KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held

on Tuesday 17 March 2026 at 14:00 in the Audit Room and Teams

Present:	Provost (online, until 16:00) Professor Bullock Professor Foley Professor Giannitsarou (online, until 15:25) Ms Headen Dr Knox Dr Russell Dr Sarkovic (until 16:10) Professor Sharman Dr Weil Ms O'Callaghan* (KCSU Vice-President) Ms Sally* (KCGU President)	In Attendance:	Vice-Provost First Bursar (until 16:00) Senior Tutor Domus Bursar Mr Teare* (KCSU President) Registrar

*Open Business

153. **Apologies for Absence**

Professor Grosse Ruse-Khan and Mr Ahmad (KCGU Treasurer) apologised for their absence. As the Provost was attending online the Vice Provost chaired the meeting.

OPEN BUSINESS

154. **Declarations of Interest**

Mr Teare as Treasurer of King's Affair 2026 declared an interest in item 162.

155. **Minutes of Open Business 3 March 2026**

Approved.

156. **Matters arising**

None.

157. **Oral reports**

None.

158. **Council Timetable – Open Matters**

Fun Day Proposal and Grad Bar Report were postponed to the next meeting. Strategy Discussion was postponed to the second meeting of the Easter Term. College Security Review was postponed to a later meeting.

159. **Council Action List – Open Matters**

On the agenda, Approval for King's Affair 2026. Considering whether the risk register should specifically address risks arising from pressures on the higher education sector at large will be addressed in the Planning Round. Still outstanding are:

- Bring proposal to Council for how the College might engage with existing programmes designed to give opportunities for those at school to develop choral skills;
- Bring proposal to Council on the feasibility of an organ competition or other ways of identifying and supporting young organists;
- Return to Council with a proposed College position on Supreme Court Equality Act ruling/ECHR guidance, and detail of any practical steps required.

The first two were postponed to the Easter Term to allow the Assistant Director of Music more time following his recent appointment. The third was postponed as no guidance was available yet, though proposals for practical steps would be brought to Council in Easter Term.

160. **Council Project List**

Completed have been:

- Review structure and skills of administrative team;
- Admissions feedback and evaluation;
- Responsible investment implementation;
- Catering perception change;
- Segregated mandate for Endowment;
- Porters' security and training;
- New custodian for Endowment;
- Implementation of compliance reporting system;
- Systems to flag committee items for Council attention;
- College publications refresh.

Ongoing is the Collections Restoration campaign.

The due dates were extended for:

- Development 'mind the gap' strategy;
- Communications strategy;
- Decarbonisation programme options;
- Kinetics implementation;
- Leadership programme for Heads of Department;
- Strengthen appraisals process (ongoing from 2023);
- College Incident Management Plan;
- Introduce Termly Update reporting to GB.

No information was available for:

- Research strategy;
- Programme of research workshops & talks;
- Staff development package.

Strategic

161. **Report on Student Numbers**

The Senior Tutor introduced her report on student numbers, noting that this was brought to Council on an annual basis. While undergraduate numbers were as had been agreed, the number of postgraduates on one-year courses that had been admitted was much higher. Additional data was needed to understand the underlying causes.

> Council approved the target numbers for admissions for Michaelmas Term 2026, noted the remaining data on the size and shape of the student body, and asked the Tutorial Office Manager, Graduate Admissions Tutor, Head of Graduate Affairs, Judge Admissions Tutors and Graduate Administrators to look in more depth at our graduate admissions numbers and practices and report back to Council.

Routine

162. **King's Affair 2026**

Ms Kate Shortt as co-chair of the King's Affair 2026 Committee attended for this item.

> Council agreed to approve King's Affair 2026 to take place as proposed and commended the Committee for their hard and diligent work.

Council discussed how to manage King's Affair in future and asked that serious consideration be given to whether it needs to take place every year.

163. **Termly Development Report**

Council noted the fundraising, events and activities carried out by the Development Office since the Director of Development's Michaelmas report. The Campaign's goals had been achieved, and further funds had been raised since its conclusion. Council noted that there were immediate fundraising needs, but that the next Director of Development would inherit a good basis to work from.

