

DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

22nd June 2023

Acts of the Diocesan Synod held on 22nd June 2023 in the marquee at Wolvesey.

56 members were present.

1 WELCOME AND ARRIVAL

Members were invited to attend Evensong at Winchester Cathedral prior to attending the meeting.

2 WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

The Revd Canon Dr Roly Reim started the meeting with an update on the life and ministry of the Cathedral.

3 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS.

Two questions had been received from Rachel Noel and Michael Minton. A response was emailed to members in advance of the meeting.

Michael Minton asked the following supplementary question:

If, following the review of the Memorandum and Articles, the WDBF choose to operate in a different way, and make Diocesan Synod members of the WDBF, which would involve a separate AGM this would need to be separated out from the main meeting of Diocesan Synod.

The Diocesan Secretary responded by saying that if the WDBF should change its Memorandum and Articles, to make Diocesan Synod members of the WDBF, then the AGM would need to be with the meeting of Diocesan Synod but there would be a clear delineated gap between meetings.

Rachel Noel asked the following supplementary question:

Have Dioceses in Uganda been asked about the statement cited in her original question, from the Archbishop of Uganda?

The Bishop of Basingstoke responded by saying that this was under constant review and we wouldn't add to what the Archbishops have said.

We only have five active deaneries linked to potential dioceses in Uganda and have been asked to maintain the warmth of relationship. Our links with what was the province of Uganda was set up 55 years ago and is now 4 separate provinces and has changed dramatically.

4 2022 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS DS23/08

The Chair of the House of Laity noted to members that the accounts had been approved by the Directors of the WDBF on the 8th June 2023 and that Synod were being asked to 'consider' them. He then went on to introduce the following video to members

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rySo61ZoxIQ>

Key points to note:

- The 2022 audit showed no concerns. The audit was conducted by a new audit team from HaysMacIntyre following their reappointment after a tender process was held in 2022 to review the audit firm used by the WDBF.
- £8.5m of CMF was received in 2022, representing a 90.5% collection rate and a shortfall of around £800,000.
- The year ended with a small surplus in the general fund of £113,000 (prior to revaluation of assets), this was due to:
 - Higher than expected clergy vacancy rate
 - Better than budgeted income from rental properties and interest
- Central staffing costs were £260,000 lower than in 2021.

The Chair of the Diocesan Finance Committee spoke to the 2022 accounts and annual report and then invited members to split into table groups for a five minute discussion on the annual report with the following headings:

- a. Initial reaction
- b. One comment – what pleased, surprised, encouraged, stands out?
- c. One question for the Bishop's Council

These are tabled in Appendix 1.

5 2024 CMF REQUEST DS23/09

The Diocesan Secretary reminded members that the approval of the 2024-2026 triennial budget would take place at an additional meeting of Diocesan Synod to be held in September. However to allow for PCCs to plan their 2024 budgets Diocesan Synod were asked to approve the 2024 CMF request to allow these figures to be circulated in a timely fashion.

The Chair proposed the motion:

“This Synod authorises the Directors of the Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance to request a total of £8.64m in Common Mission Fund contributions for 2024 inclusive from our parishes to support the costs of mission and ministry of our diocese.”

Members then discussed clarification on certain areas which were addressed by The Diocesan Secretary

The motion was unanimously carried.

6 AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS DS23/10

The Diocesan Secretary presented the following amendment to standing orders:

“This Synod approves the amendment to the standing order 115 to allow business to be conducted by virtual meeting”

Following a question from the floor regarding how this would be used The Diocesan Secretary clarified that it would be used as and when there was a need, such as for a special meeting, which would offer greater flexibility.

The motion was unanimously carried.

7 UPDATE FROM BISHOP’S COUNCIL DS 23/11

No questions were received from members.

The Bishop of Southampton closed the meeting in prayer

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

11th September 2023 – Additional meeting via zoom

22nd November 2023

21st March 2024

19th June 2024

14th November 2024

DEEMED BUSINESS

Approved nem con.

- Acts of Synod March 2023