

CONFIDENTIAL
KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday 15 July 2025 at 14:00 in the Wine Room and via Teams

Present:	Provost (online, from 14:10)	In Attendance:	Vice Provost (until 15:30)
	Dr Good		Senior Tutor
	Ms Headen		First Bursar
	Dr Knox* (online, until 15:15)		Domus Bursar
	Dr Russell		Mr Warner* (online, until 14:15)
	Professor Bullock		Dean of Chapel (online, item 419 only)
	Professor Hall		Registrar
	Professor Giannitsarou (online)		
	Dr Sarkovic (online)		

*Open Business

408. Apologies for Absence

Ms Robinson, Professor Foley, Mr Teare and Professor Grosse Ruse-Khan apologised for their absence. Miss Kelly was absent.

The Vice Provost chaired the meeting as the Provost was attending by Teams.

OPEN BUSINESS

409. Declarations of Interest

None.

410. Minutes of Open Business 8 July 2025

Approved, subject to correction of attendee list.

411. Matters arising

None.

412. Oral reports

King's Parade

The First Bursar informed Council about the University's recent application to the High Court for a precautionary injunction, including over land proximate to the Chapel. The First Bursar will provide further updates as and when required. The First Bursar reported that the University was also of the view that some fencing proximate to the tree should be retained for the time being.

Responsible Investment Correspondence

The First Bursar notified Council that he had received correspondence in relation to the College's implementation of its Statement on Responsible Investment. Council will be provided with further updates in due course, if required.

413. Council Timetable – Open Matters

Exam Outcomes Report and Termly Update in agenda. College Security (Lent term routine item) not yet received.

Council's papers drew attention to the Termly Update's move from Routine to Strategic items to reflect the way it supports the monitoring of strategic projects.

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

Note describing King's Affair Committee's reflections following King's Affair 2025 in agenda (recommendations for 2026 event to follow in Michaelmas term).

College Officers' due to propose College position on Supreme Court Equality Act ruling/ECHR guidance and provide detail of any practical steps required (overdue).

Strategic

415. **Termly Update**

The First Bursar presented Council with the Termly Update on College activities. He reported continued strong progress on projects with particular thanks to the Senior Tutor, Domus Bursar and Head of Development for taking forward wide-ranging programmes of work. Regarding financial health, data shows that the College remains broadly on track for the deficit projected in the 2025 planning round.

Council considered the College's risk register, and whether it should specifically address risks arising from pressures on the higher education sector at large. The Senior Tutor undertook to take this consideration at the next review of the risk register (which will take place in preparation for the next Termly Update).

Council noted the Termly Update for Easter Term 2025.

Routine

416. **Student Outcomes Report**

Examination Results

The Senior Tutor presented a paper providing results and analysis for the College's undergraduates' examinations in 2024–2025. She acknowledged the limited analysis presented at this meeting, which is primarily a result of results only being received late on the Friday afternoon before Council's meeting. Her initial view was that results were somewhat disappointing but she encouraged Council to see this as an opportunity to reflect on the College's approach.

Council discussed where the College might most effectively focus its teaching energies and where additional resource might be beneficial, noting the success with low-performing students and the challenge of converting high 2.i performances into Firsts.

Council considered outcomes that the College could use to measure its success, expressing some support for more granular subject-by-subject analysis where possible. The Senior Tutor informed Council that the Education Committee had begun to consider outcome measures and that this work would continue next academic year.

Council noted that the University is transitioning how it shares exam outcomes data, how this continues to limit the ease with which the Senior Tutor can obtain data for analysis, and that the University's trajectory in this regard may also impact the information that will be included in graduate transcripts. The Senior Tutor is monitoring these issues via Senior Tutors' Committee.

The Senior Tutor, and Council, nonetheless praised Fellows' commitment to teaching and supporting the College's undergraduates and thanked them for their continued hard work. The massive amount of effort by the Senior Tutor and the team of Tutors and Directors of Studies to achieve these results was acknowledged with thanks by Council.

Council accepted the summary report of undergraduate examination results.

Report on Prizes, Scholarships and Funds

This element of the report was moved to Reserved Business as it contains personal and financial information. Council's Timetable will be corrected.

