

## KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held  
on Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 14:00 in the Audit Room

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| Present: | Provost<br>Professor Foley<br>Dr Good<br>Professor Grosse Ruse-<br>Khan<br>Professor Hall<br>Ms Headen<br>Dr Knox<br>Dr Russell<br>Dr Sarkovic<br>Ms Sally* (KCGU<br>President)<br>Mr Teare* (KCSU Vice-<br>President) (until 14:55) | In Attendance: | Vice-Provost<br>First Bursar<br>Senior Tutor<br>Domus Bursar<br><br>Mr Ahmad* (KCGU<br>Treasurer)<br>Mr Warner* (KCSU<br>President)<br><br>Registrar<br><br>Assistant Bursar and<br>Ms Kelly Bretherick/<br>PEM – Item 555 only.<br><br>Prevent Committee<br>(Head Porter & Head<br>of Catering) – Item<br>560 only. |
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\*Open Business

547. **Apologies for Absence**

Professor Bullock and Professor Giannitsarou apologised for their absence. Mr Ahmad (KCGU Treasurer) was absent.

### OPEN BUSINESS

548. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

549. **Minutes of Open Business 4 November 2025**

Approved.

550. **Matters arising**

None.

551. **Oral reports**

The Domus Bursar reported that the Dean would be hosting in the Chapel representatives from Sudan's Emergency Response Rooms in conversation with Professor Srinivasan at 3:00pm on Wednesday 26 November. Council expressed its strong support for this event.

552. **Council Timetable – Open Matters**

In agenda, Year End Review, including Audit Report and Report on Restricted Funds.

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

In agenda, Cambridge Shakespeare Festival.

Remaining actions due to be completed in Michaelmas Term:

- Propose terms of reference and membership for separate audit and scrutiny committees
- Report on outcomes of working group on accommodation management
- Report on outcomes of events and room bookings working groups process
- Provide report evaluating results of summer school incubator pilot 'Spark'
- 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
- Consider whether the risk register should specifically address risks arising from pressures on the higher education sector at large
- Bring proposals to Council for King's Affair 2026

554. **Council Project List**

Noted.

**Strategic**

555. **Year End Review**

Final Audit Matters

*The Assistant Bursar and Ms Kelly Bretherick, Audit Partner at Peters, Elworthy and Moore, attended for this item.*

Ms Bretherick reported on the audit and the Audit Matters report. She expressed her thanks to the finance team for their assistance in the audit. No substantial issues had been raised, and the significant risks of management override of controls and of fraud or error in revenue recognition had not been found. The accounting of donations and legacies, which have to be recognised respectively when pledged and when probate has been granted, continued to require some adjustments, but Council noted that from 2027, these would only need to be recognised when received. Some small donations which could be spent at the College's discretion had been added to restricted rather than unrestricted funds, and this was corrected. Overall, the audit found that internal controls were working effectively. Recommendations from the previous year had mostly been closed, with some minor ones still identified as ongoing.

### Annual Report

The First Bursar presented the annual report from the trustees, including narratives relating to the College's activities and achievements, and financial outcomes. He framed last year's activities within the context of the College's strategy for recovery since the pandemic. This had focused on income growth, rather than pursuing major cost reductions, with the additional aims of strengthening the core academic mission and community life of the College. Notwithstanding these additional investments, the College had dealt well with some very challenging headwinds, including spiking inflation, cost of living pressures on students, Fellows and non-academic staff, utility cost increases and rising staff costs to support the Real Living Wage.

The academic and community life of the College had been supported through investments in four main areas: education (through an ambitious five-year plan); research (most recently with the appointments of two research directors); community (for example through reduced charging for student accommodation and catering, a move away from commercial conferences, and a shift in staff culture); and development and communications (where we continue to invest in well-performing teams). There had been no major capital outlays, to protect the balance sheet, with a focus on maintaining the estate. As at the year end, the College remained on track to complete the current 'foundation phase' and return to surplus in 2027.

Council noted the difficulty of in-year adjustments and briefly discussed the current year's performance. It was noted that the plans for charging of VAT on international student fees were still too vague to quantify this as a risk.

Council agreed

1. to accept the Annual Report & Financial Statements for the financial year 2024/25; and
2. authorised the Provost and First Bursar to sign the Annual Report & Financial Statements for the financial year 2024/25.

