

Approved Minutes of the Conservation Committee
12.30 – 2.00, 5 October 2021
Clare College

Present: Deborah Hoy, Graham Ross, Pieter-Jan Sterenborg, Peter Judd, Tamara Follini (Chair), Jo Costin (in attendance)

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Charlotte Bond, Patricia Fara, Donald Hearn (who sent comments to the Chair), Anne Stillman. Tim Chesters was on leave.
2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.
3. Minutes of Last Meeting (11 May 2021): The minutes were approved.
4. Matters Arising and for Report:

- a. College Flag: The Chair had liaised with the Deputy Head Porter, who made several enquiries to the company producing the new College flags; the main colours of the flag were very good, but it was found that for the 'tears' a different kind of fabric, and different shade of yellow, needed to be used. The Chair presented samples of these colours and fabrics. Although the 'tears' fabric was not as pleasing in colour as the shade used for the body of the flag, it was decided that it was acceptable and that the order should be placed.

- b. Lanterns for Entryway to Great Hall; lights for North Wing extension and River Room:

We had received one sample lantern for the Screen Hall, in the design that the Committee last spring had favoured (Drayton) and Jo Costin helpfully supplied photographs of it in situ; a mock-up image of the lantern with a larger diameter, which it was agreed was a more interesting design and shape, had been requested but not yet received. Approval was given to the design, but it was decided that Deborah Hoy should check whether we needed to obtain listed building consent; the Chair will consult Wendy Pullan, as a member of the Old Court Working Party, about the design as well.

Members were able to see the lights proposed for the North Wing extension and the River Room: it was felt that the wall lights that used a black surround and trim would be preferable to those with these same details in grey. The hanging lamp was also given a warm approval.

5. Fellows Library: Chair and Deborah Hoy to report.
 - a. Musson report and redecoration scheme: The report prepared by Jeremy Musson, that the Committee had commissioned last year, was circulated prior to our meeting. A discussion was held in regard to whether we should proceed to use one of the colour recommendations provided in the report, and that followed historical precedents, or to depart from that tradition by use of a definite colour. There was a strong preference for a historical colour scheme, and it was decided to obtain samples of the three wall colours named in the Musson report. The suggestion was also made that if more colour was considered desirable, adding this through the rugs and/or blinds might serve to give the room a warmer appearance while also echoing colour/s used in the Senior Common Room. The cost of necessary scaffolding was also discussed as it was found that college equipment is not adequate to do the repainting safely; Deborah Hoy had received one quotation for £4,512 but will seek another quotation as well.
6. Furniture for River Room: A new report with images for a revised furniture scheme, provided by the Old Court architects, was circulated in advance of the meeting, and this was discussed in light of the purpose/s to which the room will be put. The Chair explained that although, at the start of the Old Court restoration project, emphasis had been given to maximum possible seating in this area, at the recent joint meeting of the Old Court Working Party and the Conservation Committee it was felt that the room should have more of a relaxed feel and more colour should be added to the furnishings. Yet the new designs were still felt to be unsatisfactory; concerns were raised about the density of seating, the uncomfortable appearance of the banquettes, the banquettes positioned against the far windows, and the rather monotone colours used. It was also felt that several comfortable chairs might be positioned at the far end of the room. Deborah Hoy reported that she was

accompanying the architects on a visit to the cafés at Jesus and Newnham to view those very successful, recently created spaces.

7. Great Hall: Potential for redecoration and refurbishment: The Chair summarized recent developments involving a potential major donor to the Old Court project and the possibility that part of such a donation would be put toward a complete refurbishment of the Great Hall. This would include new furniture, enhanced lighting, adjustments to the acoustics and repainting. It was explained that a meeting had been held in September with several specialists in different areas who would conduct the work, but that the project would very much depend on securing the donation of funds. A proposal was being prepared for Council that would explain why including the refurbishment of the Hall as part of the presentation to the prospective donor would make the College's appeal more attractive.
8. AOB: It was brought to the Committee's attention that over the summer Deborah Hoy and Tamara Follini had consulted with the new Master and Sophie King about the repainting of the dining room in the Master's Lodge; the result was held to be successful.
9. Date of Lent Term 2022 Meeting: 22 February 2022