

MINUTES

MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD DIGITALLY VIA TEAMS AT 13:00 ON THURSDAY 13 MAY 2021

<p>Present: Prof Andrew Balmford (Chairman) Dr Andre Cabrera Serrenho (CRA Rep) Lee Corke (Catering Manager) Dr Jo Costin (Secretary) David Ewing (MCR Rep 20-21) Dr William Foster (Fellow) Dr Andrew Friend (Fellow) Kate Hargreaves (Head Gardener) Deborah Hoy (Estates Director) Ruairidh Maclean (UCS Rep 2021-22) Geppetto Price (Staff Rep) Jackie Searle (Accommodation Manager) Tereza Zoumpalova (Clare Goes Green)</p>		
Item (a)	Summary (b)	Actions (c)
1 Apologies for Absence	Lizzie Ashworth (Conference and Marketing Associate)	
2 Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest.	
3 Minutes and Matters Arising	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.	
4 Annual Report	The Annual Report is due towards the end of May. This report depends on information from all committee members. Any material, including data and stories, to Andrew Balmford and Jo Costin.	AB / JC
5 Green Impact Update	<p>2020-21: The Audit Meeting was held on 12 May, the auditor indicated that the College would receive a Gold Award, but this will not be confirmed until the Award Ceremony in June. The audit was conducted online, which made it difficult to show evidence. In future years, participants need to be mindful of putting in additional detail, e.g. photographs of machines or bins, in case they cannot be viewed on site. The team was congratulated on achieving the Gold Award again this year. The slate for last year's award will be picked up shortly.</p> <p>2021-22 Excellence Project: It is hoped to run the Excellence Project in 2021-22. This project will use metering data across various College sites to track electricity consumption, and target</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JC / AB</p>

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	<p>occupants of different buildings in different ways, in order to see which methods are more effective. Jo will discuss the research design further with Andrew.</p> <p>2021-22 College's Workbook: Jo to arrange a meeting with David Ewing, Ruairidh Maclean, and Tereza Zoumpalova later this term, ahead of the official launch in October. This will allow items to go into Freshers' week. Assistance with filling in the workbook, and with communications, would be particularly helpful next year. Jo to also look at the actions from the working from home tab with a view to carrying out some of these actions, regardless of whether it remains in the Green Impact workbook next year.</p>	<p>JC /DE / RM / TZ</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">6 Carbon Zero Strategy</p>	<p>Overview: One of the projects approved for 2021-22 at Estates Committee was £20,000 to employ a consultant to assist in writing a net zero strategy. This is to give the College a route map to 2048 (or earlier). Other energy saving projects were included in the bids, but not as part of an overall strategy. The proposal from the consultant was not received until after the bids were submitted, and came in over the £20,000. Professor Phil Allmendinger supported the project. Deborah Hoy, Andrew Balmford, André and Jo met to discuss the initial scope. The scope included has been reviewed, and it is felt some work is either already completed (energy data) or can be included as part of a Fourth Year Engineering Project led by André Serrenho. André updated the meeting that a Clare student (Joey Bream) has accepted this as a Fourth Year project.</p> <p>Timescale: Joey will begin his project in October. Work with the consultant delayed to start beginning January to allow additional College supplied data to be included, completion of the Net Zero Strategy Report by end of June.</p> <p>Follow Up to Report: It was important to consider how the report was taken forward and put into action once it was completed. The College needs to be carbon neutral by 2048 / 2038. The College's previous overview is now ten years old, and technology and time horizons have now changed.</p> <p>Scope: The project is angled towards buildings and energy use. Some transport can also be included if data is available. The project needs to be as evidence-based as possible, so it was important to consider where the boundaries of emissions lay. The largest boundary was what would emissions be if the College did not exist. It was difficult to know whether areas such as investments were meaningful in comparison with College heating, buildings, and food. In the previous Carbon Footprint survey, building construction works were the second biggest emitter (procurement and building materials). It would be helpful to include this in the analysis, but not in the main category. The consultancy will be focussed on energy and transport in the first instance.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">7 Buildings</p>	<p>Capital Projects: Estates Committee approved projects on smaller buildings that are intended as examples for what the College would like to do in future. Approval for the coming year (from 1 July) was given to air source heat pumps for Etheldreda and 69 Alpha Road, and these are linked with other improvement works within the buildings, including secondary glazing. Initial</p>	

