

St John's College Junior Common Room

Agenda - 3rd Meeting, Trinity Term 2019
Sunday 2nd June 2019, Larkin Room, 8.30pm

1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes:

Harry Sugden (JCR President) passed the previous minutes. Troels noted an issue regarding allegations of embezzlement written into the minutes. Benedict (JCR Secretary) cleared up the issue, noting that he had mistakenly written that Issy Stephens (Account Auditor for Hilary Term 2019) had suggested Cas Burton (JCR Treasurer) had committed embezzlement. This wording was intended to read the opposite, with no allegation being made. Benedict apologised to the JCR.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Storage Update - Harry Sugden, JCR President

Minutes:

Harry noted that there was no progress, as Domestic Committee will occur next term. This is where the issue can make progress.

3. Reports from Officers, Reps and Committees

- Access and Admissions Officer: Abdul Musaddik

Not present

- Class Liberation Officer: Natalia Sudol

Not present

- Ethnic Minorities Officer: Karen Muperere

Not present

- Sports Reps: Georgia Ling and Leanne Smith

Not present

- Staff Liaison Reps: Safier Lewis, Bella Parker-Byatt and Noam Rosenbaum

Minutes:

Noam noted that there was nothing to report.

4. Ratifications

- Elections for Equality and Diversity Officer - Chris Hughes, Returning Officer

No one stood

- Room Regrading Committee - Alfie Deere-Hall, JCR Vice-President

No one stood

Benedict Gardner
JCR Secretary
03/06/2019

Minutes:

At this point, Harry made a call for closed-eye voting, after the success of the last meeting. No objection heard. He then moved Rep ratifications until after the passing of Constitutional Motions, as the Why Not (Rep) Both? Motion would have had an impact on who could stand for a position.

a/ The “Why Not (Rep) Both?” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Benedict Gardner, JCR Secretary

Seconded: Harry Sugden, JCR President

This JCR notes that:

- a. Many Rep positions go unfilled for extended periods of time in the JCR
- b. When Rep positions become available, often those with one Rep position already consider running
- c. The Constitution currently prevents a person being a Rep for two (non-liberation) positions

This JCR believes that:

- d. There is no reason to stop someone being two reps, rather than one
- e. Members of the JCR are able to manage their own time, and can judge for themselves whether the workload is reasonable

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f. Change Part 2, Section 19:

From: *Officials cannot hold more than one role at any given time and must be elected in accordance with election regulations contained in §29 for Reps and Standing Order 3A/3B for Officers.*

To: *Officials cannot hold more than two roles, and not more than one Officer role, at any given time and must be elected in accordance with election regulations contained in §29 for Reps and Standing Order 3A/3B for Officers.*

- g. Change Part 2, Section 20:

From: *It shall not be possible for a member to simultaneously be a liberation rep and another type of official, yet a liberation rep for one liberation group may simultaneously be a liberation rep for another liberation group*

To: *It shall be possible for a member to simultaneously be a liberation rep and another type of Official, and a liberation rep for one liberation group may simultaneously be a liberation rep for another liberation group*

Passed NEMCON

b/ The “Facilitating Facilities” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Harry Sugden (JCR President)

Seconded: Adem Berbic (DVD and TV Room Rep)

This JCR notes that:

- a. The responsibility for the DVD and TV Room falls under the DVD & TV Room rep, who reports to the Discounts Officer.
- b. The responsibility for the JCR and the Games Room falls under the Treasurer’s role description.

This JCR believes that:

- c. A single Facilities Rep should have responsibility for the DVD, TV, JCR and Games rooms with a combined budget.
- d. The Facilities Rep should report to the Domestic Officers.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- e. Rename the ‘DVD and TV Room Rep’ to ‘Facilities Rep’ in all instances (Part Two §22; Standing Order Table Two 2.f.).
- f. Move responsibility for the Rep from Discounts Officer (Standing Order Table Two 1.i.viii.) to Domestic Officers (Standing Order Table Two 1.j.vii. and 2.f.v.).
- g. Move responsibility for the Games Room and JCR from The Treasurer (Standing Order Table Two 1.d.vii.) to the Facilities Rep.
- h. Rename the associated budget, and remove “*Are responsible for the SJC Board Games and Xbox budgets*” since the budgets will be combined (Standing Order Table Two 2.f.iv.).

