

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE**

At a meeting of the Council held  
on Tuesday 10 June 2025 at 14:00 in the Audit Room

Present:	Provost	In Attendance:	Vice Provost
	Dr Good ( <i>online</i> )		Senior Tutor
	Ms Headen		First Bursar
	Dr Knox (until 15:55)		Domus Bursar
	Professor Gross Ruse-Khan (until 14:45)		Mr Warner*
	Dr Russell		Dr Wallach (Item 312 only)
	Professor Bullock		Registrar
	Professor Hall		
	Professor Foley		
	Professor Giannitsarou (until 15:25)		
	Ms Robinson (KCGU President)*		
	Mr Teare (KCSU Vice President)*		

\*Open Business

305. **Apologies for Absence**

Dr Sarkovic and Miss Kelly were absent.

**OPEN BUSINESS**

306. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

307. **Minutes of Open Business 27 May 2025**

Approved.

308. **Matters arising**

None.

309. **Oral reports**

Arts Theatre

The First Bursar notified Council that the Arts Theatre had indicated building work would start in late June but draft legal arrangements, which require Council's approval, were not yet ready. Subject to further evolution in the Theatre's plans Council are likely to be asked to consider the matter by correspondence.

Protest Activity

The First Bursar drew Council's attention to recent protest activity. Both St John's and Trinity had obtained injunctions from the High Court to stop attempts to establish encampments on their public-facing land. Council had recently agreed that Officers had discretion to remove King's temporary fencing at a time they deemed appropriate but were asked for their views on whether these events should change this position.

The Senior Tutor reiterated that she is comfortable with the fence being removed prior to graduation, given its importance to the College community, but noted that protests could impact other significant activities including planned recordings in Chapel.

Council considered whether protest groups might choose not to target King's. Council also discussed the feasibility of contacting organisers of said groups to lay foundations for communication in relation to potential future protest.

Council were not inclined towards using the fencing as a long-term solution but at present were not inclined either to alternative measures like injunctions

Council asked Officers to return this issue to the next Council meeting on 24 June for further discussion in light of how events across the city develop.

**310. Council Timetable – Open Matters**

Planning Round (priorities, budget and staffing proposals, and risk register) in agenda.

College Security Review, delayed from Easter Term, along with review of Chapel policies, expected before the end of term.

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

Appointment proposal following tender for external review of College financial systems (First Bursar) in agenda.

Remaining actions due to be completed in Easter Term:

- Propose external member of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee to Council (College Officers)
- Return to Council with a proposed College position on Supreme Court Equality Act ruling/ECHR guidance, and detail of any practical steps required (College Officers)
- Provide review of Henry Louis Gates Fellowship Scheme (with proposal to amend College processes accordingly if required) (Vice Provost)
- Provide report on effectiveness of EDI Committee (Chair of EDI Committee – Vice Provost)
- Report on progress of plans to install memorial tablet in Chapel for Sir Stephen Cleobury (Dean of Chapel, Memorial Consideration Group)
- Provide proposal for revised terms of reference for the Audit & Scrutiny Committee (Working Group led by Dr Good)

Note of reflections and recommendations on future models for King's Affair expected from King's Affair Committee during the Vacation meetings.

**Strategic**

**312. Planning Round**

Dr Wallach, acting chair of the Finance Committee, joined the meeting for this item only.

The First Bursar proposed priorities, resourcing changes, and budget/charge allocations for the 2025-2026 financial year. The proposals, reviewed and shaped by the Finance and HR Committees, flowed from plans for that period produced by Heads of Department and equivalent plans for 'Clusters' of departments produced by College Officers. The College's risk register, reviewed by Officers, was presented for comment and as context alongside the Risk Policy.

Dr Wallach spoke to the proposals and the process that had produced them. Dr Wallach emphasised the value of the strategic thinking advocated for in the paper, and asked Council to support the development of a shared long-term strategy to commence after the current 2025-2027 foundation-setting phase.

College Officers noted significant improvements in the breadth and accuracy of information available to Officers and Heads of Development (for example, energy use data) and how this had contributed to more effective planning.

Council discussed the planning process as a whole and, in particular, how to scrutinise spending decisions in the context of broad strategic priorities and expectations for how the College's financial position might evolve. One suggestion offered for the next Planning Round was that members of Council and Governing Body might be given a fuller account of the crucial spending decisions at the margin so that there was potential for Council to engage more closely with the proposals.

The First Bursar welcomed Council's engagement in the design of the process as it matures (this being the third cycle to-date). He spoke to the future need for committees to integrate the plans into their agendas, and how this will ensure greater scrutiny of delivery, as well as helping shape future proposals. For Council specifically, he drew attention to the strategic objectives identified in the paper and, within that, the Termly Update process used to update Council about progress on key projects.

