

Paper 3

Bishop's Council Update

Since the last meeting on 25 June of Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council has met three times on the 18 July, 20 September and the 19th October 2022.

Key Decisions Taken by Bishop's Council

Finance Matters

Lisa Streeeter, Finance Director, explained the budget modelling – there are three scenarios - optimistic (3% share increase), realistic (2019 share figures) and pessimistic (2021 share figures). Lisa advised that it is the time for a 1 year budget rather than 3 due to current uncertainty.

The motion to consider and advise whether BC were supportive of these assumptions for the preparation of the Budget modelling for 2023 was proposed.

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

Lisa updated the council on the Hardship Fund and advised the total funds for our Diocese would be £32k. It was proposed that a sub-committee would meet to look at the options of who would be eligible for this grant and report back to the council at the next meeting.

Bishop's Council were in unanimous support of this action.

At the following meeting it was proposed that the hardship fund would be made available for all Stipendiary and Diocesan employed staff. With the option to look at additional funding for Self-Supporting Ministers.

Bishop's Council were in unanimous support of this action.

Lisa spoke on cash flow projections to December 2023 and asked BC to approve a lumpsum repayment of £500,000 at the end of September 2022 and a further lumpsum repayment in principle of £500,000 by mid-December after further discussion and recommendations from the IAG

Bishop's Council members unanimously agreed to these payments.

The Council were asked to approve the recommendation to reappoint Haysmacintyre, as Auditors for the next triennium 2022-2024.

Unanimously agreed by all members of Bishop's Council.

Jenny Hollingsworth spoke to the Job Evaluation & Pay Award Framework and asked The Council to endorse the use of the job evaluation scoring system and the pay award framework.

Bishop's Council all in agreement.

Bishop Jonathan proposed the Budget for 2023 to be endorsed and recommended to Diocesan Synod for approval on the 5th November.

Bishop's Council all in agreement.

Bishop's Council were asked to approve the reduction in established stipendiary posts from 84.5 to 74.5

Bishop's Council members unanimously in agreement.

Bishop's Council were asked to consider what collection rate should be targeted for 2023 – 100% collection rate was approved.

Bishop's Council members unanimously in agreement.

Proposed Revision to the Standing Orders

The group is now up and running the terms of reference were provided to The Council and the council were happy to continue this work.

Unanimous support from Bishop's council to the proposal.

Safeguarding

It was noted that the safeguarding conference held at the Cathedral in September had been well received.

It was also confirmed that progress was being made on the review and closure of cases held on Safebase and the Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) has been published.

The safeguarding team is now much better resourced due to 2 recent appointments to the team. However, there is still a backlog of work in relation to the PCR2 cases. Bishop's Council were asked to consider and approve a 6 month fixed term post to work through this build up.

Bishop's Council were in unanimous support for this.

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.

Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee

Suspensions

Suspension of Gosport South

Suspension of Whiteley

Bishop's Council members had agreed to recommend that Bishop Jonathan consults on suspension

Uniting of the Benefices of St Saviour & Portsea The Ascension

The Council were asked to consider and approve formal consultation to be undertaken for the union of benefices and the union of parishes of Portsea, St Saviour and Portsea, The Ascension.

Bishop's Council recommended support was provided to the PCC's prior to giving consent for the consultation to take place.

Uniting of the Benefices of Cosham and Wymering

The Council were asked to consider and approve formal consultation to be undertaken for the union of benefices of Cosham and Wymering

Bishop's Council were in agreement.

Uniting of the Benefices of Portsdown and Purbrook

The Council were asked to consider and approve the draft proposals for the benefices of Portsdown and Purbrook and the parishes of Denmead; Paulsgrove, Portsdown, Purbrook Southwick and Waterlooville.

Bishop's Council were in agreement.

**Jenny Hollingsworth
Acting Diocesan Secretary
October 2022**