

GLEBE COMMITTEE

*Statutory Provision: The Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976;
Constitution approved by the Diocesan Synod on 5th March 1988*

Terms of reference

1. The Glebe Committee shall be responsible to the Diocesan Board of Finance for the management of the diocesan glebe for the benefit of the diocesan stipends fund including sales and purchases, the negotiation of leases and tenancies and of rent reviews, the collection of rents, the payment of outgoings and the carrying out of repairs and of improvements. The Committee shall have executive power to act in all these matters on behalf of the Board but may make recommendations to the Board as to any matter at its discretion. The Committee shall comply with any directions which may from time to time be given to it by the Board, shall observe all provisions of the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976 and shall obtain such consents as are required.
2. The Committee shall make a report of its transactions to the Diocesan Board of Finance at such intervals, not being less than once a year, as the Diocesan Board of Finance may from time to time require.
3. The Committee shall appoint one or more firms of surveyors to act as agents for them in all dealings relating to the diocesan glebe. Such firms shall be selected for their experience in respect of properties of the type concerned. The agents shall be required to obtain the prior approval of the Committee (subject to such delegation as the Committee agrees) to all transactions apart from repair works not exceeding an amount which may be settled from time to time by the Committee, and to comply with the principles of management set out in the Diocesan Glebe Management Scheme.
4. The Diocesan glebe shall be managed exclusively for the benefit of the diocesan stipends fund, except in circumstances where the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976 expressly permits otherwise.

Constitution (approved by Diocesan Synod on 5 March 1988 and contained in the revised Diocesan Glebe Management Scheme made under the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976):

Ex-Officio: The Archdeacons; Chairman and Vice Chairman

Appointed: Six members by the Board of Finance, of whom at least four shall be members of the Board. The members appointed by the Board shall in the opinion of the Board be well qualified to assist in the management of glebe.

Co-opted: Up to two members

Chairman One of the members, being a member of the Board, shall be appointed by the Board to be chairman of the committee, and the committee shall appoint a Deputy Chairman.

Principles of Management

Most of the land and buildings in the glebe portfolio were not bought by the DBF but were passed to it when the Endowments and Glebe Measure came into effect in 1978. Since then rents on the land have been improved, sales have taken place and five farms and a commercial building has been purchased (the latter has since been sold).

The Committee reviews the portfolio regularly with the help of its agents and also two development advisors. The diocese is particularly well-placed to benefit from the Government guidelines which set out the need for more housing in the south east of England. It is possible that much of the agricultural land, especially that round towns and villages, could be developable in the medium to long term.

Income for stipends

The rents from glebe property are reviewed regularly as the income helps pay clergy stipends. Glebe sale proceeds are credited to the Diocesan Stipends Fund Capital Account the interest on which is also used to pay stipends. This is why the Committee considers it important to maximize sale proceeds by selling with planning permission for development where ever possible.

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