

## MINUTES

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD DIGITALLY VIA ZOOM AT 14:00 ON THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2020

<p><b>Present</b>          Prof Andrew Balmford (Chairman)          Dr André 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 (Deputy Head Gardener)          Deborah Hoy (Estates Director)          Oscar Simms (UCS Rep 20-21)</p>		
Item (a)	Summary (b)	Action (c)
<b>1 Apologies for Absence</b>	Apologies were received from: Lizzie Ashworth (Conference and Marketing Associate); Steve Elstub (Head Gardener); Geppetto Price (Staff Rep); and Jackie Searle (Accommodation Manager) David Barton (Clare Goes Green)	Note
<b>2 Declarations of Interest</b>	There were no declarations of interest.	Note
<b>3 Minutes and Matters Arising</b>	The minutes of 7 May 2020 were approved.	Note
<b>4 Green Impact Update and related matters</b>	<p><b>University Launch Event:</b> The University is holding the Launch Event on 2 November 2020. This will take place online and can be booked online.</p> <p><b>Electricity Project (Excellence Project):</b> The documents prepared to carry out an Excellence Project last year were circulated. The project was to communicate with students in different areas of the College in different ways, to investigate which method had a greater impact in reducing energy consumption. The project could not be carried out owing to the impact of Covid restrictions. It was intended to run the project again this year, with some modifications. The College has previously submitted Excellence Projects. This means that the College can achieve an additional award, however the real impact would be finding out which methods of communication were more effective in encouraging a reduction in energy use. This could then be used across the College.</p> <p><b>UCS and Clare Goes Green:</b> Clare Goes Green held its first meeting recently. It was hoped to engage members in Green Impact through the society. Following last year's success Oscar will also</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>JC</p> <p>Note</p>

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	<p>talk with the Clare Goes Green team about designing further posters promoting more sustainable behaviours.</p> <p><b>Communications:</b> Information on Green Impact was in the Environmental Report and on the College website. An email was sent to all staff, and this would usually be mentioned at the Annual Staff Meeting. It was felt that communications could be improved, including with applicants and alumni. Jo Costin to look at updating the website.</p> <p><b>Zero Emissions Project:</b> André Cabrera Serrenho would have a research student working with him next year on a zero emissions project. There was a possibility of using Clare as a case study, which might identify some low hanging fruits.</p> <p><b>Carbon Neutrality Working Group:</b> Professor Phil Allmendinger, who would be chairing this group, was currently on sabbatical. The University is currently moving faster than most of the Colleges in this area. It was intended to have students on this group. The Environment Committee would like to feed into the Working Group as well.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>6 UCS Update</b></p>	<p><b>Freshers' Week:</b> The focus has been primarily on freshers' week and engagement with new students. A ten minute talk was given to freshers in person (four times over – a fantastic effort!). This flagged up items from radiators to green weekends, and included infographics and things freshers could do in terms of lifestyle changes, and highlighted organisations active within Clare (Clare Goes Green and Green Impact).</p> <p><b>Introductory Videos:</b> Various societies made introductory videos, including Clare Goes Green. These were widely viewed, and it is hoped to get good engagement.</p> <p><b>Food Labelling:</b> David Barton has been in contact with Ashley Sargent about carbon food labelling. This will signpost a meal's environmental impact through a colour-coded system. Menus were sent in August for this.</p> <p><b>Compost Bins:</b> Signups for compost bins are in progress. Around 13 responses have been received so far. Oscar Simms and David Ewing to catch up about whether this can be rolled out to postgraduates. Oscar to contact Jackie Searle to get this started.</p> <p><b>Veganuary:</b> It is hoped to run Veganuary (a spinoff of Veganuary) again in January, and that this will not be too affected by Covid restrictions. Some of the schemes run last year, such as the vegan formal, have been impacted.</p> <p><b>Staircase Competition:</b> The current issue is that bedders are no longer going into rooms, so it is not possible to record whether lights have been left on. With more people in their rooms, it would be expected that more lights would be on, and more power used. Running a campaign could be effective, but comparing data with last year could be problematic. There is good evidence from the US that people respond to being compared and like to beat an average.</p> <p><b>Heating:</b> The heating is normally put on towards the end of October, in response to student feedback. This is done in consultation with the UCS and MCR Representatives, rather than having a fixed time. It is expected that with people spending more time in their rooms than usual it may need to go on earlier.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>OS / LC</p> <p>OS / DE</p> <p>Note</p> <p>OS / DE</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p>		<p>Note</p>

