

**N.B. Meeting of the Conservation Committee
Michaelmas Term, October 2019**

It was decided to postpone this meeting because of the delay in advancing discussions concerning the Fellows Library and which involved College members outside of the Committee.

Approved Minutes of a Meeting of the Conservation Committee
12.30 – 2.00, 21 January 2020
Thirkill Room, Clare College

Present: Prof. Anthony Snodgrass, Dr Anne Stillman, Mr Graham Ross, Ms Deborah Hoy, Mr Donald Hearn, Pieter-Jan Sterenborg, Ms Jo Costin.

The MCR representative, Pieter-Jan, was welcomed to the Committee and invited to remain as a member for another year so as to ensure more continuity in MCR representation.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Paul Warren and Peter Judd.
2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.
3. Minutes of Last Meeting: These were approved.
4. Matters Arising and for Report:
 - a. Thirkill Room: Article in the alumni magazine:

The Chair called the Committee's attention to the publication of an article on the work of the Conservation Committee in the most recent issue of *College Review*, and explained that the request had been made to remove that portion of the original text in which contributions to the room, in the way of furnishings or donations, had been invited. This had been done to keep attention focussed on necessary funding for the Old Court Renovation project currently underway. However, concern was also expressed for the way in which the body of the article had also been considerably shortened.

5. Signage: Chair to report on proposed new signage for Old Court.

A design for new signage, devised by Martha Roberts and the Head Porter, was circulated. The new signage is intended to simplify current signs posted at the entrance to Old Court, by the entrance from Trinity Lane as well as the Avenue, and to remove excess signs from the gates. The Committee approved this initiative but asked that several aspects of the design be improved: brightening the overall impression by introducing additional yellow in the lettering; reducing the font size of some lettering and increasing that of the College name; adjusting spacing, in particular reducing the part of the sign concerning CCTV usage. The Chair will report back to the Head Porter and circulate new designs for the Committee's further comment and approval in due course.

6. Update on Fellows Library: Chair to report.
 - a. Michaelmas Term Discussion with new Fellows' Library Librarian, Simon Franklin, and others:

The Chair reported that informal talks had been held with Simon Franklin and several other interested Fellows, the main outcome of which was a proposal to circulate a brief paper on the Library to the whole of the Fellowship. The purpose would be to inform the Fellowship of the lengthy report that had been commissioned on the Library and to provide access to that, to invite proposals of how the Library might in future be used, and to increase support for the Library's refurbishment and renewal as a historically significant College asset and space that could serve a variety of functions. The Committee agreed that such a step would be worthwhile.

6. Upcoming discussion with Mr Jeremy Musson.

The Chair reported that she had been introduced to an architectural historian and consultant on the conservation management of historic buildings who had expressed interest in the Library project and that an informal meeting had been arranged to show the library to him. She explained that she had made clear that funding for any consultancy would be very difficult to secure, although she hoped that he might be able to provide some useful source material in regard to redecoration. Members were invited to join her and Mr Musson in the SCR on 3 February at 6.00 pm.

c. Finances for Heating.

The question was discussed of whether or not a bid should be put in at the upcoming Estates Committee to finance the proposed heating mats for the Library. It was agreed after some discussion that, given that use of the Library will not be possible for at least two years and that issues of the warranty on any such product need to be taken into consideration, that we would postpone the request.

It was also suggested that a request might be made that a portion of the Roger Schofield bequest be directed towards funding for the Library project, especially as Roger had had a substantial involvement in the Library and its holdings. Donald Hearn agreed to pursue this with the Development Director.

7. AOB

The Chair informed the Committee that a proposal had been made to form a new College committee with the purpose of integrating the activities of several committees whose current remit involves the care and maintenance of various aspects of the College's historic buildings, grounds and possessions. Representatives from several current committees - Conservation, Art, Gardens and Library – would meet on a biannual basis to ensure better lines of communication and effectiveness, especially in regard to projects that might involve two or more of these bodies. The Committee warmly approved such a proposal.

Donald Hearn also called attention to the current state of the flagstones in Old Court and whether or not certain concrete slabs now in place would eventually be replaced. It was explained that these had been installed for ease of access to below ground meters; however, the possibility of using flagstones instead will be investigated.

8. Date of Easter Term, 2020 Meeting: Tuesday, 5 May 2020.