164. **Cultural Programme - Outdoor Cinema Back Lawn**

The Domus Bursar introduced the Cultural Programme events proposed. While Council was very supportive of the proposal to host outdoor cinema on the back lawn, concerns were raised over the event taking place while students were still in residence and that the Sunday screening clashed with the Fun Day organised by students. The Senior Tutor reported that she was content that the quiet period would not be disrupted. Council discussed whether an alternative venue for the Fun Day could be used, but decided that changes to the proposed cinema program should be sought to allow the Fun Day to go ahead on Sunday 21 June in its currently customary location of the back lawn (pending approval of the event itself by the Council).

> Council agreed to authorise Adventure Cinema to host up to four outdoor film screenings on the Back Lawn on Friday 19 June to the morning of Sunday 21 June under a venue hire agreement with Kings. Access for these screenings should be through Clare Gate, not Webb's Court (for this year when students are in residence).

Council noted that Adventure Cinema may not be willing to go ahead with the shorter programme. In future years, events like these would be scheduled later in the summer, when undergraduates were no longer in residence.

165. **Cultural Programme - Fellows' Garden Event Proposal**

Council discussed the proposal host Chinese-language outdoor cinema screenings in the Fellows' Garden.

> Council agreed to approve the use of the Fellows' Garden for a pilot Chinese-language outdoor cinema programme during the Summer Vacation (anticipated August 2026), delivered in partnership with the Cambridge-based provider Enchanted Cinema.

The approved events would not be advertised immediately, to allow to publicise the full programme of events together.

166. **Cultural Programme - The Book Fish Outdoor Theatre Proposal**

This item was withdrawn.

167. **Working Group on Chapel Visitor Experience**

> Council agreed to approve the establishment of a working group to focus on the Chapel Visitor Offer.

The final composition of the working group would be approved by Council at a later date.

168. **Admissions and Outreach Report**

The Undergraduate Admissions Tutor attended for this item.

Council thanked the Undergraduate Admissions Tutor for the very informative report. She reported that the expansion of outreach work and embedding it with a solid theory of change was very positive, though outreach was more than just a recruitment tool. However, the number of applications was declining and the most immediate cause identified were the open days, for which feedback had been polarised. Some changes would be made at the coming open days, such as making the Hall and Chapel available. Council also discussed the impact Fellows have on the number of applicants, as well as the academic success of those admitted, and noted that improvements could also be made in this area.

169. **Hamlet Funding**

> Council agreed to permit the use of the Waldmann Fund by KCDC to support its production of Hamlet in the Chapel, in advance of full registration as a type C society.

Compliance

170. **Charities Committee Terms of Reference**

Council discussed whether the College should be making donations to other charities, and if so whether the Charities Committee was the right body to decide on which charities to support. Council asked Professor Sharman to bring an alternative proposal to the next meeting.

171. **Finance Committee Terms of Reference**

> Council agreed to approve revised Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee.

172. **IT Committee Terms of Reference**

Council agreed to approve revised Terms of Reference for the IT Committee.

173. **Policy for the Admission of Under-18s**

Council agreed to approve the College's approach to the admission of under-18s and the associated amendments to the Safeguarding Policy.

174. **Update to Safeguarding Policy**

Council agreed to approve the recommended changes to the College's Safeguarding Policy.

175. **King's Politics Society**

Council agreed to register King's Politics as a Type C society under Regulation G.2.

176. **KCMS Constitution**

Council agreed to the proposed modifications to the KCMS Constitution, classifying the society as a KCGU (Type B) Society.

177. **Unacceptable and Unreasonable Behaviour Policy**

Council agreed to approve updates to the Unacceptable and Unreasonable Behaviour Policy and Standard Operating Procedure.

178. **Gifts of £10,000 or more**

Council agreed to accept gifts of over £10,000 received by the College between 11 November 2025 and 18 February 2026.

Minutes

179. **Minutes of the IT Committee meeting on 18 February 2026**

Noted.

180. **Minutes of the Chapel Committee meeting on 25 February 2026**

Noted, especially that the Committee had agreed to establish working groups to consider amendments to the policy on weddings in Chapel, and to review the current visitor experience; further, it had endorsed the Dean's plans to consult on measurement of spatial shift in the Chapel vault.

181. **Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 27 February 2026**

Noted.

182. **Any Other Business**

None.