

CARLISLE DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED

Minutes of a meeting of the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd held at Newton Rigg on Tuesday, 20th June 2017.

B 17/05 ATTENDANCE

66 members were present and 20 apologies for absence were received.

B 17/06 MINUTES – DBF 17/02

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2017 were approved and signed.

B 17/07 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Canon Jayne referred to the second paragraph of his remarks at the March meeting about attendance at the Finance Committee. As a small Committee, any occasions on which members were absent could have an impact on its effectiveness. He reiterated that he did not intend to continue as Chair beyond 2017 so it was time to look at succession planning. The Finance Committee needed to review its approach to membership in terms of its skills and succession. The Venerable Richard Pratt was leading work on this. It had been ten years since the DBF's restructure and the formation of the Committee and it was now appropriate to see if the arrangements for its membership were still right. The members of Synod/DBF could expect further news on that front as work was taken forward. He drew attention to the trifold leaflet which set out the financial highlights of the previous year along with other information about the Board of Finance and its Directors and Trustees.

B 17/08 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE & QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR – FC 17/19 & FC 17/41

The minutes of the Finance Committee meetings held on Wednesday, 25th January and Wednesday, 15th March 2017 were received.

There was a question arising from the March meeting about budget proposals for the training of self-supporting ministers and how much they cost once they had been ordained. The Chair said that unless these ministers were in House for Duty posts the ongoing central costs were small, relating only to continuing ministerial development.

There was also a question over whether enough people would come forward for ordination training to fulfil the goals of our strategy for ministry. The training required a significant commitment and sacrifice from candidates and their families. The Chair said that this was something we could not answer for certain: the answer was in the hands of the Lord and the people who He called to this work. We now had a Vocations Team working in the Diocese at a level of activity which had not been seen for a long time. A member of Synod who was a self-supporting minister commented that without the support of his family he would not have been able to become ordained and exercise his ministry. Canon Jayne recognised the commitment of self-supporting ministers and also thanked the spouses of those who had chosen this form of ministry.

B 17/09 DIOCESAN BUDGET 2018 -20

Canon Jayne reported that the budget situation was difficult. We were now planning for the last three years of the 2015-2020 budget period. On current trends, over that period we would see a deficit of £750,000 with clergy numbers currently somewhat above the 2020 target number. He assured members that the Trustees would not shirk their responsibilities to manage the Diocesan finances carefully.

Budget holders were aware that the Finance Committee was monitoring expenditure across the board very carefully, including the stipend budget, Rydal Hall and Cumbria Christian Learning. As far as stipends were concerned there were some situations in which we had been able to help people who wanted to move on or take early retirement and this would bring actual clergy numbers closer to the target figures.

The Trustees were looking at financial projections beyond 2020 to see what would happen in 2021 and 2022 if patterns of expenditure and income continued on current lines. They were also reviewing expenditure and income to identify where savings could be made and additional income generated. The parsonages budget could be supported by renting every house when it was empty. Selling houses and other property which was not needed would release capital for investment. Clergy numbers to 2020 would be looked at again. Thinking was underway about a relaunch of stewardship in the coming year. Parish offer was to be reviewed in the light of mission communities. Brexit could potentially have an impact on our investment income and ability to sell surplus properties.

A budget proposal would come to the October meeting on the back of the work he had described. He reminded members that if they had any questions they could get in touch with the Trustees or with the staff at Church House.