



MINUTES

*of a meeting of the College Council held in the Harrison Room
at 1.10 pm on Tuesday 15 July 2025*

There were present the Master, Dr McDougall, Professor Moultrie, Mr Nicholson, Dr O'Donnell, Professor O'Sullivan, Ms Phillips, Dr Sewell and Professor Tasker. Dr Howard was in attendance as Secretary.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

cc2025.144 Starred items

It was confirmed that the starred items should not be discussed.

cc2025.145 Statement of conflicts of interest

There were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.

cc2025.146 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Dr Beauregard, Mr Kitov and Dr Reinbold.

cc2025.147 Minutes of the Unreserved Meeting of Council held on 17 June 2025

The Minutes were received and signed.

cc2025.148 Matters arising

Broken window in Bartlam Library (cc2025.130)

The Bursar reported that the contractors, Barnes, had visited to check the measurements for the necessary replacement window and conducted checks on similar windows to ensure that no other units were at risk of failure. The broken window would be replaced as soon as possible.

cc2025.149 Budget 2025–26

The Bursar introduced the budget for 2025–26 (**CP2025/073**), as recommended to Council by Governing Body. The forecast was for a continued flattening of the post-Covid recovery curve, with a slight improvement on the previous year's budget of just under £0.2m, to £0.95m in deficit; this in turn, however, was just under £0.2m higher than the current reforecast for the 2024–25 deficit (£0.77m). As a result, while cash generation remained positive, capital expenditure would remain tightly constrained, with recent cash surpluses from legacies being carefully invested in the ongoing refurbishment of the hostels at 21 and 23 West Road. The general approach to College finances would be to continue to be mindful of the need to avoid overstretch; to seek efficiencies wherever possible;

and to target fundraising efforts towards substitutional funding of existing expenditure. Council approved the income, expenditure and cash-flow budgets as presented in the document.

cc2025.150

Refurbishment of 21 & 23 West Road (cf cc2025.127)

The Bursar introduced **CP2025/074**, detailing the progress of the project. Council discussed the potential of the proposed new foyer to meet the demand among students for public working spaces; concern was also expressed about the suitability of the present designs from the point of view of their visual aesthetic in the wider context of Ann's Court. Members of the working group reported that the visual representations supplied by the architect were intended as indicative and provisional, and a range of visual presentations would be proposed and considered during the next stage. On this basis Council approved the proposal to move forward with 'Option 1B', a single-storey extension providing a common entrance and study-space for both buildings, with a preference for MEP Option 2, a hybrid heating option utilizing an air source heat pump for baseline hot water and heating, topped up by modern, efficient gas boilers. These proposals and the associated client brief would now be advanced to RIBA stage 3 (detailed spatial design), with a view to presenting detailed plans and costings, and requesting authorization to proceed with the project, at Council on 11 November.

cc2025.151

Stirling Building refurbishment (cf cc2025.80, cc2025.104)

The Bursar reported that the agreement for the oversailing of the proposed crane was almost concluded. Provisions included arrangements for access between Sidgwick site and the College site, controlled by the College; measures for noise abatement and mitigation, and quiet periods; weekly updates from the contractors; and the ability for College to contact the contractors in case of urgent need to cease serious disturbances. Professional legal advice had been obtained, and the Bursar would continue to consult the Vice-Master for further guidance. Council empowered the Bursar to conclude the agreement on the College's behalf.

cc2025.152

Freedom of Speech policy

The Senior Tutor proposed that in the absence of additional guidance from the University or Intercollegiate Services Limited, the policy agreed under *cc2024.143*, but later paused under *cc2024.163i*, should be made 'live' by 1 August. He agreed to recirculate the link for the original papers to Council. Doubts had been voiced at STC and elsewhere about the consistency and enforceability of the OfS guidance on the implementation of the legislation, and legal challenges were likely. In the meantime the agreed policy would be promulgated in order to comply with the legislation, and would be held under review by the Prevent and Free Speech Committee as the situation developed.

cc2025.153

Snowball update

Council received an update from the co-presidents of the Snowball Committee (**CP2025/075**), welcoming the developments since the previous iteration. The Vice-Master reported that she had received the requested documentation from the previous committee and was offering guidance, with the Bursar, to the present personnel rep over the workers' contracts for this year's event. The Senior Tutor would ensure that Tutors and Directors of Studies were aware of any of their

students who were members of the committee. The committee should consult with Dr Beauregard as Chair of the Gardens Committee to ensure that their plans for decoration of Old Court lawn were acceptable (and were reminded of the previous stipulation that no footfall on the lawn would be permitted during the event). They were also reminded of the need to devise a policy on the participation of under-18s, and to confirm to College that the City Council had been fully informed of the plans for the event; the Bursar would continue to liaise with the committee on these and other matters.

cc2025.154

Gardens Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Gardens Committee held on 13 June 2025 (CP2025/076) were received and noted.

cc2025.155

IT and Data Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the IT and Data Committee held on 13 June 2025 (CP2025/077) were received and noted, and Council approved the appended Systems Management Policy.

cc2025.156

Any other unreserved business

There was no other unreserved business.