

Approved Minutes of the Meeting of the Conservation Committee  
12.30–2.00, 22 February 2022  
Domus Room, Clare College

Present: Ms Charlotte Bond, Prof. Tim Chesters, Dr Patricia Fara, Dr Tamara Follini (Chair), Mr Donald Hearn, Ms Deborah Hoy, Rev. Peter Judd, Ms Jo Costin (in attendance).

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr Graham Ross and Mr Pieter-Jan Sterenborg.
2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.
3. Minutes of Last Meeting (5 October 2021): The Minutes were approved.
4. Matters Arising and for Report:
  - a. College Flag: The Chair reported that two new College flags had been received; their colours were thought to be very satisfactory, although the shape of the ‘tears’ on the outside border were less pleasing in shape than had been expected. It had been decided, however, in consultation with the Senior Tutor, that they were acceptable, although this detail should be noted for any future order.
  - b. Lanterns for Entryway to the Great Hall: The Chair reported that at a meeting of the Old Court Working Party the issue of lanterns had been discussed further; it was felt that the area of the Screen Hall posed the problem of fixtures that would mediate between the older and newer portions of the building and that a modern lantern, rather than a copy of a more traditional form, might be more suitable. The Chair will investigate some versions and report back to the Committee.
5. Sculpture for 2022–23 celebrations: Eva Rothschild, *Cosmos* and *Meta*: A paper prepared by William Foster with images of the two sculptures was circulated in advance of the meeting. It was felt that *Cosmos* was a more satisfactory and interesting piece than *Meta*, and that the Committee would give its support to securing it for the upcoming celebrations. The Committee discussed where it might best be placed and concluded that it would sit well in Ashby Court, although other locations could also be considered. Concern was raised regarding its stability, and it was suggested that a plinth similar to that on which it is standing in its current location would enhance and set it off (while also discouraging possible temptation to use it as a climbing frame). A suggestion was made that CCTV might be installed for security purposes. The Chair confirmed that she would report points to William Foster.
6. Progress on Great Hall Renovation: Deborah Hoy gave an account of progress regarding the redecoration of the Great Hall, in particular the commissioning of specialists as a first step, although we are still awaiting confirmation of funding for this project. Specialists include Luke Hughes, for furniture design, as well as an acoustician and a lighting engineer; however, our existing conservation architect will be used. The Chair also reported that the ‘Great Hall Art Committee’ has been created by the Master to consider what art works and portraits might be placed in the Hall following refurbishment; the Chair and Deborah Hoy will both be members.
7. Forward Planning for the Committee: The Chair presented a proposal that the Committee should create a forward-looking plan detailing what areas of the College, and especially Old Court, it wished to give special attention to in the next five or so years. This would focus on the interiors of some of our especially significant rooms, including the Domus Room, the public rooms in the Master’s Lodge, the first floor Fellows’ Rooms and the College guest rooms; it would include such matters as repairs to existing furniture, the acquisition of new furniture or art works, redecoration and attention to soft furnishings. Part of this plan would also be devoted to continuing the renovation of the Fellows’ Library. The proposal was greeted enthusiastically and ways in which it could be presented to gain support from the Fellowship were also discussed. The Chair will proceed to draft a preliminary document.
8. Fellows Library: Financing; Colour Scheme: The Chair informed the Committee that Deborah Hoy would be making another bid for further funds at the Estates Committee on 23 February, and it was hoped that this would cover new blinds and possibly some form of carpeting or rugs to cover the heating mats. The Committee also viewed paint samples, from Bulmer and Little Green paints, that had been acquired for the Library as well as the colours being used for the redecoration of the public spaces in the Master’s Lodge. Jo Costin reported on her meeting with Edward Bulmer and provided an estimate of paint costs. A long discussion was held about the samples and the different ways in which the upper wall, cornice and ceiling might be treated. It was agreed

to paint the cornice a slightly different shade of white from the wall and ceiling, for which the same colour would be used. The possibility of adding some discreet touches of gold to the cornice and the window decoration was also discussed, as well as whether we should pursue this departure from a strict historical approach. The chosen colour for walls and ceiling will be displayed in the Library so that it can be viewed in different lights before a final decision is made; likewise, the gold colour, once acquired, will be tested against the cornice colour. It was also felt that the Master should be approached regarding the possibility of redecorating the public reception room in the Lodge. The Chair will discuss this with her.

9. AOB: There was none.

10. Date of Easter Term 2022 Meeting: Tuesday, 3 May.