

Approved Minutes of a Meeting of the Conservation Committee
1.00 – 2.30, 3 May 2022
Godwin Room, Clare College

Present: Tim Chesters, Donald Hearn, Deborah Hoy, Haley Huang, Peter Judd, Tamara Follini (chair); Jo Costin

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Patricia Fara, Graham Ross, Anne Stillman.
2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.
3. Minutes of Last Meeting (22.02.2022): These were approved.
4. Matters Arising and for Report:
 - a. Sculpture for 2022–23 celebrations: The Chair reported that because the costs of ‘Cosmos’ had escalated, a piece by another sculptor, Helaine Blumenfeld, had been found: ‘Homage’, which is to be executed in white marble and which the Art Committee would like to place in Ashby Court. Questions were raised about its size and the possible loan period (later confirmed as two years). Although there were some initial reservations about the piece, the Committee decided to give its approval to acquiring it, which the Chair would pass on to William Foster, who has been heading this project.
 - b. Lanterns for Entryway to Great Hall: The Chair reported that the lighting of the Screen Hall is now under consideration by the lighting consultants for the Great Hall restoration project, and that hanging lights as well as sconces have been suggested, although no possible designs for fixtures have been put forward to date.
5. Progress on Great Hall Renovation and Great Hall Art Committee: The Chair confirmed that funding had been secured for the renovation of the Great Hall and feasibility studies had been received that included proposals for lighting, acoustics, and redecoration of the hall and ceiling (as those who attended the joint meeting of the Conservation Committee and the Old Court Working Party on 14 April would be aware); she also informed the Committee that on 26 April she and Wendy Pullan had met the painting specialist, who was enthusiastic about the Hall, very sensitive to numerous factors that had to be considered in the overall design (in particular, the colour of the Hall’s panelling, lighting, and stained glass windows), and who was going to present the Old Court Working Party and the Conservation Committee with three different redecoration schemes. Members were also asked to look at the chair samples that had been provided by Luke Hughes and forward responses to Tim Chesters. The Chair also summarised proposals that had been considered by the Great Hall Art Committee and reported that it was favouring the removal of many of the portraits that had been hung in the Hall and repositioning them elsewhere, keeping only the portraits at the far end of the Hall, above Lady Clare, along with portraits of former Masters on the balcony. Concern was expressed about suggestions that an especially historic, ancient Hall table might be divided in two; the Chair will check whether this is indeed the case.

[From Deborah Hoy, following circulation: [Luke Hughes has confirmed that the 7.2 meter table would not be cut in two, but would be trimmed to 6370mm and would be positioned on the dais. It is the Green table on his last set of drawings and stays on the dais whatever the set up in the Great Hall.](#)]

6. Fellows’ Library: Progress on Painting and Discussion of Size and Shape of Heating Mats: Several issues were discussed in relation to the Fellows Library. The Chair reported that the new security cameras had been installed, that blinds had been discussed with Jackie Searle and Deborah Hoy, that paint samples, including samples of gold paint had been viewed by Deborah, Jo, and herself. It was agreed that blinds to match those in the SCR as well as smaller mats, that could be positioned in a variety of ways, would be desirable, although the exact size of the latter was not decided. It was also felt that further advice and information was needed in regard to the kind of gold paint that might be used on the cornice and whether gold leaf was preferable. Deborah Hoy mentioned that the material used on the windows, to deter light, would be replaced and a quick visit to the Library, cleared of furnishings, confirmed the appealing proportion and beauty of the room.
7. Forward Planning: A discussion was held regarding a five-year plan and how this might be implemented. It was agreed that we focus on a small number of public rooms to begin with, specifically the Thirkill Room, the Fellows’ Library and the Domus Room, as these will require funds for furnishings and, in respect to the Domus Room in particular, general refurbishment. It was also felt that the use of these rooms, once works to the North Wing are complete, need to be discussed more widely in College and to this end the Chair and Tim

Chesters agreed to discuss a presentation to the Governing Body. The lack of co-ordinated discussions concerning room use among different College bodies and committees was also acknowledged as a matter requiring attention. Following the meeting a suggestion was made that a four-year plan, to coincide with the 700th anniversary of the College, might be especially effective.

8. AOB: The Chair asked members to consider another member of the Fellowship for the Committee and to forward suggestions to her.
9. Date of Michaelmas Term, 2022 Meeting: 18 October 2022