Passed NEMCON

c/ The “Anti Sex-Bug” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Jahnvi Kalayil (JCR Women’s Officer)

Seconded: Amelia Holt (JCR Welfare Officer)

This JCR notes that:

- a. The Women’s Officer is currently obliged to reimburse menstrual cups, reusable sanitary products, morning after pills and pregnancy tests within five working days of their request.
- b. The Sexual Health clinic offers free STI testing but due to the distance of the clinic from college many people would go longer before being tested, potentially leading to more serious health issues.

Benedict Gardner
JCR Secretary
03/06/2019

- c. Members of college have the need to purchase expensive sexual health treatments (e.g. thrush treatments ~£15).
- d. The JCR currently reimburses much more costly items so this should not be an exception for that reason.
- e. Female members of the JCR have expressed an interest in having regular distribution of the free JCR provided pregnancy tests to avoid additional stresses in having to wait for delivery from Welfare.

This JCR believes that:

- f. The current reimbursement scheme should be amended to include items such as low-cost sexual health treatments and STI testing kits for any members of the JCR.
- g. Pregnancy test distribution should be included in the regular Sanitary Products order by the JCR Women's Officer.
- h. The Women's/Welfare budgets should be increased to account for the increase in items for reimbursement.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. Add in as (x) the following to Standing Order Table 2, Section 1(q): *Should reimburse the purchase of STI testing kits by JCR members from the Welfare Budget within five working days of the request.*

Passed NEMCON

d/ The "Let's Stay Safe!" Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Jahnvi Kalayil (JCR Women's Officer)

Seconded: Amelia Holt (JCR Welfare Officer)

This JCR notes that:

- a. According to the Thames Valley Police, there were 1124 accounts of violence or sexual offences in the last year in Oxford.
- b. People of the JCR have the right to feel safe when alone at night.
- c. The MCR Women's Officer currently reimburses panic alarms to female MCR members.

This JCR believes that:

- d. Panic/personal security alarms should be issued and distributed to members of the JCR.
- e. This purchase should be covered by relevant Welfare/Women's budgets with sufficient budget increase given to the relevant budget.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- f. Add to Standing Order Table 2, Section 1(q)(x): *Should reimburse the purchase of STI testing kits [and panic alarms] by JCR members from the Welfare Budget within five working days of the request.*

Benedict Gardner
JCR Secretary
03/06/2019

Minutes:

At this point, the remainder of Rep ratifications were carried out.

- Facilities Rep - 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Adem Berbic)

Minutes:

Harry noted that there was a mistake on the original Agenda, which read “DVD Rep”. After the ratification of the Facilities Rep Motion, there is no longer a DVD Rep.

- IT Rep – 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Zuza Patrya)

No one stands

- PRAT Rep - 1 vacancy (to serve alongside Felix Stocker)

Minutes:

Felix made the case for someone to become a PRAT rep with him, noting he would have to resign if no one could be found. Sophie Whitehead gave a short hust, stating that she would be happy to help Felix with his work for the last meeting of term. Closed-eye voting took place.

Sophie elected as PRAT rep
(1 against, 0 abstentions)

- SU Rep - 2 vacancies

Minutes:

Jake Owen gave a short hust. He noted he would like to accompany Harry and help achieve quorum. Closed-eye voting took place.

