

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS (POWERS) MEASURE 1956

1 Definitions

In this Measure –

‘Council’ means a parochial church council;

‘Diocesan Authority’ means the Diocesan Board of Finance or any existing or future body appointed by the Diocesan Synod to act as trustees of diocesan trust property;

‘Minister’ and ‘Parish’ have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Rules for the Representation of the Laity;

.....

2 General functions of council

(1) It shall be the duty of the minister and the parochial church council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

(2) The functions of parochial church councils shall include–

- (a) co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
- (b) the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question;
- (c) making known and putting into effect any provision made by the diocesan synod or the deanery synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the council on any particular matter;
- (d) giving advice to the diocesan synod and the deanery synod on any matter referred to the council;
- (e) raising such matters as the council consider appropriate with the diocesan synod or deanery synod.

(3) In the exercise of its functions the parochial church council shall take into consideration any expression of opinion by any parochial church meeting.

3 Council to be body corporate

Every council shall be a body corporate by the name of the parochial church council of the parish for which it is appointed and shall have perpetual succession. Any act of the council may be signified by an instrument executed pursuant to a resolution of the council and under the hands or if an instrument under seal is required under the hands and seals of the chairman presiding and two other members of the council present at the meeting at which such resolution is passed.

.....

7 Miscellaneous powers of council

The council of every parish shall have the following powers in addition to any powers conferred by the Constitution or otherwise by this Measure:–

- (i) Power to frame an annual budget of moneys required for the maintenance of the work of the Church in the parish and otherwise and to take such steps as they think necessary for the raising collecting and allocating of such moneys;
- (ii) Power to make levy and collect a voluntary church rate for any purpose connected with the affairs of the church including the administrative expenses of the council and the costs of any legal proceedings;
- (iii) Power jointly with the minister to appoint and dismiss the parish clerk and sexton or any persons performing or assisting to perform the duties of parish clerk or sexton and to determine their salaries and the conditions of the tenure of their offices or of their employment but subject to the rights of any persons holding the said offices at the appointed day;
- (iv) Power jointly with the minister to determine the objects to which all moneys to be given or collected in church shall be allocated.
- (v) Power to make representations to the bishop with regard to any matter affecting the welfare of the church in the parish.

8 Financial statements of the council

(1) Every council shall furnish to the annual parochial church meeting for discussion the financial statements of the council for the financial year immediately preceding the meeting.

(2) The financial year referred to in subsection (1) above shall be such period as may be prescribed and the financial statements referred to in that subsection shall be prepared in the prescribed form, audited or independently examined as prescribed and published and displayed in the prescribed manner.

(3) In subsection (2) above ‘prescribed’ means prescribed by the Church Representation Rules or by regulations made under those Rules.

[From “The Charities Act 1993 and the PCC – Third edition – Chapter 13]