

**BISHOP'S COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE
and the Board of Directors of the
Bradford Diocesan Board of Finance**



**Minutes of the meeting of the above Council held
in the Board Room at Kadugli House on
Thursday 9 July 2009 at 7pm.**

Present: Bishop David James (Chairman)
Mrs Sharron Arnold
The Revd Paul Ayers
Mrs Janet Bower
Mr Geoffrey Garnett
The Very Revd David Ison
The Ven. David Lee
Mr Roger Marks
The Revd Canon David Mewis
Mr Mike Moss
The Revd Canon John Nowell
The Ven Paul Slater
The Revd Paul Tudge
Mrs Nora Whitham

In attendance: Mrs Debbie Child (Assistant Secretary)
Mr Peter Foskett (Diocesan Registrar)
Mr Ian Fletcher (Chairman, Church in the World)
Mr Stan Jenkins (Chairman, Ministry & Mission)
The Revd Canon Denise Poole (Bishop's Chaplain)
The Revd Canon Sam Randall (Bishop's Officer for Church in World)

The opening prayers were led by Janet Bower. The Council remembered Ian Hamilton, a friend and colleague, who died on Friday 3 July 2009 and whose memorial service will take place on Friday 17 July at Linton Parish Church at 2pm.

250. Apologies

Apologies were received from Peter Mayo-Smith, Ken Medhurst, Chris Wilcock, Diana Chambers, Malcolm Halliday and Jill Wright.

251. Declaration of non agenda-ed business

Geoff Garnett asked if the New Initiatives Fund could be included.

252. Minutes of the Council held on 8/9 May 2009

These were agreed.

253. Matters arising from the minutes

219a Environment Day

Ian Fletcher reported that this was now to be a Youth Environment Day.

222 English Heritage Project Worker

Debbie Child reported that Ripon & Leeds were up and running with a project worker but would consider sharing with Bradford when the staff member had completed 1 year in post. Wakefield has employed someone to do a similar role but not in association with English Heritage, as they found the job description quite restrictive.

It was agreed that we would wait until next year and look at the possibility of working with Ripon & Leeds on this.

232b PCC Financial Liability

Peter Foskett referred to the paper previously circulated showing the minute (258f) of the Finance Committee.

232c Cottingley Loan

Cottingley Cornerstone has received a mortgage offer of just over £1 million and a second offer has now been made by Future Builders. The negotiations are continuing and if either of these offers is accepted, repayment to the Diocese will then be possible. Work on completing the vicarage is now beginning.

Paul Ayers commented that the Cottingley loan position seemed opaque and he would like further background information. Bishop David asked if others thought the position was unclear and should be discussed at this point. One other person asked to discuss it, but *it was agreed that a paper prepared previously with background information could be circulated to members of the Bishop's Council.*

237a General Synod

Papers GS1771733A and B were noted.

254. Strategy paper for the Church Commissioners/'Future Faithful'

Bishop David explained that those people who were allocated tasks from the last draft of the 'Future Faithful' document were now looking to prioritise the various elements of this and he will then pull together a strategy based on reports from each department. Bishop David has asked Gillian Oliver, who is currently working on the Wedding Project, to produce a 'Future Faithful' brochure to send to parishes. A Lent course will be prepared. Responses from parishes to the 'Future Faithful' strategy will be based on questions on the Archdeacons' Visitation Articles of Enquiry 2010.

Bishop David is still to decide whether or not to meet with deanery synods or Churchwardens. His preference is to talk with Churchwardens who could then take this back to their PCCs. Some members of the Council agreed that meeting with Churchwardens would be a good idea. Peter Foskett was pleased that the 'Future Faithful' document was going to be more concise and therefore, accessible to more people.

The strategy paper for the Church Commissioners relates to the Commissioners asking for future plans of dioceses. 'Future Faithful' is the greater part of Bradford's document and this will be sent later on in the summer.

**255. Deanery Synod Membership and Quorum:
Letter from Bowling & Horton Deanery**

Bowling & Horton Deanery had written to request that Bishop's Council alters the rules for Deanery Synods so that a quorum becomes more easily achievable. At their last Synod only 5 clergy out of a pool of 24 attended the Deanery Synod which meant that they were not quorate. This is partly due to there being 7 NSMs who are licensed and who do not always attend the Synod.

Bishop David felt that there were issues to follow through with this, particularly after the discussion at Diocesan Synod where it had been decided after a vote by houses not to reduce the numbers. This needs further consideration, particularly in the light of low attendance and a low membership of committees.

Janet Bower said that things had changed; many clergy do not work full time and are not necessarily stipendiary. Has the system changed to accommodate this?

Ian Fletcher felt that there was an issue about what contribution people felt they could make through the synodical system and that Deanery Synods could not make a difference. Paul Tudge said he did not agree and he would need specific examples. Ian Fletcher considered that pastoral plans might be an example.

It would be possible to make some alterations to the quorum but not to change the rules entirely. Bishop David said that the Structures Review Group would need to identify the issues, of which there were several, but one of which would be the quoracy of Deanery Synods.

It was agreed that the Structures Review Group would be asked to follow this through and a reply sent to Bowling & Horton Deanery with this information.

256. Diocesan Day - Sense of Belonging

Bishop David said that although this year the Diocesan Day had been the best one ever, an excellent day - the numbers were slightly down. He said it was very costly and given that we are looking to cut our budget in other areas he felt that in the present climate this ought to be one of the cuts; however, a day for Ministry & Mission (the 2010 'Future Faithful' theme) was being considered - maybe in the Cathedral. John Nowell felt that the Diocesan Day

was too good to discontinue - it was a worthwhile unifying event for people in the Diocese. This was echoed by several people on the Bishop's Council.