Jake Owen elected as Oxford SU Rep
(1 against, 0 abstentions)

5. Items for Discussion

a) Ball 2020 Committee Update - *Lachlann Hinley (Ball Secretary)*

Minutes:

Benedict Gardner
JCR Secretary
03/06/2019

Lachlann noted that Caitlin French has resigned as Ticketing Director. Lachlann noted that Leo will take charge of ticketing for the Ball, with Lachlann taking responsibility for the Ball for All campaign. Lachlann suggested a written report from now on, as part of Rep reports.

b) Fair Use of the Auditorium ([Appendix 1](#)) - *Ollie Parkes (JCR Art Rep)*

Minutes:

Ollie noted that the former Home Bursar was considering charging students for use of the auditorium if the event had high numbers of non-John students, which he learnt at the Promotion of the Arts Committee. College felt that there should not be a charge for piano and equipment, but a charge should exist for non-John's members wanted JCR feedback on a cut-off point for number of non-members, at which point a charge would be incurred.

Noam asked if the organiser being from John's was a determining criteria in the process. Noam noted his opera group is sponsored by John's so gets free use currently, asking whether this would change. Ollie noted the policy has not been changed, just proposed. Ollie noted he thought it fair that giving access to an organisation with the head organiser from John's, and around 30% of members from John's [Ollie later said this was just an example figure], this would be acceptable.

Gigi Williams (JCR Entz Officer) suggested the requirement should only be 1 member of John's, and that putting in a barrier was unnecessary (noting that the College did not need the extra money). Maddie Leggett told the JCR of their experience of being quoted £300 per night for the Auditorium for a charitable performance, noting this is unrealistic for students to afford. Ollie noted a one-John's-member-required booking system would be open to abuse, with a John's member being co-opted into projects just to gain access to the Auditorium. Maddie asked Ollie to enquire about securing sub-market rates for student organizations. Harry suggested that Ollie use the JCR maillist to gain further opinion on the matter.

c) New Minutes Design - *Benedict Gardner (JCR Secretary)*

Minutes:

Benedict noted that a new, accessible font and format had been adopted for JCR Agendas going forward, and asked if anyone had objections. None head. Ollie recommend Palatino as a possible font choice. Harry noted not having italics in future, as these can be hard for people with visibility problems to read.

d) Constitutional Appendices - *Benedict Gardner (JCR Secretary)*

Minutes:

Benedict noted that the Appendices had been changed.

6. Agenda Items

a/ The Condition of the Republic 2018

Proposer: Christine Jiang, JCR President 2018

Seconded: Harry Sugden, JCR President 2019

This JCR notes that:

- a. The outgoing President is mandated to produce ‘The Condition of the Republic of St Giles’ report, referred to here as ‘The Condition of the Republic’, in the first Ordinary General Meeting of Hilary Term, detailing the work and achievements of that committee, and include recommendations on what further work could be done in specific policy areas.
- b. Amendments and comments from members of the JCR are welcomed.
- c. That ‘The Condition of the Republic’ report has been presented to the JCR as found in [Appendix 3](#).
- d. For the first time in the current Constitutional history of this Report, there are no missing reports from this year’s Condition of the Republic.

This JCR believes that:

- e. ‘The Condition of the Republic’ report is an accurate record, to the best of the Committee’s knowledge, of the state of the JCR.
- f. This report accurately reflects, as far as possible, the view of the JCR.
- g. ‘The Condition of the Republic’ report is fit to be passed, with any desired amendments and comments

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Pass this proposed report, with any amendments and comments as desired.

Minutes:

Harry explained that every year the outgoing JCR President collates a report about what they achieved through their year. The Report is meant to be filed in Hilary, but wasn’t for several reasons.

No factual questions or discussion heard.

(0 against, 1 abstention)

Motion Passed

b/ The “Lower the Quorum, Keep Decorum” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Harry Sugden (JCR President)

Seconded: Benedict Gardner (JCR Secretary)

This JCR notes that:

- a. Quorum is currently set at 25 full members, except that if any single vote is cast against a motion, then at least 30 full members must be present. This is not applied to procedural motions, for which 25 full members must be present.
- b. The “Can We Start the Meeting Yet?” Constitutional Motion (Trinity Term 2018 2nd General Meeting) led to the current quorum requirements.

