



MINUTES

*of a meeting of the College Council
at 1:10pm on Tuesday 4 May 2021*

There were present by video conference: The Master, the Acting Vice-Master, the Bursar, the Senior Tutor, Dr Beauregard, Professor Cant, Professor Ellis, Ms MacDonald, Mr Matheson, Mr Nicholson, and the Revd Canon Shilson-Thomas. The JCR President, the JCR Treasurer, and the MCR President were present by video conference for the Unreserved Business, for which the MCR Treasurer was also in attendance.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

- cc2021.92 Statement of Conflicts of Interest*
The JCR representatives noted in relation to cc2021.100 that the JCR Committee is boycotting Amazon and had voted to support the Open Letter of the Green Collective. There were no other conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.
- cc2021.93 Apologies for Absence*
Apologies for absence were received from Dr Meer.
- cc2021.94 Minutes of the Unreserved Council Meeting of 16 March 2021*
The minutes of the Unreserved Council meeting of 16 March were agreed and signed.
- cc2021.95 Matters Arising*
There were no matters arising.
- cc2021.96 Covid Update*
The Bursar introduced **CP2021/40** drawing attention to developments since the end of Lent Term. Two students tested positive on asymptomatic 'return to Cambridge' tests, which showed the value of testing all students on return to College. These were the first student positive tests since November. Last week's asymptomatic testing was all negative. The Senior Tutor reported that there are 337 undergraduates and 70 postgraduates resident in College, with 45 undergraduates remaining at home, many overseas.
The Bursar outlined the options for a relaxation of Covid restrictions in College if step 3 on the Covid roadmap for England goes ahead as planned on 17 May. Council gave approval to the proposals, which

included resuming formal halls; allowing up to 3 accompanied visitors per member of the College; and indoor mixing of up to six students from different households (or two households, whichever larger), as in Michaelmas Term. There would be no relaxation of the rule prohibiting overnight guests. The JCR and MCR representatives raised concern about the issue of overnight guests. However, it was noted that overnight guests are the highest risk from a Covid point of view and undergraduates and postgraduates were urged to proceed with caution in the light of the relaxation of restrictions, since any rise in cases would bring with it further student self-isolation and potentially disrupt examinations or end of term plans. This rule will be reviewed in early July after General Admission, depending on Covid circumstances at the time.

cc2021.97

1 Selwyn Gardens and associated refurbishments

The purchase of 1 Selwyn Gardens completed on 23 April (see CP2021/41) and a working group ('New Court working group') has been formed consisting of the Bursar, Senior Tutor, Vice Master, the Fellow for Rooms, a postgraduate tutor, the Development Director, the Operations Manager and the MCR President. Its first meeting will take place on 25 May. Council agreed that the College would fund the refurbishment of the three hostels through borrowing, given that interest rates are currently lower than the expected return on investments. The final amount to be borrowed would be confirmed to Council before any funds are drawn down.

The Bursar also updated Council on the refurbishment of the Old Library: tender interviews are scheduled for 15 June, with approval of the successful tender with a timescale for the work to be brought to the 13 July Council meeting.

cc2021.98

Prevent

The Senior Tutor reported that the accountability and data return for 2020 was approved by the Prevent team at the Office for Students.

cc2021.99

Phase III Committee

The final meeting of the Phase III Committee took place on 1 April 2021. Going forward, all matters relating to the new building will be covered by the Operations Committee and the Library and Archives Committee, as appropriate. The minutes of the meeting were received and noted (CP2021/042). Council warmly thanked all members of the Committee for their work in steering the development. The JCR and MCR representatives noted the positive reaction expressed by students and agreed also to make sure that feedback on any teething troubles were also sent in. It was noted that the Library and Archives Committee would be making further decisions about soft furnishings and less formal seating. Problems with the lift to the Bartlam Library are being addressed.

cc2021.100

Investment Committee

Council received and noted the minutes of a meeting of the Investment Committee held on 29 April 2021 (CP2021/043a). The Bursar noted that



the minutes contain commercially sensitive information and reminded members of Council that these are confidential. It was also noted that the meeting had discussed a number of individual holdings and taken into account ESG (environmental, social and governance) as well as financial considerations. The Committee had applied the new, reduced threshold for fossil fuels when considering the investment portfolio, in line with the College's commitment to responsible investment, and had chosen to sell its holding in one of its funds as a result. The JCR and MCR representatives expressed concern that the Investment Committee had chosen not to sell shares in one particular company and drew attention to its environmental policies. The Bursar drew to Council's attention that the Investment Committee had engaged in a full discussion of that company in the context of ESG and that the investment had been put on a negative watch.

Council approved the Total Return policy (**CP2021/043b**), which would see the College spend a fixed percentage of the investment portfolio each year (3% of the value of the portfolio in 2021-22) rather than the investment income achieved. To ensure a prudential approach, the figure to be spent is calculated as a percentage of the average value of the portfolio over the previous five years, lagged by one year.

cc2021.101

Flag Working Group

The Acting Vice Master reported from the flag working group on the criteria for flying flags in College (**CP2021/044**). Council expressed support for the working group's proposal to fly three or four further flags each year to signal the College's commitment to Equality and Diversity. It was proposed that the JCR and MCR should be invited to nominate three or four occasions to fly different flags, in line with criteria to be finalized after the meeting in discussion with the Senior Tutor, and which would allow flags to be proposed either by the JCR and MCR committees or by an alternative route. A final draft would be agreed by circulation.

cc2021.102

Weddings in Chapel

Council noted the permissions which the Dean of Chapel had given for Weddings over the summer period (**CP2021/045**).

cc2021.103

Any Other Unreserved Business

There was no other unreserved business.

