



# St John's College Junior Common Room

Minutes - 3rd Meeting, Hilary Term 2020  
Sunday 16th February, Prestwich Room, 7.30pm

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*The meeting opened at 7.37 pm and was chaired by Ronan Foley (Chair), with minutes taken by Lachlann Hinley (Secretary).*

## **1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

No objections

## **2. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

### **i) Divestment discussions with College (Phil Fernandes)**

Phil Fernandes (President) noted that Standing Policy required the President to send a letter in support of divestment to College. Phil had sent this letter to Maggie Snowling (College President) during the week.

In light of the issues raised by the protests, there are ongoing discussions concerning the nature of the additional representation from JCR and MCR members on the divestment sub-committee.

## **3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees**

Milo Mallaby (Academic Affairs Officer) said that the feedback process was underway.

Benny Clinch (Domestic Officer) said the guest dinner went well.

Tara Daemi (Entz Officer) said that bops and entz were generally going well, but reminded people not to smoke in the toilets during bops.

Grace Goodier (Welfare Officer) said people were happy.

## **4. Ratifications**

### **i) The "Make Our Alternative Prospectus Great Again!" Constitutional Motion**

***Ratified nem. con.***

## **5. Items for Discussion**

### **a) Joint events with other Colleges (Phil Fernandes)**

Phil Fernandes (President) noted that the idea of collaboration with other JCRs had been raised at PresComm. Phil asked, if collaboration were to happen, what sort of events people would like. Zara noted that the MCR did a 'formal swap' and this could be an idea for the JCR.

Zara also asked which Colleges would be open to collaborating with St John's. Phil noted he was cultivating relationships with other College JCR presidents, including the Jesus College JCR.

### **b) Charity motions (Phil Fernandes)**

Phil Fernandes (President) noted that an exceptional number of charities had been proposed at the previous meeting to receive funding. Arising out of these exceptional circumstances, Phil suggested that new procedures could be put in place; for instance, restricting the number of charities receiving allocations or prohibiting charities receiving more than one allocation.

In discussion, it was suggested that the exceptional demand at the previous meeting had been created by certain people nominating numerous charities. It was suggested that restriction on the number of charities a single person could nominate may address the problem. There was also support for the current level of freedom the current system allows, which has specific benefits given many students may not feel able to support charities themselves, but can feel a meaningful difference through doing so collectively in the JCR.

Phil suggested that a criteria for charity allocations could be put in place and charity allocations could be done year by year.

## **6. Agenda Items**

There were no objections to Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) serving as minute taker in respect of motions (a) and (b).

### **a) The "Speed up the Standing Orders" Constitutional Motion**

Phil Fernandes (President) summarised the motion and noted that the proposed system would bring efficiency and allow admin functions within the JCR to be speeded up. It was noted that the Standing Orders mainly contained operational details about JCR procedure and it was not necessary to have a two week delay in the implementation of changes.

Emmett O’Leary expressed concern that the ratification process allows members, who are not present during the first reading, to subsequently express concern. In response, it was noted that the ratification process would remain for changes to the Articles and that Standing Order changes had never, or very rarely, been objected to on their second reading in the past.

Harry Sugden had concerns about the wording of the motion and proposed an amendment to simplify the phraseology.

**Amendment** (proposed by Harry Sugden) to replace clause h. With:

“A motion shall be passed by a simple majority vote of full members of the JCR in a General Meeting.

1. An exception shall be in the case of Constitutional motions amending either the preamble or the Articles shall require ratification, also by a simple majority, at the next General Meeting.
2. Constitutional Motions shall be brought at neither the final General Meeting of Trinity Term nor the first General Meeting of Michaelmas Term.

***Accepted as friendly***

The JCR **resolved** (pending ratification) to

h. Replace JCR Constitution, Article §51:

*“A motion shall be passed by a simple majority vote of full members of the JCR in a General Meeting, except Constitutional Motions which shall require ratification, also by a simple majority, at the next General Meeting. Constitutional Motions shall be brought at neither the final General Meeting of Trinity Term nor the first General Meeting of Michaelmas Term.*

With

*“A motion shall be passed by a simple majority vote of full members of the JCR in a General Meeting.*

3. *An exception shall be in the case of Constitutional motions amending either the preamble or the Articles shall require ratification, also by a simple majority, at the next General Meeting.*
4. *Constitutional Motions shall be brought at neither the final General Meeting of Trinity Term nor the first General Meeting of Michaelmas Term.”*

***Agreed nem. con.***

## **b) “Agenda Ordering” Constitutional Motion**

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) said that the proposed changes had been raised at the previous meeting as an item for discussion. They would allow the Secretary to re-order the agenda in recognition that it was logical for financial motions to be taken together if they were to be subject to the secret ballot procedure.

