



## **St John's College Junior Common Room**

**Minutes - 4th Meeting, Hilary Term 2020**  
Friday 5 March 2020, Larkin Room, 7.30pm

The meeting began at 7.45 pm, with Zara Hussain (Vice President) chairing and Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) as minute taker.

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

No objections

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

There were no matters arising

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

Written reports are available [here](#).

Zara Hussain (Vice President) reported that the room ballot had been held. Emails confirming room allocations would be sent and final clarifications were being made.

Milo Mallaby (Academic Affairs Officer) had nothing to report.

Ankit Kapoor (Access and Admissions Officer) had nothing to report.

Dara Sanwal (Discounts Officer) had nothing to report.

Neither Tara Daemi or Danny Roade (Entertainment Officers) were present.

Ava Mitchell (Women's Officer) reported that many sign-ups to Women's Lunches had failed to attend leading to wasted food, although the lunches were generally going well. Ava also reported that there had been meetings with an alumni group looking at opportunities for women at St John's.

### **4. Ratifications**

#### **i) JCR Positions**

##### **Oxford SU Rep (2 vacancies)**

It was noted that both Lachlann Hinley and Harry Sugden had resigned as Oxford SU Reps.

Lachlann Hinley (ex-SU Rep) said that Oxford SU was at the heart of the University and did many things for the JCR. Oxford SU Reps attended Student Council.

Talav Bhimnathwala noted their propensity to get drunk at JCR meetings and they suggested this made them suited for the position. They were **ratified** nem. con.

Emmet O’Leary (Class Rep) said that, while the SU consisted of two letters, it was an ‘alphabet of importance’ to the University. They were **ratified** nem. con.

**JCR Auditors for HT20**

Dara Sanwal (Discounts Officer) expressed interest. It was determined they were ineligible per JCR Constitution, Standing Order Table Seven §21a.

Talav Bhimnathwala said that they liked money. They were **ratified** nem. con.

**JCR Chair for TT20**

It was noted that the JCR Chair needs to be ratified termly. Ronan Foley (current JCR Chair) was unable to attend in person due to Mods (the suggestion they had mumps was found to be baseless). No one stood for the position and the ratification process would be re-run at the first meeting of Trinity.

**ii) Reps requiring re-ratification**

Seb Towers	Bike	<b>Ratified</b>
Hazel Weng	Bike	<b>Ratified</b>
Felix Stocker	Sports	<b>Ratified</b>
Milo Mallaby	Sports	<b>Ratified</b>
Ollie Parkes	Art	<b>Ratified</b>
Mungo Drake	Art	<b>Ratified</b>
Freya Allery	Charities	<b>Ratified</b>
Nia Evans	Charities	<b>Ratified</b>
Adem Berbic	Facilities	<b>Ratified</b>
Dan Hubbard	PRAT	<b>Ratified</b>

Amelia Holt (Disabilities Rep) asked whether Equality & Diversity Reps required ratification. Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) said that E&D Reps did not require ratification at the last meeting of term but would be emailed to confirm that they still wished to remain in the role.

**iii) The “Speed up the Standing Orders” Constitutional Motion**

***Ratified nem. con.***

**iv) “Agenda Ordering” Constitutional Motion**

In ratifying the “Speed up the Standing Orders” Constitutional Motion, it was no longer necessary for Constitutional Motions only amending the Standing Orders to

be ratified a second time. Accordingly, the “Agenda Ordering” Constitutional Motion was deemed passed without the need for ratification.

***Not put***

## **5. Items for Discussion**

### **a) Secret ballot for financial motions (Phil Fernandes)**

Phil Fernandes (President) noted that secret ballots had been introduced for all financial motions on a trial basis. The purpose of this measure was to try and ensure people can ‘vote with their conscience’ on financial motions. Phil stated that they believed the trial had been successful and intended to retain the process in place.

Emmet O’Leary (Class Rep) and Lydia Ludlow asked whether there was a supply of JCR pens and pencils to allow efficient and secret balloting.

Amelia Holt (Disabilities Rep) asked whether voting online could be investigated. Phil said that electronic voting had been investigated and noted that the SU uses voting pads, although often suffers technical issues. Phil noted that it would remain a standing policy to further investigate the matter.

### **b) Music practice rooms (Phil Fernandes)**

Phil Fernandes (President) had been in contact with the Fellow for Music. The College was planning to replace pianos in College and Phil intends to make a case to College for putting a piano in the JCR.