### Letter of Representation

Council noted the College's Letter of Representation and authorised the Provost to sign it on behalf of the College.

### Report on Restricted Funds

Council noted the report on restricted funds.

#### **556. Appointment of Landscape Architect**

Council noted the appointment of Colvin & Moggridge as the College's Landscape Architect for the Gardens Masterplan. Council endorsed the collaborative approach with Allies & Morrison to ensure alignment between the Gardens and Estate Masterplans.

### **Routine**

#### **557. Open Iftar in Ramadan**

Council noted that Ramadan would be during Lent Term, and that the Open Iftar that had taken place in College for several years was proposed for a Sunday.

Council agreed

1. that an Open Iftar should be held on Sunday 22 February 2026 during Ramadan and that Henning Grosse Ruse-Khan, in cooperation with the new Dean, should act as the host of the event on behalf of the College;
2. that the Head of Catering and the Head Porter should ensure suitable arrangements are in place for use of site and security plans for the day, to be given final approval by the Domus Bursar.

**558. Cambridge Shakespeare Festival**

The Domus Bursar introduced her paper on the Cambridge Shakespeare Festival, and especially the challenges the Festival had faced from the actors' union Equity. They are proposing to change to the Cambridge Shakespeare Programme, a nine-week CPD actor training course integrating workshops, seminars, and public performances. The organisers informed the College that this change formalises its educational purpose, ensures legal and ethical compliance, and positions participants as students, not employees. The model would be not-for-profit, fully transparent, and aligned with sector standards in UK drama training.

Council discussed whether to continue working with the Festival and on what basis. It was noted that the College could explore alternative uses of the Fellows' Garden over the summer that would benefit both the College and the community.

Council agreed that further information, such as details of the training scheme, was needed before a decision could be reached, and the Domus Bursar was asked to provide said information at the next Council meeting possible.

**559. Proposal from the Cambridge BID**

Cambridge BID had written to the Domus Bursar asking for use of the Back Lawn for free outdoor cinema screenings over one week in summer 2026. Council discussed the proposal and agreed to decline this proposal, but asked the Domus Bursar to explore other options for use of the back lawn for ticketed events such as outdoor cinema next summer.

**Compliance**

**560. Prevent Review**

This item was discussed after item 548. The Head Porter and Head of Catering joined for this item as members of the College's Prevent Committee. The Lay Dean had sent apologies.

The KCSU Vice-President and President absented themselves for this item as KCSU previously voted not to support the Prevent legislation

The Senior Tutor presented the annual Prevent Return to the Office for Students, detailing that one potential Prevent case had been raised where it was felt that a student was at risk of being drawn into extreme ideologies, but that the case had not needed to be escalated and was managed as a welfare issue. The Return also included the number of events reviewed by the external speaker process and the number of key persons who had received training.

Council agreed

1. to request the Senior Tutor to submit the Prevent Return on behalf of the College, and to authorise the Provost to sign the Prevent declaration on behalf of the College;
2. to confirm the named key persons list for academic year 2024/25; and

3. to ask the Fellowship Administrator, Registrar, and Head of HR to facilitate Prevent training through iHASCO for all the named 'key persons' as above.

Council also noted that the Prevent risk assessment had been approved at the meeting on 7 October 2025.

**561. KCFC Constitution**

Council noted that as a society who received funding directly from the College, in this case from the Clarke Football Fund, King's College Football Club needed to register for the as a Type C Society under College Regulation G.2.3. and have a written constitution.

Council agreed the constitution for King's College Football Club.

**Minutes**

**562. Minutes of the Gardens Committee meeting on 14 October 2025**

Noted.

**563. Minutes of the Communications Committee meeting on 15 October 2025**

Noted.

**564. Minutes of the Buildings and Safety Committee meeting on 20 October 2025**

Noted. Ross Harrison chaired the meeting and drew Council's attention to the Committee's agreement of Reroofing of New Garden, and the direction of travel for the Keynes Roof with additional solar panels for Garden and windows with louvred panels for 4th floor Keynes. It was also decided not to proceed with the planned full refurbishment of 3 Cranmer Road.

**565. Any Other Business**

None.