

Minutes of the meeting of the above body  
held on Thursday 29 March, 2007 at Kadugli House.

**Present:**

- The Revd Canon John Nowell (in the Chair)
- Mrs Sharron Arnold
- The Revd Paul Ayers
- Mrs Janet Bower
- Mr Geoffrey Garnett
- Mr David Gibson
- Mr Ian Hamilton
- Mr Tony Hesselwood
- Mr Stanley Jenkins
- The Revd Eric Kyte
- The Ven. David Lee
- Mr Roger Marks
- The Revd Canon Ken Medhurst
- Mr Mike Moss
- The Revd Colin Penfold
- The Ven. Paul Slater
- The Revd Paul Tudge
- Mrs Nora Whitham
- Mr Chris Wilcock
- Mrs Jill Wright

**In attendance:**

- Mr Malcolm Halliday (Diocesan Secretary)
- Mrs Debbie Child (Assistant Synod Secretary)
- Mr Peter Foskett (Registrar)
- Mr Stanley Jenkins (Chair Ministry & Mission)
- Ms Kersten England (Chair Church in the World)
- The Revd Canon Sam Randall (Bishop's Officer – Church in the World)

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

- The Rt Revd David James
- The Very Revd David Ison
- The Revd Canon Denise Poole (Bishop's Chaplain)

Opening prayers were led by Sam Randall.

## **52 Welcomes and Introductions**

The Revd Canon John Nowell was in the Chair in the absence of the Bishop.

The Secretary read a confidential minute relating to the previous meeting and also announced that the Revd Kevin Tromans had resigned from the Council pending his move to Durham.

**53. Declarations of non-agenda-ed significant business.**  
There was none.

## 54 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February, 2007.

These minutes were agreed.

There was a query from the Archdeacon of Bradford regarding by-elections following Kevin Tromans' resignation. The Secretary said that these would be run later in the year.

## 55 Matters arising from the Minutes

### a). Environmental matters –bulb library (41E).

Sam Randall reported that a company in Baildon/ShIPLEY was helping the Environmental Group to set this up and it would be up and running soon.

### b). Reviews membership to note

The Secretary referred to the purple paper detailing the terms and the members of both Review Groups. He said that there would need to be another member found for the Income and Expenditure Review from the Otley Deanery, as the first person asked has since declined. He pointed out that the terms had been previously circulated and there had been no response, so they remain as they were. Paul Ayers said that he was disappointed that these reviews were being done by two separate groups of people, as he felt that there was a huge overlap in the work and he wanted to ensure that these groups communicated with each other.

### c). Review of See House (48)

The Secretary reported that as yet he has heard nothing from London. He has tried to contact the Commissioners but has had no response.

### d). Communications Review – progress of final report (49c).

The Archdeacon of Bradford told the Council that the Review Group was expecting to report by the Bishop's Council meeting of the 12 July.

## 56 Diocesan Synod Matters:

### a) Matters arising from 10 March.

The Secretary said that at future meetings we would hope to have somebody to manage the new PA system and it had also been suggested that a microphone should be placed at the back of the room as well as at the lectern. The Chief Executive of the Skipton Building Society had been thanked for allowing us to use the building, and he had responded very positively, saying that they would be able to accommodate us again.

### b) Proposed Synod Motions

The Secretary required a decision from the Council about whether to take all three motions together or whether they should go to more than one Synod. The Agenda Group had felt that perhaps it would be more sensible to spread them. Motion 1, which he suggests we might take in the summer, would require a background paper and someone to propose it, as Gordon Dey was not a member of Synod.

*It was agreed that, with Synod's permission, Gordon would be allowed to speak to the proposal.*

### c) The Private Members Motion

This has the requisite number of signatures and so should now go to the June synod. Paul Ayers felt differently. He said that motion 1 is already being dealt with by the Income and Expenditure Review and although motion 3 is important, he felt that motion 2 was more important. Posts are being advertised and recruitment is ongoing, but there does not seem to be a system in place to deal with recruiting to clusters; he feels therefore Motion 2 is the most urgent, because of lack of processes in place at the moment. Tony Hesselwood felt that this was not the case and that motion 1 was a motion en route to General Synod. Janet Bower agreed that Motion 1 was not for us and could be fast tracked, but she felt there was a democratic principle at stake if we didn't take all three in June. There was considerable discussion about the different motions - when they would come to Synod and if they should be split, but in the end it was agreed that all 3 motions should go to the June Synod. The Secretary pointed out that the June Synod was a half day synod and that a full day would now be required. The Chairman said that before any decisions were made about the motions, we should consider the previous Bishop's Council motion requiring half day synods.

