

DIOCESE OF CASHEL FERNS AND OSSORY
ABRIDGED MINUTES OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 21st JANUARY, 2014
AT THE HERITAGE COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, KILKENNY.

The Meeting was opened with prayer by the Venerable C.W Long, Commissary for Ferns. In the absence of the Bishop, at present on sabbatical, the Venerable J.G. Murray. Commissary for Cashel & Ossory, took the chair for this meeting.

Archdeacon Murray welcomed all to the first Council Meeting of the Single Diocese in Kilkenny and the Diocese of Ossory, the inaugural one having taken place in the Diocese of Leighlin.

See House Committee: The Secretary confirmed that it was in order to elect Mr P. Clifton-Brown as Council's Representative to the See House Committee in place of the now retired Canon G. Cliffe. The Committee will thus read: Council Representatives: Mr P. Clifton Brown; Mr W. Masterson (Gorey); Mrs D. Hughes (Bishop's Nominee).

It was agreed that the Revd G. Cliffe to act as consultant to the Committee.

Diocesan Website Developments: Mrs Hughes was asked to write to Mr H. Sharman on behalf of Council to send good wishes for his recovery from a re-occurrence of his leukaemia condition. A communication had been received from Mr Sharman and the Revd Canon Susan Green read the communication to Council which indicated that he hopes to continue in his role as Editor of the Diocesan Magazine but his role of DCO may be a little restricted. He will continue to inform press of important diocesan matters and supply Church of Ireland Gazette with matters when relevant.

The new website is now available for view offline at <http://cashel.anglican.org/wp/wordpress/> with work being carried out by Mr S. McLaughlin of Bandon, Co. Cork.

Re motion passed at Diocesan Synod 2013: *'that this Diocesan Council takes steps to evaluate how lay ministry in the diocese is enabled and supported.'* After presentation by Mr Borthistle and Ms Stephens on the document, discussion took place and it was agreed that the its contents be accepted and approved in principle and that the group meet again and report back to next Council Meeting.

Financial Matters: The Treasurer reported on outstanding Assessments.

Glebes & Property:

Ferns Area: the tower at St Iberius Church, Wexford, found to be in a dangerous condition and is in process of being repaired

The Old School at Ballycanew (Gorey Group) is being restored to be used as a Parish Centre. The Council was informed that due to very serious deterioration to the tower at St John's Church, Ardamine, the church is now closed until damage is assessed and costs for restoration determined.

South Area:

The Knox Hall, Templemore Union of Parishes, Diocese of Cashel. Permission was given to the Union Select Vestry to enter into negotiations for the leasing of the property to the Thurles Dementia Support Project Group.

Kathleen Day Bequest is available for repairs to churches in the Dioceses of Ossory, Ferns & Leighlin and is administered in Cashel and Ossory with the assistance of Mr Clifton Brown. Application Forms showing Terms and Conditions are available from the Diocesan Office in Kilkenny or Mr Clifton Brown (by email, if requested) and the closing date for receipt of applications is 31st March annually.

For Ferns Diocese Application Forms are available from Mrs G. Rothwell.

North Area:

Repairs being carried out to the Rectory in Baltinglass and all finance to cover costs in place. Quinquennial Inspection took place in November on the Rectory at Fenagh, Co. Carlow, and house in very good condition.

Quinquennial Inspection to be carried out at Rectory in Abbeyleix, shortly.

A Vacancy Inspection took place on Rectory at Piltown, Fiddown Union of Parishes, and house is in good condition.

Work on Cashel Deanery nearing completion.

Roof on the new Rectory at Stradbally, Co. Laois, now in place.

Report on Treasurers' Meetings: held November 2013 in Abbeyleix and Bunclody:

It was reported that these proved very successful and was chaired by the Treasurer and the Revd Canon I. Poulton. The matter of good stewardship was emphasised by Canon Poulton and the Treasurer had outlined the changes in Tax Relief and Charitable Donations and also the matter of good accountancy practice for Select Vestries.

Remarks from the Chair:

- The Chairman complimented the work of the Bishops' Appeal in the Diocese and thanked Mr W. Kingston and Ms V. Power for all their efforts. Mr Kingston reported the following: Total Amounts for 2013: Cashel & Ossory €47,246 and Ferns €14,447.
- Interest was encouraged in the special Conference being held on 31st March on Human Sexuality. Cashel Ferns & Ossory share this with the Dioceses of Kilmore & Connor and the Venue: Emmaus Centre, Swords, Co. Dublin. 20 Clergy and 40 Laity will represent this Diocese and more lay names still are required.
- Council was informed that a Bill will be brought to General Synod 2014 in the name of this Diocese. It concerns the make up of Select Vestries and follows agreement on the formation of Unions.
- The Venerable C. Long formally announced that the Venerable J. Murray will retire from active duty on 31st March 2014 and that this was his last Council Meeting. Many tributes have already been paid to Archdeacon Murray for his contribution and work for the Diocese and this was echoed by all present. Unfortunately he will not be present at the March Council so it was agreed that he should be asked to be present at the May Meeting of Council for appropriate acknowledgements etc. and he had agreed to this.

There being no further business the Meeting closed with the saying of The Grace.