This JCR believes that:

- c. Struggling to reach quorum harms engagement with the JCR and disillusiones those who wish to participate by forcing them to wait arbitrarily long periods of time for Members to arrive.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- d. Replace Section 40 of the Constitution with “There must be 25 full members present throughout an Ordinary General Meeting for a quorum.”
- e. Replace Section 46 of the Constitution with “There must be 25 full members present throughout an Extraordinary General Meeting for a quorum.”

Minutes:

Alfie Deere-Hall (JCR Vice-President) took the chair. Harry outlined the existing scheme, where 25 people are required for a vote, but if one person votes against, 30 people are required. Harry noted this holds the 25 people to having to vote for a motion if they want the meeting to carry-on. This motion will therefore tidy up this unnecessary complication by making all votes require 25 people.

Noam asked what the quorum requirement was being changed to, to which Harry replied 25. Adem asked about the origin of this policy, to which Harry noted that there was objection to the original reduction, so the addendum that 30 would be needed with 1 opposition to the motion was included. Harry noted closed-eye voting should make the process more democratic, therefore negating the need for the higher requirement. Sam Gunatilleke suggested that 30 people should be required if the decision was close.

Lachlann asked if controversial motions could be delayed if within a 5-person margin, to prevent controversial motions passing without significant JCR members.

Adem suggested having a specific, non-arbitrary cut-off for numbers. Chris noted that this was the original format, set at 10% of the JCR body, but this would make quorum requirements harder to reach, at around 40. Chris also noted that a referendum is possible if needed.

[At this point, Lachlann began writing an amendment to the motion, agreeing with Sam’s concerns. To give him time to write

Benedict Gardner
JCR Secretary
03/06/2019

it, the motion was deferred to end of the meeting. Please see the end of the minutes for the final updated form].

Motion Deferred to the end of the meeting

c/ The “Lady Justice” Standing Policy Motion

Proposer: Harry Sugden (JCR President)

Seconded: Benedict Gardner (JCR Secretary)

This JCR notes that:

- a. Voting on motions in JCR meetings currently takes the form of hands up voting, so that all attendees are able to see the voting choices of others.
- b. Anonymous voting - in the form of (optional) closed eye voting - was trialled at the Trinity Term 2nd General Meeting. No objections were raised in the meeting to this trial.
- c. Under Standing Order Table Two, Section 42 of the Constitution, members remain the right to request that a secret ballot be held on a motion.

This JCR believes that:

- d. The members of the JCR should be able to properly scrutinise the motions brought forward to the JCR at general meetings, and in doing so, be able to express their opinion through voting without pressure to vote
- e. By introducing anonymous, closed eye voting, any stigma that might be associated with voting against a motion may be reduced.
- f. For the duration that these items remain part of Standing Policy, the Chair of the meeting shall request that all members participate in anonymous voting.
- g. Anonymous voting does not affect the provisions outlined in item c regarding the use of secret ballot.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- h. Add items (f) and (g) to Standing Policy.

Minutes:

Harry introduced the motion, noting that after the successful trial last week, closed-eye voting was not to be added to Standing Policy if passed).

Troels asked why written voting is not a reasonable option for all contexts where closed-eye voting could be used. Harry noted that written voting could be requested at any time if necessary.

Troels noted (respectfully) that he opposed the motion, as he saw it as encouragement to hide your beliefs. Greg noted that in fact having eyes open meant

Benedict Gardner
JCR Secretary
03/06/2019

people were less likely to hold their beliefs, being swayed by the room. Noam noted that the time taken to process written votes could discourage participation. Troels personally did not feel this reason enough to vote for the motion, noting that a malicious member could open their eyes and check on people's voting, meaning closed-eye voting gave a false sense of protection.