*It was proposed by Jill Wright and seconded by Roger Marks that half day synods would return to three full day synods with immediate effect. This was unanimous.  
The Council then agreed to take all three of the motions in June.*

The Secretary asked if the Council was going to take a view on these motions and prepare something for Synod. For example will Ministry and Mission look at motion 3. Paul Slater agreed to refer it.

**57 New Initiatives – proposals of Grants Group – (BISCOU/07/09).**

Eric Kyte referred to the tabled sheet (not BISCOU/07/09). He told the Council that the Group were not assuming any future funding at this stage, and the grants which had been agreed were using previous allocations of funding. The Group had three projects that they wished to recommend to Bishop's Council:

**1. Grace Space**

Grace Space in partnership with Merriot Leisure Centre wanted to employ a half-time lifestyle co-ordinator for their 'Fit Lives' project. The initial application was for £33,000, over 3 years, but because of a lack of funds, we are only in a position to offer a third of that. Eric had explained to Grace Space that if more funding became available they could re-apply for additional funds.

*The Council agreed the grant of £11,100 to Grace Space.*

**2. St Mary's Laisterdyke – Mission to Children Post.**

This is an application for funding towards a full-time post and there are several other elements which would need to be in place before it could happen. Agreement in principle can be given and the grant will only be made available if other funds are also in place.

*The Council agreed in principle to the grant.*

**3. St Lawrence Pudsey – 'Youth Minister'**

The Revd Paul Ayers declared an interest in this item. An application for a grant of £17,500 in total for a youth worker in Pudsey, made up of £10,000 in 2007, £6,500 in 2008, £1,000 in 2009. Paul Tudge pointed out that as Pudsey's share was capped, there would not be an employment allowance taken into consideration and he asked if this would effect their funding of the project. Eric replied that the Council only has to make a decision on whether or not to grant this money, not how Pudsey funded the rest.

*It was agreed that a grant of £17,500 would be available for the Pudsey Youth Minister.*

**58 Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy (BISCOU/07/10).**

Debbie Child introduced the revised Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy, explaining that this had come to Synod a couple of years ago, but some changes had been announced on the floor of Synod and so it was sent back to the Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Group to agree the appropriate changes. Debbie told the group that since then a Vulnerable Adult's Adviser had been appointed - Dr Tony Wellsted from St Peter's, Shipley and also that the House of Bishops had produced their policy on safe guarding adults, which this policy had been checked against. Debbie said that there were few changes except the addition of appendices at the back of the document, most of which, were taken directly from Promoting a Safe Church (the House of Bishops policy for safeguarding adults in the Church of England). The other change was regarding spiritual abuse, where the Adviser felt concern that exorcisms and other kinds of deliverance ministry may have been carried out without the Diocesan Adviser for that ministry being involved.

Janet Bower felt that on page 2, paragraph 3, religion should be added to cultural and racial background and religion should also be added on the bottom of page 3 under discrimination. She felt that on page 5, paragraph 1, housebound shouldn't be used, and should be replaced by home communion. Paul Ayers disagreed and hoped that religion wouldn't simply be added in, but would be discussed by the group. Ian Hamilton felt that this was a very difficult policy to implement, as we could not define exactly what a vulnerable adult is. Kersten England said that this policy is very important, as there is much abuse of elderly people in our communities which must not be ignored. She hoped that this was not just seen to be a paper exercise and asked what we were going to do in order to make sure it works in practice. It was left to Debbie and Nora to sort out the detail of any changes and to bring it back to the next Bishop's Council.

**59 Financial Matters** (*Tony Hesselwood in the Chair for this item*)

- a. Minutes of Finance Committee meeting of 22 January 2007  
These were noted
- B Matters arising  
There were none
- C Any other urgent business  
There was none.

**60 Redundant Churches "A Proposal"** (see BISCOU/07/11) *Ian Hamilton in the Chair* (this item only)

John Nowell explained that there are now seven redundant churches, which the Diocesan Redundant Churches Uses Committee is charged with disposing of. He explained that the DAC & Redundant Churches Secretary was giving additional hours to deal with this work; which is taking a huge amount of time. The proposal on the BISCOU/07/11 was that someone be employed to deal with some of the administration related to the disposal of churches and contents and paid a fee, and this fee and any other costs would be deducted from the sale proceeds before they are distributed. The Chair asked if the Diocesan Secretary and the Archdeacons were happy with this proposal, all of whom were in agreement. Geoff Garnett was concerned about who would set fees and charges if this was outsourced, and he hoped that they would not be set too high. Tony Hesselwood said that we are under a statutory obligation to deal with these churches and their contents and we have always been able to charge for this work against the sale. Paul Ayers felt that it would be good to move this work on and he supports the idea.