Talav Bhimnathwala asked for more details about College's plans. Phil said that the Fellow for Music wanted to replace the two upright pianos and the baby Kawai piano.

There was general support for putting a piano in the JCR or the bar.

### **c) Standing policy: PREVENT (Lachlann Hinley)**

Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) said that the Government’s PREVENT policy made it mandatory for Higher Education Institutions such as St John’s to implement guidelines on speech, with the aim of preventing extremism. Lachlann said that there had been concerns in 2017 about the effectiveness of the policy and its potential to disproportionately impact minority groups. Because of these concerns, the JCR had its opposition to the policy part of its Standing Policy; however, as Standing Policy is time limited, this had recently expired.

Lachlann said they were required by the Constitution to notify the JCR of the Standing Policy’s expiration. It was noted that any member could submit a motion to renew the Standing Policy. Tom Ritter submitted a motion to renew the Standing Policy.

## **6. Agenda Items**

### **a) The “Free Lunches for all Minorities” Constitutional Motion**

Jahnvi Kalayil (Equality & Diversity Officer) said that College was willing to fund a lunch for each JCR-recognised equality and diversity group, modelled on the current MMG/MMG lunches. These lunches would take place either in the Garden Quad reception room or the Larkin Room, depending on capacity. Jahnvi said that a mandate to hold new E&D lunches should be added to the Constitution.

Suzanne Kapelus (Welfare Officer) asked for confirmation that the lunches would be vegetarian or vegan in line with Standing Policy. Jahnvi asked whether the "Make Free Lunches Vegetarian" Standing Policy Motion would apply to the new lunches. Lachlann Hinley (Secretary) said that it would not as it specifically referenced MMG/MMG lunches.

**Amendment** (proposed as friendly by Jahnvi Kalayil) to add a new clause:

"g. At the end of Standing Policy Implementing Resolution 6/ The "Make Free Lunches Vegetarian" Standing Policy Motion, insert a new item:

*c. Mandate the Equality and Diversity Officer to communicate with college and ensure that all future Equality and Diversity Lunches are vegetarian."*

**Accepted as friendly**

This JCR **resolved** to:

f. Add, in Standing Order Table Two,

*§3a "E&D Reps should run one lunch per term open to all JCR members identifying with their representing minority group which, where oversubscribed, should be allocated on a random basis;"*

g. At the end of Standing Policy Implementing Resolution 6/ The "Make Free Lunches Vegetarian" Standing Policy Motion, insert a new item,

*c. Mandate the Equality and Diversity Officer to communicate with college and ensure that all future Equality and Diversity Lunches are vegetarian."*

**Agreed nem. con.**

### **b) The "Choose your charities!" Constitutional Motion**

Phil Fernandes (President) noted there had been a lot of discussion over how the JCR gives money to charity during the term. The current system for allocating the charities budget works well, except when someone brings a large number of charity motions, which dilutes the overall funds available to each charity. Phil proposed to limit the number of charities motions that can be brought to two per member per charities meeting, in the interests of overall fairness.

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

f. Replace article §50d of the JCR Constitution;

*Charities Motions, mandating specific expenditure of up to £300 from the JCR Charities Fund on charities. These may only be brought at the second Ordinary General Meeting of each term (the 'Termly Charities Meeting');*

with;

*Charities Motions, mandating specific expenditure of up to £300 from the JCR Charities Fund on charities. These may only be brought at the second Ordinary General Meeting of each term (the 'Termly Charities Meeting'). No JCR member may submit more than two Charities Motions (either as a proposer or as a seconder) to a single JCR meeting.*

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

### **c) The “Fix OutWageous Pay!” Standing Policy Motion**

Benny Clinch (Domestic Officer) said that the central university had agreed to adopt the Oxford living wage (£10.21 per hour), which reflected that the cost of living in Oxford is much higher than in other parts of the country. Given other Colleges had also moved to adopt the Oxford living wage, Benny said that the JCR should lobby College to pay its workers the Oxford living wage.

Amelia Holt asked if the College paid the Oxford living wage and simply lacked accreditation. Benny said that the College was paying some of its staff £9.80, which is below the Oxford living wage and would make them ineligible for accreditation.

This JCR **resolved** to:

- n. Mandate the JCR President to inform the bursar of the JCR’s support for St John’s College to set the Oxford Living Wage as a minimum wage for its workers, making this a priority at the Rents & Charges negotiations.
- o. Add items g to m to Beliefs, and item n to Implementing Resolutions

***Agreed nem. con.***

### **d) The “Preventing PREVENT” Standing Policy (Renewal) Motion**

Tom Ritter said that the PREVENT policy had led to racial, ethnic and religious profiling and had many issues. Even though there have been no specific issues recently raised in College, there is a designated PREVENT coordinator on Governing Body and the policy is regularly reviewed.

