

GENERAL SYNOD

HOUSE OF LAITY

Standing Committee

**Minutes of a meeting of the Standing Committee
held at 1.15 p.m. on Saturday 8 July 2017
at the University of York**

Present: Jamie Harrison (Chair); Elizabeth Paver (Vice Chair); Lorna Ashworth (AC); Lucy Docherty (Appts Cttee); Sarah Finch (Appts Cttee); Anne Foreman (B. Cttee); Robert Hammond (B. Cttee); Rachel Jepson (Appts Cttee); Clive Scowen (B. Cttee)

Apologies: Mark Russell (AC)

Staff: Paul Stephenson (*deputising for* the Legal Adviser to the House); Nicholas Hills (Secretary)

1. Prayers

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Minutes

2.1. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting on 16 February 2017.

3. Matters arising

3.1. *Minute 4.3*: Wider circulation of the material used to brief Diocesan Lay Chairs on *Setting God's People Free* was requested so that it could be used in dioceses and deaneries.

4. Amending Canon No. 36 and Amending Canon No. 37: possible Article 7 reference – advice to the Chair and Vice Chair

4.1. The Chair and Vice Chair took advice from the Standing Committee and noted the lack of appetite for requiring a reference under Article 7 of the Synod's Constitution for either Amending Canon.

4.2. The Chair and Vice Chair thanked the Standing Committee members for their advice. They would reach a decision on the matter after the meeting.

Action: Chair / Vice Chair / Secretary

5. Meeting of the House on 8 July 2017

5.1. The Chair outlined the agenda for the meeting of the House that evening and summarised the purpose of each item.

Action: all

6. Next meeting of the Standing Committee

6.1. The Standing Committee agreed to meet over **lunch on Friday 9 February 2018.**

Action: Secretary

7. Any other business

7.1. A number of matters were raised in relation to arrangements for the present group of sessions, including:

- a suggestion that the accommodation booking form should be reworked to ensure that all members could better understand why information was being requested (especially in relation to disability) and, therefore, how fully they needed to respond to the questions in order to avoid being allocated unsuitable accommodation

Action: Secretary to raise with Synod Office

- concern about the length of time members were queueing at meal times and the amount of rushing about members felt was required to both eat and get to fringe meetings. It was agreed, however, that the arrangements needed to be allowed to settle down so that the Business Committee could make a better assessment of the arrangements. Members were encouraged to write to the Chair of the Business Committee with specific concerns

Action: members of Business Committee to keep under review

- dissatisfaction that members from the same diocese were not allocated the same dining room. It was noted, however, that (i) the intention behind this was to provide members the opportunity to mix with members from other dioceses; and (ii) in cases where members from the same diocese did want to eat together for one (or more) meals, they could request transfers from one restaurant to another to enable this. The latter could, perhaps, be made more explicit

Action: Secretary to raise with Synod Office

7.2. It was agreed that Standing Committee minutes and agendas should be published on the website along with an email to members of the House inviting them to raise any other matters for consideration.

Action: Secretary

7.3. The Standing Committee warmly thanked the Secretary for the work he had done both for the Standing Committee and for the House over the past 11 years.