

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

At a meeting of the Council held  
on Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 14:00 in the Audit Room

Present:	Provost	In Attendance:	Vice Provost
	Dr Good (until 15:40)		Senior Tutor
	Ms Headen		First Bursar
	Dr Knox (until 15:30)		Domus Bursar
	Professor Bullock		
	Professor Hall (until 16:15)		Professor Zeeman (Item
	Professor Foley		368 only)
	Professor Giannitsarou		
	Dr Sarkovic		Miss Kelly*
	Ms Robinson* (from 15:15)		
	Mr Teare*		Registrar

\*Open Business

**338. Apologies for Absence**

Dr Russell, Professor Gross Ruse-Khan, and Mr Warner apologised for their absence.

**OPEN BUSINESS**

**339. Declarations of Interest**

The First Bursar declared his interest in Item 354 (as a user of the College's electric vehicle charging ports).

**340. Minutes of Open Business 10 June 2025**

Approved.

**341. Matters arising**

None.

**342. Oral reports**

Arts Theatre

The First Bursar notified Council that progress had been made towards a proposed licence for the Arts Theatre's upcoming crane works. He made Council aware of tight timeframes caused by the Theatre team's approach to the works, but reassured Council that the Theatre team had been made aware that more timely action was expected from them in future.

Protest Activity

At its meeting on 10 June Council had considered increased protest activity across the city and had asked College Officers to return the matter to this meeting for further discussion. The First Bursar provided an update, highlighting recent activity at Magdalen and their decision to (like Trinity and St John's) seek an injunction, which had been granted, from now until the end of June 2025. He also made Council aware

of guidance recently published by the Office for Students about new free speech duties on UK higher education bodies.

Ms Robinson joined the meeting.

Council acknowledged that the fencing is unattractive and noted comments in favour of removing it prior to General Admission. Council also noted the alternative view, however, that fencing would likely be preferable to the possibility that an injunction became necessary. Council and College Officers shared the view that no injunction should be sought before first seeking Council's approval.

Council affirmed their agreement that Officers' have delegated authority to decide when to remove the College's fencing.

#### Cambridge Shakespeare Festival

The Domus Bursar drew Council's attention to an actors' union (Equity) campaign against the Cambridge Shakespeare Festival. She asked Council whether the College should proceed with hosting performances during this year's event.

Council noted that other host colleges had agreed to let the Festival proceed this year but to review their relationships with it after the event.

In response to Council's queries, the Domus Bursar spoke about the Festival organisers' approach to her queries relating to Festival logistics, and relating to the campaign, which had had been uncooperative.

Council suggested that the Domus Bursar jointly write to the Festival with other colleges and bring the Festival's response to Council to help inform future review of the relationship.

Council agreed that the Cambridge Shakespeare Festival can proceed to hold performances in the Fellows' garden in 2025.

Council agreed to formally review the College's relationship with the Festival in Michaelmas term 2025.

#### **343. Council Timetable – Open Matters**

No timetable items required.

#### **344. Council Action List – Open Matters**

Review of Henry Louis Gates Fellowship Scheme, report on effectiveness of EDI Committee, and proposals relating to terms of reference for the Audit & Scrutiny Committee in agenda (the latter, item 347, was delayed to the following meeting).

Remaining actions due to be completed in Easter Term:

- 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)
- Report on progress of plans to install memorial tablet in Chapel for Sir Stephen Cleobury (Dean of Chapel, Memorial Consideration Group)

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

#### **Strategic**

**345. Civic Engagement**

The First Bursar highlighted the link between the city and College's respective social, cultural and economic health, and proposed that the College take steps to develop a clearer strategy for how the College participates in the 'civic life' of Cambridge.

The First Bursar thanked the Junior Members of Council, in particular, for their contribution to the proposals.

Council asked the First Bursar to comment on what 'Cambridge' means in this context. His view was that for these endeavours to have best effect a flexible definition should be adopted, a view shared by Create Cambridge (the city's developing cultural group).

Council agreed:

- a) To appoint a working group to develop a coordinated approach to the College's civic engagement, reporting no later than Easter 2026; and
- b) To recommend to KCSU and KCGU that they involve partner charities in introductory activities for new students, working with the Futures Tutor.

**346. Report on Effectiveness of EDI Committee**

The Vice Provost, as chair of the EDI Committee, provided Council with a report on the effectiveness of the Committee.

He acknowledged the Committee's modest progress to date, and highlighted issues faced by the Committee, particularly the lack of EDI data gathered by the College.

Council noted overlap between the Committee's activities, the work of other committees (such as HR, and the Fellowship Committee), and College Officers activities. The Vice Provost shared the view of the Committee, which was that one committee with oversight of the College's overall EDI policy and strategy remained an effective approach and highlighted that those Committees and College Officers were represented on the Committee.

Council asked for further information about a Legacies of Slavery studentship mentioned in the report. The Senior Tutor explained the studentship ensured funds were deployed as agreed by the Governing Body when a RF in receipt of the funding had been unable to continue.