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<p><b>MCR Update</b></p>	<p><b>Greencycle:</b> This contains mainly kitchen and stationery items. A risk assessment has been carried out and cleared to make the Greencycle cupboard Covid-secure, and it has now been set up with hand sanitiser, one at a time rule, wearing of face coverings, use of disinfectant and paper towel. The space is back up and running.</p> <p><b>Sustainable Living Guide:</b> Georgia Fulton (previous MCR Rep) produced a guide on sustainable living as a graduate student, which is currently being revised, and will incorporate longer periods of time working from home.</p> <p><b>Bike Repair Workshop:</b> This does not seem to be feasible in person. However, David Ewing is in the process of putting together online bike repair tutorials covering the basics. The MCR is discussing having a set of communal bike repair gear, including items like an Allen key and pump.</p> <p><b>Divestment:</b> The MCR is waiting to hear more from the Investment Committee on divestment.</p>	<p>DE</p> <p>DE</p> <p>Note</p>
<p><b>8 Staff Representative</b></p>	<p>The Staff Representative was unable to attend, but sent an update.</p> <p><b>Borrow a Bag:</b> <i>In the lodges we have had to suspend the borrow a bag scheme due to the current pandemic.</i></p> <p><b>Washing Line:</b> <i>A staff member (and some students) wanted to know if the area at the Colony next to the Castle End Meeting Rooms could be used to place a washing line for students to use, this has been taken up by gardens to work with students to re-wild the area.</i></p> <p><b>Takeaway Lunch:</b> <i>Feedback from staff during is that rather than take plastic cutlery away for lunch they are using cutlery in their offices and washing them up. This is something done in each Porter's Lodge too.</i></p> <p><b>Crisp Packet Recycling:</b> <i>The college can re-cycle crisp packets. We use a lot in the buttery. There is a crisp packet re-cycling scheme in Isleham. They get sent off and the money raised goes towards the local school. Lee Corke will speak to Jackie Searle about whether this can be put in place.</i></p> <p><b>Milk in Recycled Glass:</b> Lee will look into this.</p> <p><b>Pesticides:</b> <i>Do we use pesticides in the gardens? Do we really need to? A small amount is used in the gardens, but only as much as is necessary.</i></p> <p><b>Styrofoam:</b> There was a request to ban Styrofoam. This hasn't been used for takeaways for several weeks.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>LC</p> <p>LC Note</p> <p>Note</p>
<p><b>9 Conferencing</b></p>	<p>The Conferencing Representative was unable to attend. There had been discussions prior to lockdown about changing the food offered to conference guests.</p>	<p>Note</p>
<p><b>10 Catering</b></p>	<p><b>Packaging:</b> On moving to takeaway only service, Styrofoam was used initially. The City Council at a May Ball Meeting noted that all waste packaging from ARM goes to landfill because there is no way of compositing it. Lee has found a company (Lemrock) who provide yellow bins for compostable packaging. Vegware is used in the Buttery, but cannot be composted at present. Lee to investigate further. ( <a href="https://www.ucl.ac.uk/sustainable/news/2019/jun/why-some-plastic-alternatives-are-doing-more-harm-good">https://www.ucl.ac.uk/sustainable/news/2019/jun/why-some-plastic-alternatives-are-doing-more-harm-good</a> for more information on starch based plastics).</p>	<p>LC</p> <p>Note</p>

