

**REPORT ON MEETING OF CASHEL FERNS AND OSSORY DIOCESAN COUNCIL
ON FRIDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2014**

A meeting of Cashel Ferns and Ossory Diocesan Council was held at the Millrace Hotel, Bunclody on Friday 26th September 2014 at 7 p.m. with the Right Revd Michael Burrows in the Chair.

The meeting opened with Prayer.

The Bishop extended good wishes to Denise Hughes who is not yet ready to return to work. The Bishop reported that the updated draft Diocesan Rules had been checked by Charles Galloway and with very little alteration been approved. He thanked The O'Morchoe and Peter Clifton-Browne for their input and informed the meeting that the Rules as amended would be available on the Diocesan Website before being put to the Diocesan Synod.

GLEBES AND PROPERTY

Ferns District

It was reported that work on the old School at Ballycanew had been completed. The Diocesan Architect had attended the last meeting of the Committee and had complimented the parishes for carrying out the work as recommended by him. .

Cashel/Ossory South and North

Provisional approval was being sought for work on replacement of windows in St Peter's Church Mountrath. Estimates and drawings will be submitted in due course and reported to Council. Vacancy Inspections have taken place on Rathdowney and Templemore Glebes. Work is currently being carried out on St Mary's Parochial Hall in Clonmel with potential for outreach to the community. The efforts of the Parishioners to raise funds for the restoration work continues.

A programme of significant restoration is being undertaken at Myshall

The Council considered project applications likely to be made from this diocese to the Priorities Fund by the 31st October deadline

FINANCE:

The Diocesan Accountant gave a very detailed account of the Diocesan Finances for the past year. Surpluses and deficits were as projected and it was agreed that the Accounts be approved and appended to the Diocesan Report. He stressed that it was as accurate as possible before taking into consideration vacancy, savings, etc. The importance of gaining maximum benefit from revised methods for tax efficient giving was again emphasised. The Bishop thanked Leslie Moynan for a very detailed presentation and for all his work throughout the year.

DIOCESAN REPORT:

The Diocesan Council Book of Reports will be sent to all synod members and it was agreed unanimously that the Council report would be proposed to Synod by Archdeacon Orr and seconded by Robbie Syme.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Elections to take place at Synod include:

Diocesan Synod : 2 Clerical Honorary Secretaries; 2 Lay Honorary Secretaries; 2 Lay Honorary Treasurers.

Diocesan Court: 3 Clergy Members; 3 Lay Members.

RCB Membership: 1 Clerical; 1 Lay.

Cashel and Ossory District Boards of Education will also be elected while Ferns District must be elected by Voting Paper according to the Rules of the Board.

NATIONAL PLOUGHING:

The Bishop then commended all involved with the Stand at the Ploughing Championships and described it as colourful and welcoming. He thanked Archdeacon Orr in particular for all his involvement. A contribution of €2,500 was received from the central Church with contributions from other Dioceses which have been acknowledged. He felt it had been very worthwhile and affirmed the fact that we must 'be there' in the future. Archdeacon Orr, advised that planning should start much earlier and he thanked in particular the Revd Nicola Halford, the Revd Alec Purser and Herbie Sharman for all their help.

RETIREMENT:

The Bishop announced that Billy Kingston was retiring from Diocesan Synod, the Council and the position of lay honorary treasurer. He paid tribute to Billy for the huge contribution he had made over the years. He thanked him for his generosity and great kindness and likened him to Barnabas, referring to him as a 'good man'. Billy replied by saying it had been a great journey of 29 years. He had enjoyed every year thanking the Bishop for his kindness and encouragement at all times.

This concluded the business of the meeting which ended with Prayer.