

DIOCESE OF CASHEL FERNS AND OSSORY
ABRIDGED MINUTES OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 22nd MAY, 2014 IN THE NEWPARK HOTEL, KILKENNY.

Presentation: The meeting opened with prayer by the Bishop, the Right Revd M. A. J. Burrows. Council members had met earlier when a reception was hosted by the Diocese in honour of the retired Archdeacon J. G. Murray, and his wife Irene. Archdeacon C. Long and Mr S. R. Harper had both outlined John Murray's career in the Diocese and how both he and his wife Irene were held in such high esteem. A presentation on behalf of the Diocese was made by Bishop Burrows and the two diocesan secretaries presented Mrs Murray with a basket of flowers. The Revd John and Mrs Irene Murray then left and the business of Council commenced.

Present was **Mr Charles Galloway** the Diocesan Assessor.

Health & Safety Compliance: it was agreed to speak with the Revd R. Greene asking him to check with the Dean of Waterford how best to carry out the various suggestions.

A complete set of **Rural Deanery Reports** will shortly be sent out to each Select Vestry. Diocesan participation in the **2014 National Ploughing Championships** to be held in Stradbally, Co. Laois, later in the year hopefully situated adjacent to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Leighlin & Kildare. It was felt that our participation was in fact on behalf of the entire Church of Ireland, and all other dioceses be written to seeking some financial support and also to seek support, particularly under the umbrella for the GS Council for Mission.

Finance: Mr. L. Moynan reported the situation regarding outstanding assessments.

The **Census** which was carried out in November 2013 by the General Synod Office is not yet published. The Diocesan Finance Committee recommends that for Assessment 2015 the Census carried out in the Diocese in 2011 be used for one further year for assessment.

The Council was given an update on the situation re **Boards of Nomination** and **vacancies**.

The Bishop reported that he had placed an advertisement in the Church of Ireland Gazette asking submissions from those who would be interested in part-time ministry in this Diocese.

Youth Grants 2014: the following be awarded: Tullow/Baltinglass & Kiltegan, Killeslin/Carlow & Castlecomer, Waterford/ W.I.T and also the Wexford Area.

Glebes & Property: the subjects of inspections, sale of glebe, development of property and various repairs to be carried out were all discussed.

Reports:

Adult Education / CME: Lay Reader training continues; Advent Sunday is the suggested date for Commissioning of Readers; the various courses available were outlined.

Green Issues: The 2014 Competition, closing date – end of September 2014; Environmental Audits of Parishes recommended; the wider church is producing a Green Charter on Green & environmental issues; a Diocesan Trip to Cloughjordan (Eco Village) is being organised for the Autumn 2014.

Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers of the 'united' Diocese: it was agreed that as and from the Diocesan Synod 2014 the following be elected: two (2) Lay Honorary Secretaries / two (2) Clerical Honorary Secretaries / two (2) Lay Honorary Treasurers. The Bishop then advised all that the Diocesan Secretaries will provide a full list of elected synodpersons from all Unions/Groups and at the July meeting of Council membership of coopted synodpersons will be added and particularly asked that names of persons, willing to serve as a synodperson, should be sought by all.

A draft document of the **Diocesan Rules & Regulations** as prepared by the Bishop was made available for study and members are to come back to the July Meeting with comments/recommendations etc.

General Synod 2014 – comments: Dublin venue unsuitable, particularly for those with walking difficulties; Friday afternoon bad day for break-out sessions; Business could have been done in shorter time (two days?); Decisions made when only attendance small; congratulations to Bishop for his address at the opening service.

Chairman's Remarks:

He wished the retiring principal of Enniscorthy National School, Mrs M. Jacob, also a member of Council, every happiness for the future.

The resignation of the present principal of Kilkenny College – Mr I. Coombes will conclude his tenure at the end of June 2014 and return as principal to Bandon Grammar School.
There being no further business the meeting closed with The Grace.