The Council appeared to be generally in favour of maintaining the Diocesan Day and discussed various ways of funding it. There was a suggestion that we should charge for the event, that the collection could be put back into the event and that Deaneries might contribute, as had been suggested at Diocesan Synod.

It was agreed that the Diocesan Day would go ahead. There would be no charge but we would encourage people to donate on the day. The theme would be Ministry & Mission, focussing on vocations in general.

Sharron Arnold in the chair.

257 Financial Matters

a. Minutes of Finance Committee meetings 24 April 2009 and 6 June 2009

These were noted.

b. Matters arising from the minutes

Paul Ayers wished to comment on Cottingley Cornerstone, saying that it was flagged up in the Church Commissioner's Annual Report as a marvellous project, (and was it?) and we must be aware of the effect on the morale of other parishes of the things we promote and praise. It appears as though those working hard in parishes' day in, day out, offering ministry and mission in a more 'ordinary' way feel that this is not being seen as something to celebrate.

c. Income & Expenditure Review Group update

Paul Slater explained that the Income & Expenditure Review Group had reconvened as requested. It has had a couple of meetings and would be meeting with all the heads and chairs of the various departments looking to see specifically what effect budget cuts would have in each department. It is also looking at ideas for generating income.

Geoff Garnett wanted to know whether the information would be available about what the cuts would actually mean. A report will come to the September Bishop's Council from the Income & Expenditure Review Group; Bishop's Council will make any decisions about cuts.

Bishop David explained that Deanery Devolved Funds will continue. The money from the Church Commissioners will still go into Devolved Funding, but the Diocesan contribution of 25% will cease.

d. Any urgent Financial Business

The New Initiatives Group reported that the scheme for Tong and Holmewood 'Playing with Purpose' was one they were minded to

support; however, as the request was for £44,000 this was Bishop's Council decision. This is a project which has had a 6 month trial led by the Revd Betty Pedley who has recently retired from Wakefield Diocese and has a considerable amount of expertise in working with children. She has been managing this project and they are now assessing this way forward after the trial. They need to secure a considerable amount of funding to go with the funding requested from the DBF. Since the application they have found that Children in Need will not be offering any more funding because it has already given support to the Youth Outreach project in Holmewood.

Paul Ayers wanted to oppose this. Few parishes can get grants in the way that Holmewood can because of its deprivation status and he felt that money would be more readily available elsewhere and it was unfair to deprive parishes which had less chance of getting grants from beyond the Diocese. David Lee said that there was quite a lot of money in the fund not yet drawn down so it was not depriving others. Sam Randall felt that there would be a lot of other funders waiting to see if other funds were received; New Initiatives Fund cash would be a good 'pump-primer'. John Nowell felt that if there was some spare cash in the New Initiatives Fund then it ought to come back to the Diocese to balance the books.

Bishop's Council voted on whether or not to support the recommendation of the NI Group:

11 in favour, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

Sharron reported that she and John Nowell went on a training course to understand financial accounts, but they decided that it was not suitable as a training event for directors. Something more specific should be found.

Bishop David in the chair.

258. Bishop's matters

Bishop David reported that Ian Hamilton had been the Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee and that we would need to appoint a new Chair.

Paul Tudge proposed David Ison. This was seconded by David Lee and agreed by the Bishop's Council.

259. Board of Education matters

David Lee reported that Diana Chambers had stepped down as Chair of the Board of Governors of Immanuel after 5 years. The Board was hugely appreciative of all that Diana had done through a very difficult time for the school.

David Crowther, who was previously the Vice Chair, has been appointed as the new Chair.

Bishop David told the Council that he had set up a prize in the school from his discretionary fund, the 'Diana Chambers Extra Mile' prize.

260. Church in the World matters

Sam Randall promoted an event at St Paul's, Manningham on 11 July 2009.

261. Ministry & Mission matters

Stan Jenkins reported that this was the 40th anniversary of women Readers. He wondered if it was possible for our women Readers to lead worship at Synod in order to mark this occasion. At the Readers' Triennial Service in September, Chris Shedd will take over as Warden of Readers from Paul Booth.

262. Communication matters

David Lee pointed out that there had been problems with emails at bradford.anglican.org for a full week and a paper had been tabled to show how this was going to be addressed.

Denise Poole thanked Chris Wright for the huge amount of work he has done over the years and the Bishop's Council offered their thanks for this and that he has worked 24/7 in order to get this difficulty sorted.

Ian Fletcher and Mike Moss were of the view that an organisation of this size now requires some professional support.

Mike Moss offered a vote of thanks to Debbie Child in producing the Annual Review 2008 but said that we needed to encourage more input with some good photographs and more information sent in for next year. He reminded the Council again that Newsround was likely to cost us £10,000 this year although Debbie was investigating other ways of producing it. No conclusions had yet been reached, but such a large deficit needs to be taken very seriously. Bishop David mentioned that at his meeting with the Church Commissioners he had circulated our Annual Review and this had been very well received.

263. Farewells - the end of the triennium

Janet Bower was retiring from the Bishop's Council after at least 21 years' service. Bishop David offered his thanks to her for her dedication and to everyone for their contributions over the last 3 years.

264. Matters to pass to the new Bishop's Council

These were noted.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm with prayers from the Bishop.

**Date of next meeting:
25/26 September 2009 at
Parcevall Hall**