

**RIPON & LEEDS DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**HOUSING FORUM MEETING FOR LEEDS ARCHDEACONRY**

Minutes of the meeting held at Archdeacon's Lodge on Friday, 27 November 2009.

Present:	Ven Peter Burrows	Archdeacon of Leeds
	Mr B St G A Reed	Chairman of Housing & Estates Committee
	Mr Richard Thomas	Housing & Estates Committee
	Mr Philip Arundel	Diocesan Secretary
	Mr M E Lindley	Diocesan Surveyor
	Revd Kingsley Dowling	Area Dean – Armley Deanery
	Revd B Carlin	Incumbent – Whitkirk Deanery
 Minutes:	 Mrs Kath Hinchcliffe	 Property Assistant

1. **Revd Kingsley Dowling opened the meeting with a prayer.**
  
2. **Apologies** – Revd Joanna Pearson
  
3. **Diocesan Surveyor – Actions since last meeting on 12 November 2008**
  - a. Housing & Estates Committee have had to make substantial savings in the order of £100,000 during 2009. Vacancy works on houses for new clergy has not been adversely affected, though improvement work on the houses of existing clergy has been scaled back and the external painting programme postponed.
  - b. Development of a Strategic Housing Policy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (paper available on the Diocesan web page).
  - c. Environment Policy – all clergy were circulated with a letter detailing the Housing & Estates Committee's actions to date. Further action will have some capital implications and the full extent of this is being assessed (letter available on the Diocesan web page).
  - d. Curate's Housing – Diocese working toward providing housing for all new Curates.
  - e. Mr Barry Reed is to retire as Chairman of the Housing & Estates Committee at the end of the year; and Mr Richard Thomas is to serve as Chairman for an unspecified period of time from 1 January 2010.
  - f. Staffing – Mrs Kath Hinchcliffe has now taken over as Property Assistant.

In response to these points the Archdeacon reported that he had not heard any grumbles from clergy regarding the cut backs. Rev's Kingsley Dowling and Bruce Carlin both stated that there had been no issues raised in either of their respective Deaneries of Armley and Whitkirk.

4. **a. Heating Costs** – If any member of the clergy has any problem meeting the cost of their heating bills, then they should speak in the first instance to the Archdeacon of Leeds. Discussion followed questioning the use of one energy provider for the whole diocese. It was stated that there were several pitfalls and unless a very significant number of clergy/PCCs showed an interest it would not work. PCC Treasurers were advised to make sure they are buying economically. Green energy is a choice but is more expensive than standard energy.

**b. Reducing the Carbon Footprint** – the Housing & Estates Committee is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of the existing housing stock and are currently exploring what might be built into the capital works programme, and what the cost implications are. Options currently being considered include: photovoltaic cells on roofs may be considered when houses need re-roofing; incorporating renewable technology into new-build projects and adding Sun Pipes where appropriate and possible. All such improvements have a large capital cost implication.

**c. Pressures on clergy and spouses re: up keep of gardens** – it is now the policy of the Housing & Estates Committee, when purchasing or building new vicarages, to ensure where possible that the garden is of a more manageable size, as it is recognised that clergy no longer have the time (or interest) to deal with large gardens.

**d. Study space/separate parish space and family space/parish office in family home** – it was recognised that the vicarage was a family home and that if large parish meetings were needed alternative venues such as in the church, hall or other people's houses are other options. The use of the study as a parish office was not to be encouraged as some clergy may accept this practice and others may not. It was reinforced that studies should continue to have an entrance shared with the main house and not separate.

5. **Any other business** – Mr Thomas stated on behalf of the Housing & Estates Committee that provision was in place for two properties susceptible to 100 year flooding.