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	<p>surveys are being conducted, and neither is proving as straightforward as was hoped. Other Colleges are facing similar issues, and are looking at working together to find solutions. Deborah sits on the Joint Purchasing Committee (a Bursars' Committee), and the representative from the Bursars' Environment Committee was also engaged with this agenda. Everyone is trying to find first steps through a new technology and ways of making it work on the types of buildings that the Colleges have. It was easier to install this on new buildings.</p> <p>Electric Charging Points: Approval was also given for the installation of electric charging points in Thirkill or Ashby Drive to encourage staff to buy electric cars.</p> <p>Memorial Court Boilers: Money has been approved, but the project has largely come to a halt in terms of technology. Element Energy (providing the Carbon Zero Strategy) were approached, who put the College in touch with Burgoyne's. However, the project is pushing the edge of the technology when it comes to a large building like Memorial Court. Ground source heat pumps increase capital costs (over boiler replacement) from £2.2 million to £3 -4 million, so the College is proceeding slowly and looking at whether the worst of the current boiler rooms can be refitted in gas. This would mean accepting work on a totally green solution would be delayed, but might result in a better long term solution, with potential in another year for more options to be on the table. The College is looking for a consultant who can advise on this. The boilers in Memorial Court are not very efficient and are now 22-23 years old. They are working, but getting spare parts is difficult. There are also six plantrooms, meaning lots of duplication. The interior of Memorial Court is listed, so it is difficult to make changes. Estates Committee noted that the technology must be improving. There have been particular issues with P Staircase, so the College is looking at whether P can be replaced to give additional time to resolve the overall scheme. There is also a possibility of trialling ground source heat pumps in one or two staircases rather than the whole building.</p> <p>St Regis: The Architect and Project Manager are looking at awards, including environmental ones for the project on embodied carbon. A synopsis of this project to go into the annual report. Energy efficiency is only a fraction of the total carbon footprint - what goes into the building itself is also important. 102 Chesterton Road has been connected to Clare St Regis and electricity from the CHP and solar being generated on site.</p> <p>Netherfield Redevelopment: The project is currently paused. The briefing is to have low embodied carbon, and an air source heat pump is being investigated. Deborah will be in touch with André when this can progress.</p> <p>Castlebrae: When this was refurbished five years ago, special TRVs were installed so that students could programme their own radiators (these will only give off heat when the main system is on). Students have not necessarily known how to use these. The Trade Supervisor has put together a how-to guide for the existing ones, however five have failed and will have to be replaced with a different version. Deborah and Jo will liaise with Ruairidh Maclean to get this information out to students.</p> <p>Energy Consumption Data: The reduction in gas over 2020-21 was not as low as might be expected, but in most parts of the College the heat could not be turned off entirely. There was a reduction in electricity consumption.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DH / AS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DH / JC / RM</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">8 UCS Update</p>	<p>Handover: This has gone well, with lots of information passed over.</p> <p>Net Carbon Zero Target: The UCS supported the adoption of a Net Carbon Zero target.</p> <p>Green Week: A Green Week is normally run with drives for composting. The UCS would also like to have different speakers and to promote work the Committee around the college. This is expected to be near Freshers' week. Planning is needed now as the period will be busy for speakers.</p> <p>Freshers: Communications to Freshers normally go into the handbook, and there is also a slot in the Freshers talks. This will allow introducing what Clare does and how people can contribute in various ways at an early stage. Ruairidh will circulate the Green Guide.</p> <p>Staircase Competition: Will need planning in advance. This has primarily targeted Memorial Court with encouragement to turn off lights to reduce consumption. A more data driven version was done in the Colony this year, with Braeside winning a pizza party. Jo to set up a meeting with Ruairidh, Jackie Searle, Tereza, and David Ewing to discuss.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JC / RM / JS / TZ / DE</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">9 MCR Update</p>	<p>Handover: Elections are currently being pushed back, and David will continue as representative if no other students come forward. There has not yet been a formal call for nominations.</p> <p>Cycle Repair: Planned as an event in Michaelmas. David has sent a link to secondhand bike shops in Cambridge to students, and bike tutorials on YouTube. He is also assembling a kit to be kept in the Greencycle cupboard. Jo to pass on University contacts to David.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JC</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">10 Accommodation</p>	<p>Recycling: The College pays twice as much for general waste as for recycling. The proportion of general waste increased noticeably over the past year. Jackie sent out an email recently to students, and has put up posters. Assistance is now needed with additional new posters. The Council came out to talk to staff about recycling, this could be investigated for Freshers' week. Jackie, Tereza, David and Ruairidh to meet and discuss how to encourage good habits at the start of next term.</p> <p>Posters: Lee Corke has a member of the Catering team with experience as a graphic designer who could assist with posters.</p> <p>Compost Bins: These are in use. The compost bin at the Colony seems to be very full; Jackie will contact the Council to arrange for this to be emptied more frequently.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JS / TZ / DE / RM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">11 Staff Representative</p>	<p>Borrow a Bag: Currently suspended, not clear when this can resume. To be discussed with the Head Porter as a risk assessment will be needed.</p> <p>Chapel Term Cards: These are available online, but a large number are still printed and then immediately recycled. Some would still be wanted, but these could be kept in the Lodges and</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GP</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WF</p>