417. King's Affair 2025 – Reflections

The King's Affair 2025 committee provided a paper setting out their reflections following the 2025 event. The Domus Bursar spoke to the paper and asked Council for their views on what it would be valuable to include in any paper presenting proposals to Council for a 2026 event.

Council acknowledged significant challenges overcome by the 2025 Committee and College staff, who had nonetheless delivered a memorable event for all those attending. The Senior Tutor drew Council's attention to the very low proportion of guests who were members of King's (less than 20%), and expressed concern that the event did not seem to be appealing to a majority of the King's student body.

Council discussed the extent to which the current model is financially viable, noting difficult ticket sales in 2025 and significant use of contingency funds. The Domus Bursar highlighted examples where low-cost contractors had not provided services to an adequate standard. Council acknowledged that the Committee's current budget limited their capacity to select contractors for quality, rather than cost, in some cases bringing material risk to the College.

The Domus Bursar highlighted the event's impact on Head of Department workload and the generosity shown by all staff who help organise and execute the event. The Senior Tutor, similarly, spoke to the experiences of some students who take on positions on the Committee and the negative impact on their welfare it can have.

Whilst indicating no preference at this time, Council considered whether the College might play a larger part in organising the event, and whether staff time could be charged for. Council also considered whether the event could move to a new model in future years, for example back to a paid-as-you-go (rather than 'all inclusive') model, or move away from the all-night style of event, and whether it might help for the event to have a 'fallow year' in 2026 before returning with a new model in 2027.

Council suggested that the Senior Tutor and Domus Bursar should meet with the 2026 Committee to discuss these points.

Council noted the King's Affair Committee's reflections on this year's event.

418. Lawn Signage

The Domus Bursar asked Council to agree wording for signs on the College's front lawn. The Domus Bursar and her team have been working on proposals in consultation with the Adornment Committee since January 2025 when Council agreed that public access to the laws should be permitted once the Heras fencing is removed.

Council considered the proposals and were in favour of the 'middle ground' between wording formulated by the College's solicitors, and the wording formulated by

Adornment Committee, provided some grammatical amendments were made. Council asked the Domus Bursar, however, to return the chosen phrasing to solicitors to confirm it is suitable.

Council discussed whether the lawn signs should be in multiple languages. Considering issues like relevant law in the event of a dispute, and the lawns' main user groups, Council were inclined towards the signs being in English only. Council invited the Domus Bursar to review this if necessary once the lawns and signs are in use.

Council agreed that the permanent signs on the lawns in front of College should use the following language: Access to this land is by permission of the College. Permission can be revoked at any time.

419. Chapel Podcast

At its previous meeting Council had received a paper from the Dean of Chapel proposing a Chapel Podcast [2025/385]. Council had declined to approve the proposal at that time but had invited the Dean to return the matter to Council with additional information in response to Council's queries.

The Dean of Chapel joined the meeting remotely and presented the podcast business case which he had developed for this meeting. He highlighted his view that the podcast would increase visitor income. Addressing Council's queries about how the podcast would be managed during his handover to his successor, he proposed that this could be considered when the first six episodes were evaluated. He also proposed that the production provider could be tendered for at this stage.

Having provided all additional information requested at the previous meeting, the Dean of Chapel left the meeting, after which Council discussed further and voted.

Council discussed the timing of the proposal, which had featured in the Chapel's Annual Plans since 2023, and whether launching this project now, when a future Dean has not had the opportunity to develop a view on their involvement, would be premature. Council further noted the opportunities the podcast might provide in regard to Development, which would require some further work to specify. Council also noted the requirement for a tendering process for expenditure of the proposed level. Lastly, Council commented on the operational pressures of the current Dean's workload.

Council welcomed this proposal from the Dean. Nonetheless, Council was not inclined to approve the proposal at this time. Council members were of the view that a more sustainable long-term concept might be developed in collaboration with the new Dean of Chapel (once appointed) and supported by a clear Development strategy for the proposal.

Council agreed not to support, at this time, the further development of the Chapel Podcast concept and production of a first series of episodes.

Compliance

None.

Minutes

None received for report.

420. Any Other Business

None.