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	<p><b>Meat Count:</b> Data on meat purchases were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Future of Environment Committee:</b> The Environment Committee has now run for a number of years. Other Universities are using the Sustainable Development Goals, and include these in their environmental information. At present the College only assesses progress with Green Impact. Some of what we do already addresses the Sustainable Development Goals, but we don't highlight things in this way. It would be a considerable piece of work to translate the Sustainable Development Goals into College goals. With the appointment of a new Head of House this would be a good time to think about it strategically. This would also tie in with the Vice Chancellor's announcement on becoming carbon zero by 2038. There was a concern that the Environment Committee could become sidelined, and needed to be part of the bigger picture. Andrew Balmford to write to Phil Allmendinger (Chair of Estates Committee) about how to take this forwards.</p> <p><b>Proportion of Non Meat Meals:</b> The proportion of non meat meal choices offered has been changed in the Buttery for the evening meal (1 vegan, 1 vegetarian, and 1 meat or fish).</p> <p><b>Green Formals:</b> It is not currently possible to run Green Formals.</p>	<p>Note / AB</p> <p>Note</p>
<p><b>11</b> <b>Buildings</b></p>	<p><b>Installation of Smart Meters:</b> Data from the new smart meters is now accessible via the electricity company's website.</p> <p><b>Energy Contract Change:</b> The contract for supplying electricity will be changing to a guaranteed green energy tariff. This includes electricity produced in Cambridgeshire.</p> <p><b>Old Court Sustainability Report:</b> This was circulated immediately prior to the meeting. The Estates Director is continuing to work with the architect and project team on this.</p> <p><b>Memorial Court Boilers:</b> The College is looking at whether a more sustainable option can be used for the Memorial Court Boiler Replacement. There are some concerns around using ground source heat pump technology in a large building project, as most examples of the technology in use are in either smaller scale refurbishments or in new builds.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>DH</p> <p>DH</p>
<p><b>12</b> <b>Gardens</b></p>	<p><b>Reinstatement after Phase 1b:</b> There will be extensive work following the Old Court Phase 1b project to reinstate the gardens, including relieving compaction and reinstating a good range of plants and lost biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Wild Area Memorial Court:</b> A wild area has been introduced on one of the front lawns in Memorial Court to try to counter the loss of the wild area in the Fellows' Garden.</p> <p><b>Allotment Area:</b> Enquiries are received about this fairly regularly. The space is currently in limbo, as some want an allotment, some a clothesline, and some want to see it rewilded. A proper plan is needed for any of these options. A member of the Gardens team is looking at putting together a plan to present to Gardens Committee. If any students have comments, they should contact Kate Hargreaves. There is an issue with cost and also with the ability of students to put in the physical work. A costed plan was needed, and then fundraising could be looked at.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>KH / DE / OS</p>
<p><b>13</b> <b>AOB</b></p>	<p><b>Approach from Green Templeton College (Oxford):</b> Green Templeton, who have recently set out an ambitious aim to become</p>	<p>Note</p>

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	completely carbon neutral by 2030, and have a new Principal (formerly head of the Natural History Museum) are looking for a link with a Cambridge College and have approached Clare. The College has some challenging ideas about what they want to achieve, but have not yet made a significant start. There was an opportunity for Clare to offer practical advice, and to gain from the relationship through new ideas. There was potentially an issue with partnering with a graduate-only College. Clare College already had links with Oriel and St Anne's Colleges. Any new link would need the support of the new Master.	
<b>14 Dates for Next Meetings</b>	4 February 2021 6 May 2021	

### **Distribution:**

Prof Andrew Balmford (Chairman)  
Lizzie Ashworth (Conference and Marketing Associate)  
Dr Andre Cabrera Serrenho (CRA Rep)  
Lee Corke (Catering Manager)  
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Steve Elstub (Head Gardener)  
David Ewing (MCR Rep 20-21)  
Dr William Foster (Fellow)  
Dr Andrew Friend (Fellow)  
Kate Hargreaves (Deputy Head Gardener)  
Deborah Hoy (Estates Director)  
Geppetto Price (Staff Rep)  
Jackie Searle (Accommodation Manager)  
Oscar Simms (UCS Rep 20-21)

### **Copy to:**

MCR President  
UCS President