

**GRAFTON DIOCESAN GOVERNANCE ORDINANCE 2008
AMENDING ORDINANCE (PARISH ADMINISTRATION – PARISH COUNCIL)
2015
Ordinance No. 13 of 2015**

An Ordinance to amend the Grafton Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008 with regard to parish councils.

PREAMBLE

Whereas the provisions for parish administration in the Diocese of Grafton are contained within Chapter 10 of the Grafton Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008; and

Whereas it is desirable to have the Ordinance amended;

Therefore, the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Grafton, assembled as the Synod, decree and enact as follows:

AMENDMENTS

Composition of Parish Council

1. Amend subclause 77.1(a) by deleting “and any active licensed clergy”.
2. Insert a new subclause immediately following the current subclause 77.1(a) with the following wording and renumber all following subclauses accordingly.

any full-time stipended licensed clergy or full-time stipended Licensed Lay Ministers of the parish.
- 2.A. Insert a new subclause 7(c) “Any other clergy or stipended lay member of the parish at the discretion of the incumbent in consultation with the Churchwardens”.
3. Amend the current subclause 77.1(e) by adding the words “inclusive of those elected under 77.1(f)” at the end of the subclause.

Powers and Responsibilities of Parish Council

4. Insert a new subclause immediately following the current subclause 78.1(f) with the following wording and renumber all following subclauses accordingly.

to appoint an Auditor who is, or is eligible to be, a member of a professional accounting body or registered auditor, to conduct an annual independent audit of the Parish’s financial statements;
5. Delete the current subclause 79.7(j).
6. Delete clause 79.8.
7. Insert a new subclause immediately following the current subclause 78.1(k) with the following wording and renumber all following subclauses accordingly.

to appoint individuals, task groups, working groups or committees as it considers necessary to assist in the discharge of its functions;

8. Delete subclause 79.7(k).
9. Amend subclause 92.1(e) by replacing the current wording with the following.

to prepare before each Annual General Meeting of Parishioners an audited statement of the Parish's financial affairs and to send a copy of such Statement, signed by any two of the Incumbent and the Churchwardens, to the Registrar within 30 days of the Annual General Meeting;

10. Amend clause 95.3 by replacing the current wording with the following.

All financial transfers and payments (e.g. cheques, electronic funds transfer) require the authorisation of at least two persons authorised by the Parish Council;

11. Delete clause 95.7.
12. Delete clause 95.8.

Executive Committee

13. Amend clause 86.6 by replacing the current wording with the following.

A Parish may have an Executive Committee, who are authorised to take action on behalf of the Parish Council under the delegation of the Parish Council or where a prompt response is necessary. Any actions or decisions of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the next meeting of Parish Council. The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) The Incumbent;
- (b) The Churchwardens; and
- (c) The Treasurer.

Suspension or Removal of Members

14. Insert a new clause 88.3 with the following wording.

In addition to the provisions of 88.1 and 88.2, a Parish Council member may be suspended or removed by the Bishop under the Professional Standards Ordinance 2004.

Removal of references to the Diocesan Procedure Manual

15. Amend subclause 86.3(a) by replacing the words "in terms of the Position Description contained in the Diocesan Procedure Manual" with "as listed in clause 91.1".
16. Amend subclause 86.3(b) by replacing the words "in terms of the Position Description contained in the Diocesan Procedure Manual" with "as listed in clause 92.1".
17. Delete clause 86.4.

Other amendments

18. Amend subclause 79.7(h) by inserting a full-stop immediately following "the life of the Synod" and consequentially capitalising the word "such" which starts the new sentence.
19. Amend clause 80.2 by replacing the words "at Sunday services prior to the meeting" with "at services on the Sunday prior to the meeting".

20. Amend clause 80.3 by replacing the words "sufficient or less than" with "not greater than".

21. Amend clause 89.1 by deleting the words ", or at the request of at least 20 members of the Parish".

COMMENCEMENT

This Ordinance shall come into effect on 31st December 2015 having received the assent of the Bishop.

The Ordinance coming into effect shall not cause disqualification of any parish office holder serving their current term of appointment.

SHORT TITLE

This Ordinance may be cited as the Parish Administration (Parish Council) Amending Ordinance 2015.

ASSENT

We hereby certify that this Ordinance was passed by Synod on the 14th day of June, 2015 and that the Ordinance as printed is in accordance with the Ordinance as passed.



Chairman of Committees



Registrar

I assent to this Ordinance.



Bishop



Date