

REVISION TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESAN BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The Repair of Benefice Buildings Measure 1972 required every diocesan synod to provide a scheme either appointing a Board for the purposes of the Measure, known as the Parsonages Board, for the diocese concerned; or designating the Diocesan Board of Finance as the Board for the purposes of this Measure. The Oxford Diocese did the latter.

In the constitution below “the Board” refers to the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance acting in its capacity as the Parsonages Board.

The “Committee” is the Buildings Committee – known by the working title of the Buildings Management and Strategy Committee.

Due to the creation of the Dorchester Archdeaconry it is necessary to revise the constitution to include members from that Archdeaconry. The committee has followed the pattern of the Bishop’s Council and other committees of having a smaller number of representatives from the Oxford Archdeaconry than from the other three to reflect its significantly smaller size.

Like the other committees where constitutional changes are being made it is suggested that for all members other than ex-officios, the membership term is standardised to run for three years from 1 January in years immediately following Diocesan Synod elections. As well as giving the same clearly defined membership term for all committees, this would have the advantage that new members would have a few months’ notice of their first meeting.

The Constitution and Procedure of the Buildings Committee

The constitution and procedures of the committee to which shall be delegated the powers and functions specified in (the Repair of Benefice Buildings Measure 1972) shall be as follows :

A Membership of the Committee

(i) Ex Officio Members:

The Chairman of the Board

The Area Bishops

The Archdeacons

The Vice Chairman of the Board

(ii) Elected Members:

Two clerks in Holy Orders to be elected by the clerical electors for the Archdeaconry of Berkshire from among their number

Two clerks in Holy Orders to be elected by the clerical electors for the Archdeaconry of Buckingham from among their number

Two clerks in Holy Orders to be elected by the clerical electors for the Archdeaconry of Dorchester from among their number

One clerk in Holy Orders to be elected by the clerical electors for the Archdeaconry of Oxford from among their number

Two lay persons to be elected by the lay electors for the Archdeaconry of Berkshire from among their number

Two lay persons to be elected by the lay electors for the Archdeaconry of Buckingham from among their number

Two lay persons to be elected by the lay electors for the Archdeaconry of Dorchester from among their number

One lay person to be elected by the lay electors for the Archdeaconry of Oxford from among their number

(iii) Nominated Members

One member of the Standing Committee of the Board to be nominated by the Diocesan Bishop and who shall be the Chairman of the Committee. The Bishop shall not nominate the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Board for this purpose.

Not more than two members of the Board (who need not be members of the Board) nominated by the Board

(iv) Co-opted Members

The Committee may co-opt two additional members (who need not be members of the Board) namely :

One person being the spouse of a clergy person beneficed in the Diocese

One lay-worker or assistant curate licensed to a parish in the Diocese

B Clerical Electors

The clerical electors for an Archdeaconry are the members of the House of Clergy of the Diocesan Synod who are beneficed in, licensed to any parish in, licensed to any institution in or resident in that Archdeaconry.

C Lay Electors

The lay electors for an Archdeaconry are the members of the House of Laity of the Diocesan Synod who represent deaneries in or reside in the Archdeaconry.

D Elections and Terms of Office

Elections to the Committee shall take place every 3 years immediately after the election of a new diocesan synod. The procedure for elections shall (so far as practicable) be in accordance with the relevant Standing Orders of the Oxford Diocesan Synod.

Members whose elected status has ended shall retire on 31st December in the year of the triennial elections. Elected members terms of office shall also end on ceasing to be qualified.

Nominated and Co-opted members terms of office shall cease on 31st December in the year of the triennial elections.

E Officers

- (i) The member of the Board nominated by the Diocesan Bishop shall be the Chairman of the Committee.
- (ii) At the first meeting of the Committee after the triennial election the Committee shall elect a Vice-Chairman from among its members.

F Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least three times a year on dates to be determined by the Committee.

G Sub-Committees

There shall be a sub-Committee for each Archdeaconry. The members of each Archdeaconry sub-Committee shall be :

The Archdeacon who shall be chairman

The Area Bishop

The clergy members of the Committee elected to represent the Archdeaconry.

The lay members of the Committee elected to represent the Archdeaconry.

Two additional Clerks in Holy Orders (who need not be members of the Board) to be elected by the incumbents and team vicars of the benefices within the Archdeaconry and the stipendiary curates of such benefices from among their members.

Two additional persons (who need not be members of the Board) who are on the electoral roll of a parish in the Archdeaconry to be elected by the lay electors for the Archdeaconry.

Such persons not exceeding two in number who may be either clerical or lay and who need not be members of the Board as may be co-opted by the members of the Archdeaconry sub-Committee.

H Elections to Sub-Committees and Terms of Office

The first elections of additional clergy and additional lay persons to serve on the sub-Committees shall take place immediately after the first elections to the Committee. The persons then elected and the first co-opted members of the sub-Committees shall hold office for four years. Thereafter elections and co-options shall take place every three years in the year after the elections to the Committee.

All Clerks in Holy Orders who are on the 1st day of September in the year of the election incumbents and team vicars of benefices within the Archdeaconry or stipendiary curates of such benefices are qualified to be elected or to vote in the election.

In the case of the Dorchester Archdeaconry, the first elections of additional clergy and additional lay persons to serve on its sub-committee shall take place immediately after the first election of its representatives to the Committee.

The procedure for elections shall (so far as practicable) be in accordance with Standing Orders 86 and 87 of the Standing Orders of the Oxford Diocesan Synod.

Elected members of the sub-Committees shall retire on the election of their successors.

Co-opted members of the sub-Committees shall retire on the 31st December in the year of the election to the sub-committees.

The Secretary of the Board shall be returning officer for the elections to the sub-Committee

I Secretary to the Committee

The Secretary of the Board shall be the Secretary of the Committee and sub-Committees. The Principal Buildings Officer (Diocesan Surveyor) shall be responsible after agreement with the Secretary for all arrangements for meetings and the keeping of minutes of the Committee and sub-Committees.

J Delegation of Powers

- (i) The Board reserves control unto itself of its functions under paragraphs 3 and 4 and 5(i) of the Scheme but delegates all other powers and discretions of the Board under the Measure and the Scheme to the Committee PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT the Committee shall not exercise any extended functions of the Board in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Scheme unless the Board has given its approval in principle to the type of work proposed being carried out in its name by the Committee.
- (ii) The Committee shall reserve to itself control of matters of policy and also the allocation of all funds, loans and decorations allocation as voted by the Diocesan Synod.

K Reports

The Archdeaconry Committees shall each submit a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the sub-Committee to each meeting of the Committee. The Committee shall submit a copy of the minutes of its last meeting to each meeting of the Standing Committee of the Board. Such reports will be subject to debate.

L Conduct of Business

Questions are to be decided both by the Committee and the sub-Committees by simple majority, the Chairman to have a casting vote.