

Paper 1

Bishop's Council Update

Since the last meeting on 22 April of Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council has met twice on the 18 May and the 25 May 2022.

Key Decisions Taken By Bishop's Council

Finance Matters

At the first meeting in May, Lisa Streeter, Finance Director, advised the final discussions were taking place with the Auditors. There had been a query over property valuations; Chris Pride, Property Manager, had provided a paper regarding the current approach to valuations to be fair and recommending the current position in place be maintained and Lisa Streeter advised that in some instances it was necessary to abide with accounting standards. Bishop Jonathan proposed that Lisa be empowered to go into conversation and to refer to him and the Diocesan Secretary as appropriate.

Bishop's Council were in agreement to support this action.

Moving forward it had been agreed at the last AGM under Audit Selection Process that Auditors would come up for reselection and this would involve a joint process with Winchester and would involve a Committee of six members, three from Winchester, three from Portsmouth to oversee selection process.

Bishop's Council were in unanimous support for approving this process.

It was proposed that a Designated Fund be created from the operating surplus of funds at year end for 2021 for the purpose of undertaking all the relevant works which were required to many of the diocesan properties.

Bishop's Council were all in agreement for the creation of a Designated Fund.

Turning to the second meeting of Bishop's Council which was also the Annual General Meeting, prior to the AGM the Going Concern Cash Flow Projections were explained in detail by Lisa Streeter, Finance Director.

Bishop's Council members unanimously confirmed they considered the PDBF to be a going concern.

Adam Halsey, Audit Partner, Haysmacintyre, Auditors, was welcomed to the meeting and following his address, Council were asked to receive and adopt the DBF Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Unanimously agreed by all members of Bishop's Council.

As detailed above the Audit Selection Group will make recommendations to Bishop's Council as to the firm to be the next DBF Auditors but in the meantime, Haysmacintyre were appointed for 2023 and would be invited to tender under the new arrangements.

Bishop's Council all in agreement.

Proposed Revision to the Standing Orders

A small Review Group is to be formed chaired by the Chair of the House of Clergy, with the Chair of the House of Laity and the Diocesan Secretary to finalise terms of reference and timeframe to be brought to a meeting of Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod.

Unanimous support from Bishop's council to the proposal, apart from one abstention.

Board of Education

DBE Measure

The new DBE Measure was outlined by Jeff Williams, Director of Education, in two papers, highlighting that the CofE was the largest provider of schools nationally in the UK and made a significant contribution to influencing the Government on education. The current structure in Winchester and Portsmouth was explained, with the need to having the proposed changes agreed by July 2022. The background of the DBE Working Group was given and the commitment to continued joint working between the DBF of Portsmouth and Winchester was reinforced. Bishop's Council were asked three questions:

- (a) To endorse the recommendation from the DBE, coupled with the proposal from the Working Group to comply with the new DBE Measure, that the DBE should become a Joint Incorporated body as a CIO and recommend this to the Diocesan Synod for its decision (required under legislation)
- (b) Request that the relevant legal drafting and work is commenced to ensure documentation and other requirements are completed on time
- (c) To note that the Director of Education, the Executive Resource Group, Diocesan Secretary, Chair of the DBF and Chair of BC (Portsmouth and Winchester) Interim Diocesan Sec at Winchester and the Finance Director (Portsmouth and Winchester) will work closely to ensure detail and actions required timely.

This was proposed by Bruce Dean and seconded by Stuart Forster with unanimous agreement by all Bishop's Council members.

Safeguarding

Due to huge work loads which were having an impact on current staff in post, it had been agreed to get additional DSA capacity for 21 hours a week for a period of three months. Agreement was given for the Diocesan Secretary to extend the resource for up to a further three months depending on progress made under the urgent action plan which the Bishop had requested.

This had unanimous support from Bishop's Council.

Council were also asked to consider and approve additional Safeguarding administration support up to three days a week.

