

**DIOCESE OF CASHEL FERNS AND OSSORY  
MINUTES OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY 31st MARCH, 2014**

**THE RHU GLENN HOTEL, SLIEVERUE, CO. KILKENNY.**

The Meeting opened with prayer by the Chairperson, the Right Revd M. A. J. Burrows who welcomed all. He wished the new Archdeacon designate, the Revd A. D. H. Orr well in his new role when taken up on the retirement of Archdeacon Murray, and also the 'extended' role of Archdeacon C. Long who will be responsible for the Diocese of Waterford & Lismore and much of Cashel, in addition to his present area of Ferns. He thanked the Ferns Diocesan Secretary for organising the meeting in the venue.

**Tripartite Conference re human sexuality with Kilmore and Connor:** The Very Revd K. M. Poulton thanked all the delegates from this Diocese who attended. Discussions will be ongoing re this matter and remarked that it is good to talk and listen to each others' points. The Bishop thanked the Dean of Ossory and the Revd Canon B. Gray for their assistance in organising the day.

**Lay Ministry:** Mr Borthistle outlined some points on his vision for lay ministry in the aftermath of his motion at the last diocesan Synod. The Chairman felt it might be helpful and encouraged those directly involved with the original Motion to Synod to consider a submission to the General Synod Commission on Ministry.

**Management of Health and Safety in Parishes:** Would there be merit in finding a service provider who would be contracted to deliver consistent and practical advice to parishes who would be competent to certify compliance on the matter of Health & Safety? This had been raised by the RCB and steps were taken to consider the matter further locally

**Participation at the 2014 National Ploughing Championships:** Discussion on our needs in terms of space at this event. The view was expressed that this is a matter of national significance and if the venue is to remain fixed for a number of years at least some of the cost should be carried by the wider church rather than being shouldered only by this diocese

**Financial Matters:** Concern expressed on the matter of assessments and future financial commitments for the Diocese. Youth Grants: These have to be applied for before 11th April. Vacancies on the Diocesan Finance Committee: It was agreed that the Archdeacon Designate of Ossory & Leighlin, the Revd A. Orr be elected to the Finance Committee. The other vacancy to remain unfilled for the time being. Discussion on vacancies and likely forthcoming Boards of Nomination took place.

**Glebes & Properties Committees:** Ferns: among matters discussed: old school redevelopment in Ballycanew, and the importance of the quinquennial inspections, Cashel & Ossory – North: matters: discussed: the roof of Cashel Cathedral and repairs to Rathdowney Church.

Cashel & Ossory – South: matters discussed: repairs to Baltinglass Rectory, the doors at Ballyfin Church, the new rectory at Stradbally, Co. Laois

**Reports:** Bishops' Appeal: Ms Valerie Power, Ferns Bishops' Appeal Representative, was welcomed to the meeting and she thanked all for their support of the cause over the year. She and Mr Bill Kingston of Cashel/Ossory reviewed the progress of the Appeal in recent times. A constant message was that generous support for emergency appeals needed to be balanced by regular contributions to general funds to assist sustainable development.

**Children's Ministry:** Three new Sunday Schools have been set up in the Diocese, Ms Lydia Monds now works part-time with Children's Ministry (in addition to her work with Bishops' Appeal), a new and updated Children's Ministry Website, training will be held in November for Sunday School Teachers, Safeguarding Trust Training Days continue, the three year Parish Evaluation for all Unions/ Groups will recommence in the summer All serving clergy, and those with permission to officiate, are at present undergoing Garda Vetting voluntarily especially those who had been in office prior to September 2006 and for whom retrospective vetting had not hitherto been possible

**Diocesan Rules:** The Bishop had redrafted and updated the Diocesan Rules and these will be discussed in detail at the July meeting

**Diocesan Synod 2014:** This will take place on Wednesday 22nd October in Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny. It was agreed that at the next Council Meeting a decision be made as regards how many honorary secretaries and treasurers are necessary for the Diocesan Synod. It was also agreed to finalise arrangements for the triennial elections to be made by the Diocesan Synod this year (for example to the General Synod) at the next meeting

**Chairperson's Remarks:** Two Bills will be proposed to General Synod from this Diocese: wording to be that all parochial nominators should include at least one male and one female. The second will follow from the setting up of unions some years ago and numbers on select vestries, etc.

The Bishop thanked all for according him the opportunity to take his recent Sabbatical.

The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace.