

Item		Action
1	OPENING PRAYER The Bishop opened the meeting with prayer and reflection.	
2	APOLOGIES, NOTICES and DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST Apologies were received from Dean David, Richard Braddy, Miranda Ford, John Morrison	
3	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 June The Council received and approved the minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2024.	
4	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 1 June There were no matters arising.	
5	DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN SYNOD HELD ON 3 JULY A copy of the minutes from the July meeting of Synod are attached. Members are asked to pass any comments to Jo Manser.	ALL
6	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE The Council unanimously agreed to the recommendation to propose Diocesan Synod that Tony Richter be appointed Chair of the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Finance.	
7	REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION The Council agreed to adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the Diocesan Board of Education. These had been approved by the DBE at its meeting on 4 June 2024.	
8	SAFEGUARDING The Reports submitted by the DSOs were received by the Council. Council also agreed to submit any questions regarding the papers to the Diocesan Secretary to be passed on to the team.	ALL
9	FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR YEAR END Natalia Olszewska/Iain Blythe a) Update on Parish Share receipts The Council received an up date on Parish Share. Based on current receipt of 60% of Parish Share up to September, it is estimated that the Board will receive 85% of the request for 2024. The Finance and Assets Committee had agreed a policy of working more closely with PCCs where they fall behind in Parish Share but noted that the Board is resource-light.	

The updates on the Management Accounts would be circulated to members of the Council to provide further clarity and transparency.

b) Clergy Stipends and Staffing costs for 2025

The Council approved the recommendation from the Finance and Assets Committee that stipends be increased by 3.94% to more closely align with the national benchmark and closer (within a few pounds) to Rochester diocese. Stipends had fallen below this level in recent years.

It was further agreed that staff remuneration be increased by the same percentage.

c) Indicative 2025 Budget

Council received the Indicative Budget for 2025 and agreed this should be presented to Synod with a recommendation of approval.

d) Draft minutes of the Finance and Assets meeting

The minutes of the meeting were noted.

e) Maidstone, All Saints loan

The recommendation from the Finance and Assets Committee to write off the loan of £93,000 given for urgent roof works was approved. The loan had been required to enable works to proceed within a timetable outside the control of the PCC. The loan had to be written off due to overly stringent bureaucracy from Heritage England despite support from the Board and NCIs.

f) Finance Resourcing paper

The review of finances being carried out had provide the Board (through the Finance and Assets Committee) with an opportunity to re-think what the Board wanted from the Finance team. The leadership Natalia and Sara had brought was noted. Three recommendations had been made by the Finance and Assets Committee:

1. To bring in temporary cover for the budget. A lot had been done to make the accounts as transparent as possible, but at the same time it was noted the previous audit took so long the Board were charged an additional £30k. The expected saving this cover would provide was in the region of £14,000.
2. To expand the work of the generous giving team. This work is key to how the Board works with PCCs in improving their finances which is a key thread of the work in the Projections Group. The cost of this is being met from existing resources within the grant funding the Board has received.
3. To deal with some particular work concerning educational trusts it was proposed to increase the hours of one member of the finance team.

The Committee approved the recommendations.

10 **FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS TO 2030**

IB provided an update from the Projections Group Council was reminded that the Projections Group was set up in response to the concerns raised by Synod last November and in March around finance and strategy.

The Group had delved deep into the finances and this work was to continue into the future. It had always been clear that no one single

solution would solve the Board's historic problems. This meant that Synod would receive recommendations around a wide range of possible solutions designed to provide the best possible chance of moving forward in line with the requirements set by Synod.

A full report would be prepared and shared with Council members before being shared with Synod.

11 **STRATEGY AND NET ZERO UPDATES**

CE made reference to his highlight report and the two specific funding requests:

St John's, Swalecliffe Children & Families Worker

A Children & Families worker has been employed by St. John's which has enabled a successful outreach programme to local families. The Strategic Programme Office and Lead Officer for Children and Young People have worked closely with St. John's on the project with a particular focus on how to achieve sustainability and how to develop the children and youth ministry.

In addition to supporting the Children & Families worker, the funding request includes provision for some sessional youth work to expand the outreach to children as they move into secondary school who would otherwise not be well catered for. This addition is seen as essential in helping to retain their young people as well as enabling successful growth.

CE explained the importance of having Deanery Plans which is the mechanism for applying for funding. AB commented that Reculver Deanery had done what CE had suggested and went through the deanery planning process to get to the document you see before us.

Ospringe Deanery Youth Missioner

CE explained that the original proposal for this project was made to the Council in October 2023 and approved for investment. Since then, the Area Dean, Chapter and Lay Chair have worked with the Deanery to discuss the practicalities and details of this post in order that missional ministry might flourish most effectively in Ospringe.

All were in favour of the proposed funding requests.

St Alphege, Seasalter

CE referred to a request that had only just been received for some additional funding for St Alphege for their Children & Families Minister is going to be made redundant, we can afford to lose a children & families minister. Seasalter is one of the nine youth hubs in the diocese. CE will work with the parish to make this role sustainable.

CE

CE reported that it was hoped that we would recruit an Environment Office in November.

12 **DRAFT SYNOD AGENDA**

Iain Blythe

The Council thanked Neville for his help arranging facilitators for the morning discussions.

The Council were informed the agenda had not altered in substance since the July meeting of Synod but would be finalised in the coming weeks.

FRAMEWORK REPORTS

13 **MISSION AND MINISTRY**

NE briefed the Council on his report. The Council asked NE to pass on their appreciation of the Mission & Ministry Framework.

14 **THE SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK**

JA briefed the Council on his report. SJN was in phase two, focussing on outreach, getting projects up and running and expanding reach.

JA referred to Routes to Safety, a new approach to people crossing the channel, getting that message out to change the narrative in a helpful way.

15 **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

QR briefed the Council on his report.

The Council approved the appointment of Sandra Ellis (nee Yardley) as the new joint chair (with Darren Miller) of the CYP Framework and noted her CV would be circulated.

QR/JM

16 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Bishop noted this was the last meeting of the Council for this triennium and thanked members for their commitment and hard work.

DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

Induction Day for the new Archbishop's Council Saturday 1 February 2025

The Council noted this was likely to be a one-day event due to cost.

The Council noted the dates of future meetings as:

Meetings (all at 6pm)

4 February

29 April

10 June

14 October