

CARLISLE DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE LIMITED

Minutes of a meeting of the Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd held at St Mary's Church, Windermere on Saturday, 13th October 2018.

Before the meeting began the Bishop told members that this would be Canon Martin Jayne's last meeting as Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance. The Bishop wanted to express his huge thanks for everything that Martin he had done over several years. He had worked incredibly hard and had steered and guided us, working with others in the Diocese, to keep the diocesan finances on the right track.

B 18/10 ATTENDANCE

44 members were present and 23 apologies for absence were received.

B 18/11 MINUTES – DBF 18/05

Canon Jayne said that he had not been present at the last meeting and thanked Mr Johnson for chairing the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 19th June 2018 were approved and signed.

B 18/12 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE & QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR – FC 18/81 & FC 18/108

The Committee received the Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday, 16th May and Wednesday, 18th July 2018.

Canon Jayne drew attention to the co-option in May of Mr John Edwards from the parish of Carlisle St James, who was a Chartered Surveyor and very experienced in property matters. Mr Edwards had joined the Finance Committee's Property Sub-Committee. Mr Edwards and other members including Canon Jayne would cease to be Directors and Trustees on 31st December 2018. There would be four surviving members of the Finance Committee, the Diocesan Bishop and the three Archdeacon. The process for electing the other Trustees and Directors was underway.

Canon Jayne then invited comments or questions on the minutes.

A member asked a question in respect of the comment in the minutes to the effect that Carlisle Key were struggling to make progress with the purchase of the Old Vicarage on West Walls in Carlisle. The member wondered whether any progress been made and whether there was anything that we, as Synod or the Diocesan Board of Finance could do to put pressure on the Council. Canon Jayne replied that when the decision had been made to move the office to Penrith from Carlisle, he had met at the Bishop's House with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive of Carlisle City Council. Both parties had been keen to secure a viable future for both the Old Vicarage and the former Church House. He had been assured at that meeting that the City Council would do what they could to help in this respect. An offer had subsequently been made for the Old Vicarage by Carlisle Key, a small local charity looking after the needs of young people. They wanted to use it for their headquarters and to create consulting rooms and accommodation for twelve young people.

Sadly, Carlisle Key had now withdrawn as the City Council had taken a very inflexible approach to a number of listed building and planning aspects of their plans. The result had been that Carlisle Key had been unable to obtain planning consent for their proposals. Canon Jayne had written to the Chief Executive and the Leader of Carlisle City Council about the issues raised but had not had a satisfactory response. He assured members that we would continue to work to find a suitable buyer for the property.

There was a query about the reference in the minutes to the expectation that Fresh Expressions of Church would contribute towards the cost of ministry. Mr Jaques said that this was a new area for exploration and initial discussions were just beginning. He remarked that the costs of fresh expressions were often low compared to traditional church and that, especially in our context, the demographic of people involved was usually different to those in traditional church. Network Youth Church for instance involved young people with little disposable income. People attracted to fresh expressions were often new to faith and developing stewardship as part of discipleship with a view to encouraging a generous lifestyle and giving towards the Church was important.

In response to a request for an update Mr Hurton explained to Synod what was happening in respect of the reorganisation of Cumbria Christian Learning (CCL) and the Reach Team. He said that although different areas of work were undertaken by the two teams, there was a sense in which their roles were very similar: CCL existed to equip people for ministry and mission in the context of God for All and Reach Team also existed to equip people for ministry and mission in the context of God for All. We were not going to evangelise Cumbria through technology or physical assets but through people and it made sense to bring together into one team all the resources and staff who were directly supporting that work. In the future the team would work collaboratively on a range of projects in addition to managing ongoing work such as ordination training. There had been consultations with the staff involved before and since the summer break.

Concern was expressed about the support being given to the Reach Team and CCL staff who must be feeling some sense of uncertainty. Mr Hurton explained that although staff absences in 2018 had not been linked to the reorganisation we recognised that there were capacity concerns. Additional steps had therefore been put in place since the summer, including securing the services of the former Bishop of Penrith, the Right Reverend Robert Freeman, to take on the line management of the Reach Team for the period until Bishop Emma took up office and the temporary appointment of Revd Professor Robert Hannaford to manage the CCL team and lead work with Ministry Division and Durham University in respect of ordination training. Revd Robert was the Rector of St John's Workington and Chair of the CCL Board. The two teams were already increasingly working together in advance of any formal merger.

Finally, a member asked about the reference in the July minutes to our second bid to the Church Commissioners for Strategic Development Funding. What would happen if we were not successful in the bid? Mr Hurton reported that Mr David Jennings, from the Church Commissioners, who was the officer responsible for presenting our bid to the national Strategic Investment Board, had visited the Diocese the previous Thursday to ensure that he was familiar with our proposals and resolve any remaining issues. Mr Jennings' feedback had given us cause for quiet optimism that our bid would be approved. It would be submitted at the end of October and if it was turned down we would have an opportunity to consider revising it and resubmitting in January. Although the Commissioners appeared to view the Diocese and God for All in a positive light, the bar for approval for a £2.5m

programme was set high. Some of the work we hoped to undertake in support of God for All would not begin until we know we would get the funding.

Canon Jayne reported on work that was taking place to secure the future of Opshops in Carlisle and establish a firmer foundation for the associated work to set up a thriving expression of church which also met social need. He also mentioned Rydal Hall which had experienced a difficult year but now appeared to be pulling through. He reminded members of the opportunities that were on offer at Rydal for retreats and breaks, including the Christmas house party.

In looking back at his time as a Trustee and then as Chair of the DBF, Canon Jayne said that although he had served on the Synod and on many other committees, boards and councils, none had given him greater fulfilment than the Finance Committee and DBF. He reminded members that the Finance Committee's role was far wider than counting money. He had experienced times of frustration and times of great satisfaction. The investment in hydro-electric schemes had been very satisfying and they were now making a major contribution to the sustainability of the Diocese. Likewise, helping the Cathedral with their accommodation needs by selling them the old Church House and the Resources Centre would be a good achievement. The planning demands of Carlisle City Council had caused frustration in respect of the sale of the Old Vicarage on West Walls to Carlisle Key.

He had been on the Finance Committee for twelve years and was now stepping down. In his time on the Committee he had been served well by the professionalism and integrity of our Church House staff and he wanted to put on record his thanks to the staff. He encouraged members of Synod to use their skills and experience on bodies like the Finance Committee, DAC and the Board of Education who were all doing good and valuable work in support of the Diocese.