

C4 PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS

Functions

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) came into existence in 1921. Their functions, as defined by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, 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 discussion of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of doctrine 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.

The provisions relating to PCCs are set out in CRR 14-23.

Membership

Membership of a PCC is set out in CRR 14.

Term of Office

The term of office for elected members is normally until the next annual meeting, but the annual meeting may establish a scheme whereby only the longest serving one-third retire at the annual meeting. Further details are set out at CRR 16(1).

Due Representation

In a parish where there are two or more churches or places of worship the annual meeting may make a scheme (which must be approved by the Bishop's Council) which makes provision for the election of members in such manner as to ensure due representation of the congregation of each church or place.

General Provisions

Appendix II to the CRR contains some general provisions relating to PCCs. The more important are summarised below.

Officers

The minister is always chairman, and a lay member must be elected as vice - chairman. The PCC may appoint one of its number as secretary, but if not then some other fit person. A PCC may appoint one or more of their number to act as treasurer, solely or jointly. Failing that, the treasurer must be some other fit person or the two churchwardens jointly. An electoral roll officer must be appointed but need not be a member of the PCC.

Meetings

The PCC must hold not less than four meetings each year, convened by the chairman. One third of the membership constitutes a quorum. PCC business is decided by a majority

of the members present and voting. In the case of an equal division of the votes the chairman of the meeting has a second or casting vote.

Standing Committee.

The council shall have a standing committee of not less than five persons. The minister and churchwardens are ex officio members, the others being appointed by the PCC. The standing committee is empowered to transact the business of the PCC between PCC meetings subject to any directions given by the PCC. The council may appoint other committees, of which the minister is an ex officio member.

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