*This was agreed unanimously by the Council.*

Tony Hesselwood registered his concern that the Council is putting staff in an environment where they feel they cannot have the support of the Council for anything that might involve additional expenditure. He said that having put a moratorium on spending, staff now felt that standard procedures involving what seemed to be additional expense must come to Bishop's Council for approval.

**61 2006 Reports: - The Diocesan Secretary proposes the following;**

The Secretary explained that the statutory accounts are becoming more and more complex and instead of the full statutory accounts going to everyone, he would like a limited circulation to DBF members (statutory requirement); he would then like an edited financial statement and the usual committee reports to be circulated, as we would have previous annual report & accounts; (1 copy to the PCC for circulation amongst members), and then a third document - an A2 folded leaflet which would have pictures and a brief summary of most areas of Diocesan life. He asked the Council for their view on this exercise which he hoped would improve communication, but would also prevent very complex material going to huge amounts of people. He pointed out that there would be a reduction in the pages of the statutory accounts and that some of this funding may go towards the production of the leaflet. Mike Moss commented that it was a brilliant idea; Colin Penfold suggested an efficient way to distribute the leaflet would be to send it out with Newsround. Jill Wright disagreed saying this was a completely different constituency and it should go directly to the parishes.

*It was agreed to produce the 2006 Reports as three different documents:-*

- a. Statutory Accounts – limited circulation to DBF members*
- b. Edited financial statement and usual full committee reports – one copy to PCC for circulation*
- c. A2 size folded leaflet with brief summary of each area of diocesan life – wide circulation.*

**62 Brief reports**

**a) Appointments matters**

The Secretary informed the Council that the Bishop's Chaplain had chosen not to have a DBF contract and to have an 'at pleasure' licence from the Bishop. He was concerned that this meant that she would be very vulnerable should the Bishop move or if any problems arose in relation to her work.

**b) Church in the World matters**

Kersten England said that she would like to recognise the work Jill Wright had done as previous chairperson.

She mentioned the Away Day on 14 April to look at the future priorities of Church in the World, saying she was conscious that there is so much work going on, they may need to rethink the priorities. Sam flagged up the Diocesan Day and said that although the closing date was this weekend, there were few returns, so he had sent out reminders.

**c) Ministry and Mission matters**

Paul Slater said that the Synodical Committee had not met since the last Bishop's Council and when they next meet they will be setting their priorities.

**d) Communications Working Team matters**

Mike Moss talked about succession planning in various areas of communication. John Shaw (marketing for Newsround) had previously indicated that he was ready to hand over this role; however he would be happy to continue for a while if he could work with and prepare someone to take on the role. They will be looking for suggestions and advertising for a volunteer to take this on. Newsround has also been asking for help and two new volunteers had come forward. There is a need for someone to work alongside Chris on the website, who would eventually be able to take over when Chris felt ready to relinquish the webmaster's role. David Markham has been dealing with Newsround for a very long time and we should begin to plan for a successor there too. Chris offered his thanks to Andrew Steele for looking after the website when he was in Sudan. Alison Bogle had asked for feed back on the announce list - is it at the right level?

**63 Future Council and Synod Business – (BISCOU/07/12)**

The Secretary said it had been agreed earlier that the summer Synod will now be a full day. He assumed that there would be no budget at that Synod as we would be waiting for the results of the reviews. There was concern that we may put pressure on the Review Groups to respond in time to produce a budget and perhaps the 2008 budget will have to be an interim arrangement. Mike Moss felt that the budget would need to come to the summer Synod.

*It was agreed that the 2007 budget adjusted or with modifications would be the budget at present for 2008. It may require adjustment when the review groups feed back.*

Colin Penfold raised the issue of synod worship in November and asked if it was possible for that to reflect the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the link with Erfurt.

*This was agreed.*

Paul Ayers said that he hoped that the update on pastoral strategy at Synod would be one where there would be some opportunity for serious discussion. He wished to raise again that the Dean's report on Diocesan Strategy was not a diocesan report and as there is no future work proposed on this, he was concerned that the work of the various committees is not reflected clearly in this report.

He thought that Clergy Terms of Service should be discussed, as he is concerned about whether we will be able to deliver what is implicit in the new terms.

Janet Bower feels that Woman in the Episcopate should perhaps move to March.

Tony Hesselwood said that the Income and Expenditure Group should be looking at what is coming up nationally, and consider any new requirements which may require funding.

David Lee said that the Communications Review Group would report back on the 12 July.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Friday 4 to Saturday 5 May at Parcevall Hall at 6 p.m.**

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.02pm