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	<p>given to people on request. William Foster will discuss with the Dean.</p> <p>Metering Data: It was not possible to break down consumption by office / room. The monitor screen for Old Court Lodge is still in use in Catering. Jo to look at whether metering data (for the site as a whole) can be put onto the Library screen. Individual item monitors can be borrowed from the University to look at particular pieces of equipment.</p>	JC
10 Gardens	<p>Wildlife Corridor: Kate Hargreaves met a PhD student from Robinson College in March, who is researching biodiversity and discussing with head gardeners across Colleges about how to improve this.</p> <p>iRecord: The Botanical Gardens use this app, and the University is also using as part of their overall monitoring. Kate is setting one up for Clare, and would like to then open it up to the wider College.</p> <p>Memorial Court Wildflower Area: The orchids which were transplanted are now showing leaves, and the border appears very healthy. This would be a good time to do a biodiversity walk along the border. Kate will contact Ed Turner to see if he is able to run another walk.</p>	KH KH
12 Catering	<p>Lemrock (Full Circle Recycling): With changes to lockdown measures, not as much takeaway packaging is expected to be needed, and so this would be too costly to set up at present.</p> <p>Vegan / Vegetarian Formals: This will be actioned from next week. From next term it is planned to increase vegan and vegetarian formals to weekly.</p> <p>Meat Data: To be sent to Andrew Balmford and Jo.</p> <p>Clare Environment Policy: To be updated with a review date.</p>	LC AB / JC
14 AOB	<p>Website: To be updated in the wake of the Annual Report. Pictures of the wildflower area to be included along with information from EPC reports and some additional text. Andrew Balmford and Jo to look into this.</p> <p>Recommended Watching: Talk from Earth Optimism by a Buddhist monk who was a key influence on the Paris Climate Change Agreement: https://www.earthoptimism.cambridgeconservation.org/stories-of-hope/choosing-sustainability/stubborn-optimism/ Outrage and Optimism podcast: Outrage + Optimism (libsyn.com) .</p>	AB / JC
15 Dates for Next Meetings	<p>14 October 2021, 2pm 10 February 2022, 2pm 5 May 2022, 2pm</p>	

Distribution:

Prof Andrew Balmford (Chairman)
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Copy to:

MCR President
UCS President