Council acknowledged that, as the College's trustee body, it may be more appropriate for them to take a more strategic view and for the College's committees to develop and monitor detail, as advocated for by the First Bursar.

Council noted an error in the figures annexed to the paper. Funding for the JCR refurbishment was not listed, but the Domus Bursar reassured Council that this was an administrative error and that it was included in the overall sums presented.

Council agreed to recommend to Governing Body the College's plans, budget and risk approach for the financial year 2025.

Council thanked the First Bursar, College Officers, and all who have supported the Planning Round process for their work on this year's proposals. The First Bursar echoed those thanks.

### **313. Financial Information Systems**

The First Bursar asked Council to agree the engagement of a Finance Systems Consultant to review and propose improvements to how the College uses its current financial information systems. His proposal built on recommendations of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee.

Council acknowledged the proposed appointee's personal connection to a member of College staff. Council were provided with reassurance that processes set out in the College's Financial Regulations had been followed. The Finance Committee had reviewed the proposal and recommended the appointment.

Council agreed to engage a third-party Consultant to identify and implement opportunities to improve our financial systems, as recommended by Finance Committee.

## **Routine**

### **314. Cambridge Half Marathon 2026**

The Domus Bursar proposed that Council agree to the 2026 Cambridge Half Marathon to, as in previous years, passing through College grounds.

The President of KCGU emphasised the student community's support for the event and noted its significant contribution to the College's civic presence.

Council confirmed the College's participation in the route of the Cambridge Half Marathon on Sunday 8 March 2026, and requested a formal review of the College's involvement following the 2026 event.

**315. Shine Walk October 2025**

The Domus Bursar asked Council to approve the continued participation of King's College in the Cambridge Shine Night Walk, a fundraising event for Cancer Research UK, by allowing access to the Fellow's Garden in the same format as previous years.

Council agreed to approve the use of the Fellow's Garden on the evening of Saturday 18th October 2025 as part of the route for the Cambridge Shine Night Walk, organised by Cancer Research UK.

**316. Terms of Reference (Chapel Committee)**

The Chapel Committee met on Wednesday 28 May 2025 and reviewed its terms of reference. Council were asked to approve amendments.

The Vice Provost queried an aspect of the proposed changes, namely the proposal to abolish an element of the Terms of Reference relating to the Choirs' Diary committee. Council noted that it was not clear who was now responsible for reviewing the Choir's commitments. In addition, College Officers who attend Chapel Committee queried the degree to which the Committee's members had discussed this change.

Council did not agree to approve revised Terms of Reference for the Chapel Committee. The Committee were asked to reconsider and return the proposals to Council with additional background.

**Compliance**

**317. Non-King's Students in King's Accommodation (Policy Review)**

The Domus Bursar and Senior Tutor presented a paper from the Accommodation Tutor setting out the College's arrangements for granting licences to occupy King's accommodation to non-King's graduate students. The paper asked Council to re-approve the current policy.

The Senior Tutor highlighted that the College currently grants licences to individual students on request but had used other models in the past, which included entering into block agreements with other colleges.

Council noted the significant financial advantages to the College's policy but heard the Senior Tutor and KCGU President's reflections on significant pastoral and disciplinary issues which have arisen as a result of non-King's graduate residents on a number of occasions.

Council discussed whether it was necessary to retain current levels of graduate accommodation in the College estate. The Domus Bursar highlighted that King's is likely to refurbish several accommodation areas in the next three to five years and that excess accommodation is a cost-effective way to house affected students.

Council agreed to approve a policy on non-King's students occupying King's accommodation (dated April 2025), expressing a preference for entering into

agreements with other Colleges rather than to individual students on a case-by-case basis.

Council agreed that the Policy should next be reviewed in April 2028.

**318. Cambridge SU Affiliation**

Council noted a paper from the KCGU President which clarified KCGU and KCSU's relationship to Cambridge SU. The Unions, along with Cambridge SU, had been proceeding under the impression that they were affiliated with each other. Further discussion clarified that King's Unions are not themselves affiliated with Cambridge SU, instead, each student as an individual is a member of Cambridge SU (this is also the case for students at other colleges and their college representative bodies).

Therefore, the Unions are not required to manage their relationship with Cambridge SU as an external organisation affiliation (requirements relating to which are contained in their constitutions).

**Minutes**

**319. Minutes of the Communications Committee meeting on 30 April 2025**

Noted.

**320. Minutes of the IT Committee meeting on 21 May 2025**

Noted.

**321. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 23 May 2025**

Noted.

**322. Minutes of the Chapel Committee meeting on 28 May 2025**

Noted.

**323. Minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting on 28 May 2025**

Noted.

**324. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 30 May 2025**

Noted.

**325. Any Other Business**

None.