Council noted the report and agreed to the continued existence of the Committee.

**Routine**

**347. Audit & Scrutiny Working Group Report**

This item will be considered at Council's next meeting.

**348. Chapel Roof Access**

The Domus Bursar asked Council to approve a proposed design for the Chapel balustrade which will reinstate safe access to the apex of the Chapel roof. The option recommended by the Domus Bursar, and team, is expected to provide safe access which is compliant with the requirements of relevant bodies (for example, the planning authority and Diocese).

Council agreed to approve the proposal for the balustrade as designed by Caroe Architects.

**349. Creation of the JCR**

The Domus Bursar, given the long history of work towards establishing a JCR for students, invited Council to note the proposed design for the space and associated expenditure (which had been included within Planning Round proposals).

Council emphasised the need for the space to be maintained long term. The Domus Bursar noted that long-term maintenance was a priority for all her teams involved in managing the College estate. Mr Teare, KCSU Vice President, emphasised KCSU's commitment to ensuring the space was managed through appropriate behaviour and maintained by students.

Council noted the proposed design and associated expenditure of £60,000 for the creation of a new JCR within the current Coffee Shop space.

**350. Report on Henry Louis Gates Visiting Fellowship Scheme**

In Easter Term 2024 Council agreed that the College should associate with the University scheme for Henry Louis Gates Visiting Fellows and asked the Vice Provost to provide a report on its progress in Easter Term 2025. The Vice Provost reported that the scheme had not progressed since summer 2024, but that he and the Director of Development had resumed efforts to encourage CUDAR to put the scheme into operation.

Council noted the report.

**351. Use of Hall – 1441 Dinner**

The Development Office asked Council to approve term-time use of Hall for the thirteenth annual 1441 Foundation Dinner.

Council agreed to approve the use of Hall and Bar for the 1441 Foundation event on Saturday 29 November 2025.

**352. Use of Hall – Medical Sciences Dinner**

The Development Office asked Council to approve term-time use of Hall for a Medical Sciences subject reunion. The reunion dinner will also be open to current Medical Sciences students and alumni who have pursued careers in related fields.

Council agreed to approve the use of the Hall and Bar for the Medical Sciences Dinner event on Saturday 15 November.

**Compliance**

**353. Review of Chapel Policies**

The Dean of Chapel, on behalf of the Chapel Committee, proposed a reviewed and updated set of policies relating to Chapel. The Provost presented the item in the Dean's absence.

Council agreed to approve three reviewed and updated policies relating to the Chapel, and to request their next reviews by the Chapel Committee take place as follows:

1. Memorial Tablets in Chapel Policy - Easter 2028
2. Chapel Photography and Filming Policy - Easter 2028

### 3. Chapel Hospitality Policy – Easter 2028

#### 354. **Electric Vehicle Charging Policy**

The Domus Bursar presented a proposed policy on use of the College's electric vehicle charging points (no policy setting out principles for their use is currently in place). The policy had been reviewed by the Buildings & Safety, and HR committees.

Council agreed adopt the new Electrical Vehicle Charging Policy and associated EV chargers guide and charge point registration form.

The policy will be reviewed in Easter 2026 by the Buildings & Safety Committee in the first instance, and every three years thereafter (or earlier if required).

#### 355. **Student Societies Reforms**

Ms Robinson, KCGU President, asked Council to approve changes to how student societies at King's are managed (and associated updates to Regulation G.2). Her proposals followed a review of current practice and had been developed in collaboration with KCSU and the Senior Treasurer to the Unions.

Ms Robinson drew Council's attention to the proposal to recognise a third type of student society, those directly affiliated to the College (such as the Boat Club) and initiate a process whereby the governance of these 'Type C' societies is regularised.

Council noted operational difficulties posed by the ambiguous status of various student societies and thanked Ms Robinson for her intervention. Council discussed how next steps in relation to 'Type C' societies should be progressed, at this time favouring a process whereby they first bring constitutions to Council for approval, then begin to make reports to Council, before rationalising that reporting if required.

The Senior Tutor drew Council's attention to the need for greater Fellowship involvement in the governance of 'Type C' societies.

Council agreed:

1. To approve the new College Regulations (amending G.2) on College Societies;
2. To approve the new reporting requirements for College Societies;
3. To ask the College officers and Junior Members of Council to lead a process regularising the position of 'Type C' directly affiliated societies.

Relevant reporting milestones will be added to Council's timetable of routine business.

#### 356. **Student Disciplinary Committee – Trained Panel**

The Senior Tutor provided a paper advising the Council of those Senior members of the College who have received training to sit on Discipline Committees or Appeal Committees established under the College's Student Disciplinary Policy.

Council noted the list of trained Senior Members of College.

### **Minutes**

#### 357. **Minutes of the Education Committee meeting on 29 May 2025**

Noted.

#### 358. **Minutes of the EDI Committee meeting on 5 June 2025**

Noted.

359. **Any Other Business**

None.