

Unapproved Minutes of a Meeting of the Conservation Committee  
12.30 – 2.00, 27 October 2020  
Online, Clare College

Present: Prof. Anthony Snodgrass, Mr Donald Hearn, Ms Deborah Hoy, Dr Anne Stillman, Very Rev'd Peter Judd, Mr Graham Ross, Pieter-Jan Sterenborg, Dr Tamara Follini (Chair), Dr Jo Costin (in attendance).

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Paul Warren
2. Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest
3. Minutes of Last Meeting: The Minutes were approved; the Chair also alerted the Committee to where the minutes are currently housed on the College website: <http://www.clare.cam.ac.uk/College-Committee-Meeting-Minutes/>. It was also requested that the Unapproved minutes be circulated following the meeting; the Chair agreed to do so.
4. Matters Arising and for Report:
  - a. Signage: The Chair called attention to the new signs that were being displayed in College, following the Committee's approval of the design last term. A concern was raised about the brightness of the yellow colour on the College crest; Graham Ross agreed to contact Bill O'Hearn about this. Deborah Hoy circulated the temporary signage for the Buttery, which was thought to be very acceptable and noted that the signs for St Regis will be black with gold. Questions arose about the amount of necessary signage in College and whether signage should be consistent throughout the whole of the College grounds and buildings. It was agreed that signage should not be excessive, but the question of further design was left open for the present.
  - b. Old Court Cobbles and Flagstones restoration: Deborah Hoy reported that the restoration of the cobbles and several flagstones in Old Court had been done to a high standard and circulated a photograph of the work. She also informed the Committee that the contractor for Part 1A of the restoration project had replaced all the flagstones damaged in the course of those works, but that since that time three further flagstones had been broken as a result of ongoing works. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Deborah for managing the repair work so carefully and successfully.
5. Update on Old Court and forthcoming Issues: Chair and Deborah Hoy to report.
  - a. Lighting and Furniture: The Chair reported that concerns had been raised about the lighting in the new spaces of the North Wing extension as well as the entryway to the Hall. It had been agreed last year that these should be reviewed, and choices of design be circulated; Phil Allmendinger has proposed a joint meeting of the Old Court Working Party and the Conservation Committee at which to do so and it was hoped that this would occur next term. The Chair mentioned that one suggestion that had been was that consideration be given to making the café a flexible space and including sofas as well as tables.
  - b. Redecoration of the Great Hall: Deborah Hoy reported that while the gilding of the ceiling in the Hall was in good condition the paint was not and that she would try to circulate some photographs for our next meeting (although redecoration would not take place until the completion of the building works, thus probably in February-March 2022). The issue was raised as to whether we might be able to ascertain how the ceiling was originally painted before proceeding with redecoration; it was also noted that a decision needed to be made on the colour of the walls. Concern was also raised about the wood panelling in the Hall; Donald Hearn noted that it had been treated about twelve to fifteen years ago and, along with the wood in the Chapel, was probably due for a new treatment. It was agreed that Hugh Harrison (who had restored the panelling in the Domus) should be consulted as well as Dr Roland Harris about the ceiling. The Chair also said she would pursue the question of earlier decoration of the ceiling. Deborah Hoy noted that the windows in the Hall now open.
6. Fellows Library: Chair to report.
  - a. Fellows's Responses to Lent Term 2020 Message (paper attached): The Chair noted that one common note of the several responses from the Fellowship about the Library was that it was desirable that it retain its character as a quiet sanctuary; the general feeling of the Committee was in agreement, while noting that an occasional use of the Library for other purposes would not be especially disruptive.
  - b. Recent Discussions; Timing and Costing Plan: The Chair reported that she had had a discussion with Bill

O'Hearn; he has been very supportive of the Library refurbishment and hoped to find some funding for it in future, although he had cautioned that the timing of when this project is raised within the College is important. The Chair also reported that in a consultation with Simon Franklin (the current Librarian), Tim Chesters and Alison Sinclair, it was felt that we should proceed with a costing plan. The Committee agreed that the first stage of this will be to compile figures for heating, blinds and carpets, as well as scaffolding and decoration. It was suggested that the Chair, Graham Ross and Anne Stillman investigate blinds and carpets, and that Deborah Hoy calculate the other figures involved.

- c. Redecoration of Ceiling and Cornice: Deborah Hoy confirmed that this will not occur until 2022, but it was felt that it would be desirable to have some professional consultation before proceeding.

In the course of this discussion the redecoration of the entryway to the Chapel and the Ante-Chapel was brought to the attention of the Committee by Graham Ross, who noted the enhancement of this space and the improved atmosphere of the Chapel as a whole. The Committee once again records its thanks to Deborah Hoy for her management of this work.

7. AOB: The Chair brought up the issue of the desirability of an annual or semi-annual meeting of those Committees involved in the preservation and enhancement of the College (Arts, Gardens and Conservation), and was given support to pursue this.
8. Date of Lent Term Meeting: Tuesday, 9 February 2021, 12.30–2.00. This meeting was postponed as we awaited timing for a joint meeting of the Conservation Committee and the Old Court Working Party to discuss various design details of the Old Court project.