Apart from one abstention this also had approval of Bishop's Council

Clergy Support

Curates Funding Curacy in 2022

Will Hughes had prepared a paper for Bishop's council following a discussion at Bishop's Senior Staff explaining the background and uniqueness, due to Covid, of the interruption of

the final year of training for our curates in the Diocese who would end their title in June 2022. Two options had been proposed but the second, which had the recommendation of Bishop's Staff, enabled curates affected by this, to apply for one year associate priest posts within the Diocese; discussed by Bishop's Council.

All were in favour to proceed and the recommendation to be made to the Bishop.

The Road Map for 2022

Bishop Jonathan had provided a brief update: The rounds of meetings in Deaneries had been helpful and encouraging, work would continue together in June and July, a break in August, and meeting again in September to November when the difficult questions would need to be asked.

Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee

Suspensions

Suspension of St Mary's, Liss

Suspension of Soberton and Newtown with Hambledon

Suspension of Steep and Froxfield with Privett

Bishop's Council members had agreed the Suspensions to the following

Uniting of the Benefices of Portsdown & Purbrook with parish boundary changes

The proposed were outlined to Bishop's Council which had been in discussion for almost ten years. Two aspects for BC to consider, to give agreement for the DMPC to formally consult the interested parties under Section 6 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 on the union of the benefices of Portsdown and Purbrook and their constituent parishes; the appointment of the current priest in charge as first incumbent of the new benefice, the parsonage house to be that in the benefice of Purbrook and the future patronage arrangements for the new benefice, with the second point altering the areas of the parishes of Denmead All Saints, Paulsgrove St Michael, Portsdown Christ Church, Purbrook St John the Baptist and Southwick St James and Waterlooville, St George the Martyr as part of a land swap with the Squire of Southwick and Boarhunt that enables him to maintain the rural nature of his peculiar while enabling the new developments to all under the ministry and pastoral care of the parishes of Purbrook and Waterlooville..

Bishop's Council were invited to vote on the proposals for which there was unanimous agreement.

Jenny Hollingsworth
Deputy Diocesan Secretary
16 June 2022

Annex A

Most members of Synod would have met the members of Bishop's Council at the April meeting but for those not at the last Synod, the membership of Bishop's Council is as follows:

1. Ex Officio (8)

Bishop Jonathan – Chair
Anthony Cane – Dean of Portsmouth
Victoria James – Diocesan Secretary
Jenny Rowley – Archdeacon, Portsdown
Will Hughes – Acting Archdeacon, Meon
Allie Kerr – Acting Archdeacon, Isle of Wight
Debbie Sutton – Chair of the House of Laity & Vice Chair
Bob White – Chair of the House of Clergy & Vice Chair (also General Synod Member)

2. Bishop's Nominee (1)

Philip Poulter – Finance Chair

3. Members of the House of Clergy (7)

Bruce Deans – Fareham
Sam Martell – Gosport
Susie Collingridge – Petersfield
James Hunt – Bishop's Waltham
Andrew Hargreaves – Portsmouth (also General Synod Member)
Tom Kennar – Havant
Mark Williams – Isle of Wight

4. Members of the House of Laity (11)

Stuart Forster – Fareham
Lucy Docherty – Fareham (also General Synod Member)
Steve Smart – Gosport
Vanda Leary – Petersfield
Neil Chrimes - Petersfield
Adrian Jordan – Bishop's Waltham
Mark Emerton – Portsmouth
Irene James – Portsmouth
Simon Lemieux – Portsmouth
Coleen Jackson - Havant
James Bremridge – Isle of Wight

5. In attendance

General Synod Reps (who have not also been elected as members):

- Paul Chamberlain
- Rebecca Hunt
- Ian Johnston

Minute Secretary

Bishop's PA

Jenny Hollingsworth – Deputy Diocesan Secretary & Head of Strategic Implementation & Resources.

Other members of the staff team as required to support agenda items.