Ben Robinson asked for more information on the PREVENT policy. Tom said that it was meant to aid identifying people who are at risk of adopting extremist ideologies but that its implementation was flawed. Phil Fernandes (President) added that one of the concerns about PREVENT was that it discouraged affected individuals from seeking welfare support.

Elsie Vowles said they had seen the policy being implemented correctly in a school context and that the aims of the policy were not so much the problem but rather the implementation. Tom Ritter said they had done PREVENT training as part of working in a school environment and noted that no single training module addressed the scenario of white extremism.

This JCR **resolved** to:

Renew the “Preventing PREVENT” Standing Policy Motion as set out in clauses d. to h. above.

***Agreed (3 abstentions)***

### **e) Tingewick Pantomime 2020 funding Financial Motion**

Tom Ritter said that the Tingewick is a historic pantomime that has been run for 80 years by Oxford medical students, including six students from St John’s. Tickets are free and money is collected for charity. The money requested would be used for production costs.

This JCR **resolved** to:

- k. Provide £400 from the Kendrew Arts Fund to partially fund this project.
- l. Ask members involved to provide a writeup and photos for the JCR to use.

***Agreed (1 abstention)***

**f) The “Amongst the flowers and the garbage” Financial Motion**

Alice Hackney said they were part of the Flute and Bowl collective that involved pairing science students with fine art students to make art together. Much of their art explored the environmental crisis and they hoped to exhibit the work in Paris and then the Barn at St John’s.

Tom Ritter said that the Flute and Bowl collective appeared to offer lessons free of charge. Tom asked how this was funded and whether the collective could fund the project instead of the JCR. Alice said the collective had a limited budget and had asked members to seek funding from their JCRs.

Phil Fernandes (President) asked whether Alice was proposing another motion for the same purpose in the form of motion h) The “the Flute and the Bowl Exhibition!” Financial Motion. Alice said they were seconding motion h), but that related to the Oxford exhibition costs of the art, not the production of the art itself.

On a point of information, Emmet O’Leary said that both motions contributed to the same overall goals but funded different stages in the process, with the current motion contributing mainly to materials. When asked to detail these materials, Alice declined and said that was a “magician’s secret”.

Bridget Stuart (Environment & Ethics Officer) said that Alice’s work, especially concerning the environment, was particularly worthwhile and impactful. Emmet O’Leary reiterated that it was especially necessary in the context of ongoing discussions about the College’s willingness to consider the environment.

This JCR resolved to:

- l. Give £230 to Alice Hackney’s contribution to “Amongst the flowers and garbage” from the Kendrew Arts Fund
- m. Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the website

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

**g) The “Ruskin Degree Show” Financial Motion**

Toni Busuttil said that the arts were comparatively underfunded at Oxford and that students were encouraged to self-finance their work as much as possible. Part of the Fine Art students’ work involved putting on a degree show, which involves a lot of expense and there is a £5,000 funding target from JCRs. The JCR has previously donated to the show and all JCR members are very welcome to come to the show.

Suzanne Kapelus asked what happens to equipment after the show has concluded. Toni said that the artists kept the materials.

This JCR therefore **resolved** to:

Donate £200 to the Ruskin Degree Show from the Kendrew Arts Fund.

***Agreed (2 abstentions)***

#### **h) The “the Flute and the Bowl Exhibition!” Financial Motion**

Bridget Stuart said that the motion was requesting funding for a collaborative exhibition involving art and science students across the University. The exhibition would focus specifically on the climate crisis. Bridget noted the opportunity to host the exhibition in the Barn in Kendrew, which would promote a positive image of the College.

This JCR **resolved** to:

Give £125 to The Flute and the Bowl from the Financial Motions Budget

Require a written report from the Proposer, to be uploaded to the News section on the JCR website

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

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

Felix Stocker said that the St John’s College History Society would be having afternoon tea in Kendrew on Tuesday with Dr Mishka Sinha to discuss St John’s and the colonial past. Lydia Ludlow noted there had been donor backlash to the project and emphasised the importance of showing student support.

Zara Hussain (Vice President) appointed Talav Bhimnathwala (Oxford SU Rep) as the Returning Officer’s Assistant.