

THE BISHOP'S COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON Thursday 6 July 2023
by video conference

Present: The Bishop of Huntingdon (in the Chair), Revd Canon James Blandford-Baker, Very Revd Mark Bonney, Canon Dr Felicity Cooke, Mrs Lindsay Davies, Revd Canon Sarah Gower, Ven Richard Harlow, Canon Simon Kershaw, Revd Dr Robert Mackley, Revd Canon Dr Jessica Martin, Canon Peter Maxwell, Revd Iain Osborne, Canon Janet Perrett, Mr John Pigott, Mrs Sarah Robinson, Revd James Shakespeare, Canon Lizzie Taylor, Mr Christopher Townsend

In attendance: Mrs Sheena Bridgman, Canon Paul Evans

The meeting opened with a reading and prayer

Apologies were received from the Bishop of Ely, Revd Canon Brian Atling, Mr Francis Burkitt, Revd Becky Dyball, Ven Dr Alex Hughes, Mrs Elaine Levitt, Mr George Lynn, Canon Rob Needle, Revd David Newton and Canon Tim Walters

The purpose of the Extraordinary Meeting of Bishop's Council is to confirm the results of the election for Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee (ViSC) and to approve the nomination of the Diocesan Secretary as Secretary to the Committee.

The results of the election (in alphabetical order):

Very Revd Mark Bonney 19: Revd Simon Scott 0: Revd Canon Dr Simon Taylor 7

Resolution: That the Very Revd Mark Bonney, Dean of Ely Cathedral, be elected as Chair of the Diocese of Ely Vacancy in See Committee

Proposed Revd Canon Sarah Gower

Seconded Canon Janet Perrett

Agreed unanimously

Very Revd Mark Bonney abstained

The Diocesan Secretary advised that the Chair of the ViSC may propose to Bishop's Council, on behalf of the Committee, up to four additional nominations to ViSC, which identify gaps within the existing membership and which might better reflect a balance of the Diocese as a whole. These nominations may be considered and formally endorsed by Bishop's Council. Suggestions should be submitted in writing to the Diocesan Secretary to present to a meeting of ViSC. (*post meeting note*: a meeting of the ViSC will be held on Tuesday 18 July 2023 in advance of the next meeting of Bishop's Council on 27 July 2023).

The Diocesan Secretary advised that Revd Dr Mark Smith, Dean of Clare College and an elected member of General Synod to represent the Universities, will be invited to join the Vacancy in See Committee as a member ex officio.

A timetable for the Vacancy in See process will be produced following the upcoming meeting with Archbishop's Appointments Secretary.

Bishop's Council endorsed the appointment of Canon Paul Evans, Diocesan Secretary, as Secretary to ViSC.

The meeting closed with prayer at 7.27pm