

DIOCESAN SYNOD ACTS

11th September 2023

Acts of the Diocesan Synod held on 11th September 2023 on
Zoom

55 members were present.

1 WELCOME AND ARRIVAL

The Chair of the House of Clergy welcomed members and led opening worship.

2 DIOCESAN THREE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN DS23/12 & DS23/13

The Chair of the Finance Committee introduced DS23/12 hi-lighting the following points to members –

- A significant amount of consultation had taken place over the previous 8 months.
- The Management Accounts were now published on the website, with the aim that this would be done once per quarter. Any common questions to be addressed in the following quarters accounts with the hope that the ongoing sharing of information throughout the year would help ensure clearing understanding of finances when it was time to set the budget.
- Synod were reminded that the budget tests and aspirations in the paper were offered as aids to communication and management and were not firm policy decisions.
- The Diocesan Finance Committee (previously Finance Monitoring Group) had met recently with the Deanery Finance Chairs which will take place on an annual basis moving forward with the hope that two Deanery Finance Chairs would become committee members
- Synod were reminded that they had approved the 2024 CMF requests at their last meeting.

The Chair of the WDBF introduced DC23/13 noting the below to members

- The budget in the paper is the outworking of recommendations, tests and aspirations developed in DC23/12 and attempts to break the budget down in far greater details than ever before.
- A strategy for growth and sustainability is something that Bishop's Council will be working on with the new Bishop of Winchester as a priority with the hope that there will be an update early the following year.

The Chair of the House of Laity invited members to work in their breakout groups to consider the papers, using the guiding questions below to start discussion:

What stood out for you in the papers?
Is there an area which needs further explanation?

Groups comments are tabled in Appendix 1

The Chair of the House of Clergy put Motion 1 and reminded Synod that this was a budget motion that they could either accept or reject but could not amend:

“This Synod approves the Diocesan Three Year Financial Plan for 2024 to 2026 as set out in paper DS23/13.”

The Chair of the House of Clergy then opened the floor to questions from three speakers.

Michael Minton asked if it was possible to create a publicity campaign which looked at income generation for parishes.

The Diocesan Secretary responded by saying that a budget and financial model was needed that was explainable and understood, along with a broader sense of priorities and objectives so that the two could be linked together.

He went on to note that attempting to undertake a diocesan level campaign could be difficult and there were few examples of success.

The Chair of the House of Clergy moved the motion which was carried with 49 for and 6 abstentions.

He then went on to move Motion 2 :

“This Synod notes and adopts the proposed budget tests and aspirations as set out in paper DS23/12 and requests the Directors of the WDBF provide a report to Synod each year setting out whether these have been met or not.”

The Chair of the House of Laity asked if once per year was frequent enough. It was noted that there would be an informal amendment that Bishop’s Council commit to the Motion and would report to Synod if they were concerned at any point.

The motion was carried with 52 for and 2 abstentions.

3. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS.

No questions were received.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

22nd November 2023

21st March 2024

19th June 2024

14th November 2024

DEEMED BUSINESS

Approved nem con.

- Acts of Synod June 2023