered by the Committee-of-the-Whole and agreed to with an amendment to Clause 2 (Parochial District to be amended to Parish)

MOTION

"that the Bill now be passed"

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

CARRIED

8I Sawtell/ Bonville Land Sale OrdinanceRecommendation

"That the Sawtell/Bonville Land Sale Ordinance 2007 be enacted, but put on hold until a Priest is appointed. Property to be maintained in the meantime.

MOTION

"that the Bill be considered"

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

SECONDED: Mrs Leone Hanger

CARRIED

Bishop-in-Council moved into Committee-as-a-Whole to consider the Bill.

The Chairman of Committees reported that the Bill had been considered by the Committee-of-the-Whole and agreed to with an amendment to Clause 2 (to read -for the Parish or other capital project first approved by the Bishop and the Property Board

MOTION

"that the Bill now be passed"

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell

CARRIED

9. Matters for Discussion**9a Year to Date Accounts - Diocese**

The Treasurer Mr David Miller presented the YTD Accounts, assisted by the Diocesan Accountant Ms Deb Coleman

MOTION

"that the Year to Date Accounts be accepted."

MOVED: Mr David Miller

SECONDED: Mrs Leone Hanger

CARRIED

9aa Audit CommitteeRecommendation

That

i) the Board of GDIF be requested to carefully review and act upon the Auditor's Management letter;

ii) the Bishop be encouraged to find the strongest possible Board sourcing it for appropriate legal, governance and financial experience

MOVED: The Registrar

SECONDED: The Dean
CARRIED

9b Report Regarding the GDIF

The Registrar reported to Bishop-in-Council that some schools debt is out of control. He circulated a "School Financial Ratios" document which aided with the more indepth figures, as well as a copy of a letter from The Bishop which had been sent to some of the schools.

The following motion was put:-

- "that Bishop-in-Council confirms its previous support of altering and extending its borrowings from Westpac Banking Limited to the following extent:
- (a) utilising \$450,000 of the current \$2.5m Line of Credit for the payment of part of the North Coast Children's Home legal settlement; and
 - (b) Acquiring a further \$600,000 Line of Credit to be available to the Grafton Diocese Investment Fund; and

Endorses the actions of the Registrar in finalising the above matters."

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell
SECONDED: Mr David Miller
CARRIED

9c Gunundi

The Registrar spoke further to the information paper circulated. A letter had been received from the Reverend Gary Atherton, Chairperson of the DYCMP requesting that he be involved in the Gunundi process.

Recommendation

That the information paper be noted

CARRIED

9d Diocesan Boards and Committees Data Base

Following brief discussion, it was decided that a database should be formulated with people with suitable experience. It was suggested that the local Parishes be contacted in order that they might approach parishioners or locals who have the financial experience to be an Audit Committee member. It was also discussed that this process could also be undertaken to cover a number of fields in which different areas of expertise are required.

10. Matters for Noting

10a Provincial Synod Report

MOTION

"that the Provincial Synod Report compiled by The Venerable David Hanger be accepted."

MOVED: Mr David Miller
SECONDED: the Reverend David Jones
CARRIED

10b Diocesan Property Report

Mr Gordon Mitchell spoke briefly to his written report

MOTION

That the Diocesan Property Board Report be accepted."

MOVED: Mr Gordon Mitchell
SECONDED: The Reverend Canon Gary Priest
CARRIED

10c DYCMP Report

Mrs Leone Hanger briefly emphasised some issues covered in the report - Gunundi and Implementation of Child Safe.

MOTION

"that the DYCMP Report be accepted."

MOVED: Mrs Leone Hanger

SECONDED: The Reverend David Jones

CARRIED

10e Diocesan Environment Commission Report

There was no report received.

11. Other Matters

11a Early Education Centre Joint Venture with St Columba's
noted

11b Bequest: Mid Richmond Parish (\$1,000)
noted

11c Appointment of Anglicare Executive Officer
This is to be advertised this coming weekend.

11d Schedule of Stipends**MOTION**

"That the Schedule of Stipends effective as from 1 July 2007 be accepted."

MOVED: Mr David Miller

SECONDED: Mrs Madeline Pearce

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.30pm with the Grace