The JCR **resolved** (pending ratification) to:

- i. In Standing Order Table 1, §18h delete “as submitted”.

- j. In Standing Order Table 1, §20 replace “The Chair may re-arrange any business within their sections, once all reports have been heard under section c. and late Ordinary Motions (which are permitted under the terms of the Constitution, §56b) are added” with

“20. The Secretary, in consultation with other Officers and the JCR Chair, may arrange business within the sections specified in §18 in advance of the meeting. In arranging business, the Secretary shall only consider logistical requirements relating and the need for the JCR to proceed with business in a fair and logical manner.”

***Agreed (1 abstention)***

**c) The “Cooking Up a Storm” Standing Policy Motion**

Motion **not put** as neither the proposer or seconder were present.

**d) The “Uncomfortable Oxford tour for SJC JCR!” Financial Motion**

Lydia Ludlow noted that Uncomfortable Oxford is a student-run social enterprise that does tours of the city of Oxford for the public, exploring the uncomfortable aspects of Oxford’s history. The motion would support the enterprise while also allowing JCR members to go on the tour.

Phil Fernandes (President) asked how places on the tour would be allocated. In response, Lydia said that they were involved in the organisation and had secured a reduced rate. They would advertise slots on the tour through the JCR Facebook page.

Zara Hussain (Vice-President) asked how motions with variable sum operated. Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) noted that the proposer would have to claim from the Treasurer the amount of money used.

Emmett O’Leary asked what the money would be spent on. In response, Lydia said all funds went into paying the tour guides.

Daniel Bundred asked whether any polling of JCR students had taken place to gauge interest. Lydia said they had not.

In discussion, the issue of establishing a cut-off point for making a second tour feasible was raised. Lydia said that the second-tour would only take place if demand was present and this would be judged by interest raised when the tour was advertised.

The JCR **resolved** to

- g. Give a variable sum of up to £200 for one or two Uncomfortable Oxford tours (which would take 40 people), depending on interest, from the Financial Motions Budget
- h. Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the JCR website

***Agreed (2 against, 4 abstentions)***

### **e) The “ Everybody likes music! ” Financial Motion**

Gigi Williams (Music Society President) said that the Music Society currently received an allocation of £100 in the JCR Budget. The small allocation was the result of relative inactivity in the Society over the past 6 years.

In order to rejuvenate the Society, there were plans in place to put on a series of concerts. This would be a good avenue to promote music within St John’s and the JCR.

In discussion,

- Concern was raised about the appropriateness of getting funding through a financial motion. It was instead suggested that there should be a budget reallocation to increase the Music Society budget to £500. This money would be reallocated from the financial motions budget.
- It was asked how performers would be secured for the concert. Gigi said that the Music Society were determined to get a wide range of people involved and that the ability to get involved would be advertised through JCR channels.
- It was asked whether the money was solely for the purposes of holding concerts and whether it would be more appropriate to fund the concerts using the Kendrew Arts Fund. Gigi said that the money was designed to support a wider array of projects undertaken by the Music Society.

**Amendment** (proposed by Lachlann Hinley) to replace clauses h. and i. With

- h. Decrease the Financial Motions Budget by £400; increase the Music Society Budget by £400
- i. Authorise the Treasurer to claim back relevant Music Society expenditure from the Kendrew Arts Fund.
- j. Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the JCR website

***Accepted as friendly***

The JCR **resolved** to

- h. Decrease the Financial Motions Budget by £400; increase the Music Society Budget by £400
- i. Authorise the Treasurer to claim back relevant Music Society expenditure from the Kendrew Arts Fund.
- j. Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the JCR website

***Agreed (2 against, 1 abstention)***

### **7. Any Other Business**

*The meeting closed at 8.15 pm*