(24 for, 1 abstention, 2 against)
Motion Not Passed

[although this motion received a majority of the room, current JCR rules state that if one person votes against a motion, quorum must be raised to 30 people (Section 40 of the Constitution). While the motion just before this ("Lower the Quorum, Keep Decorum" will address this, it will not become constitutional until Michaelmas 2019. At the time, only 27 people were present, meaning quorum was not reaching and the Motion failed].

d/ The "Green Space Not Grey!" Standing Policy Motion

Proposer: Sam Gunatilleke

Seconded: Ankit Ranjan (Environment & Ethics Officer)

This JCR notes that:

- a. Farmland owned by the college located near Barford, Warwickshire has been approved (by college) to be converted into a gravel quarry
- b. The land to be converted is currently around 220 acres of prime farmland [\[1\]](#) which will be destroyed
- c. The quarry itself will produce dust pollution, noise pollution and sight pollution, with dust pollution a proven threat to health [\[2\]](#) and the quarry within a kilometre of a primary school [\[3\]](#) [\[Appendix 2\]](#). The quarry is also very close to the River Avon
- d. Alongside the quarry, an estimated 700 diesel trucks per week will serve it [source pending], travelling along the A429 (to the West of the site in [Appendix 2](#)), increasing traffic and pollution through the villages of Wasperton and Barford.
- e. Continuation of this plan will be harmful to both human life and the ecosystem, as well as other farms surrounding the quarry, which appear to be arable and as such the crops will be affected by the dust/emissions
- f. Local residents are very much against the plans, having emailed the college's governing body, issued over 1000 complaints to the council and

Benedict Gardner
JCR Secretary
03/06/2019

organised a protest outside of college [5] however they have been largely ignored

- g. Saint John's College has (and claims to uphold) a responsibility to protect the environment [6] and should stand by these principles over financial gain as the college is a registered charity [7]
- h. This motion is within the spirit of Mr Rawlinson's commitment to the Warwickshire countryside, as indicated by his reported bequest to the College in the 18th century [submitted by Lachlann Hinley, accepted as friendly]**

This JCR believes that:

- i. The proposal to dig the quarry is bad for the environment and human health and as such could be considered unethical
- j. Saint John's College should uphold its responsibility to the environment over the financial benefits of converting farmland to a quarry
- k. We, the students, have not been properly informed about this despite it directly affecting us (as in the protest on the 28th of May)
- l. As students of the college it is in our direct interest to be aware of such decisions by college, and we should have some say in how the college operates financially

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- m. Mandate the JCR President and Environmental & Ethics Officer to request **some [submitted by Harry Sugden, accepted as friendly]** transparency from college, particularly the reasons for which they have approved the development of the quarry and to provide information to students about similar decisions in future.
- n. Add item **m [changed due to amendment of This JCR notes]** to the standing policy

Minutes:

Sam raised issue with not only college's fossil fuel investments, but also its recent move to convert some of its farmland in Warwickshire into a gravel quarry, hence the need for this motion. He highlighted the potential threats to the health of local schoolchildren. The Bursar replied to an email being sent by students, arguing that the 'world needs gravel'. Sam however highlighted the lack of need for the gravel from the site for homes, according to Warwickshire County Council. Sam noted that a protest took place on Tuesday of the week before (28/05/19).

Troels asked what the best argument was for voting against this motion, to which Sam replied the money College would make from this investment. Mungo Drake noted this could reinvigorate the British economy in its time of need.

Jahnavi Kalayil noted that it had been raised to her that some people argue the money that we benefit from needs a source of investment, though noted she personally doesn't agree with this argument within the context. Sam replied that college had significant funds, and that this wouldn't affect students. Harry added as

a point of information that most grants that students access come from donors, rather than investments.

Chris noted this strategy is unlikely to work, as College has already proceeded with the work. He said he was unhappy with some of the wording, especially if it has the risk of disrupting students.

Lachlann noted that, after talking to one of the protestors, this work would go against the desires of an 18th Century donor called Richard Rawlinson, who sought to protect the countryside of Warwickshire. Accordingly, Lachlann submitted an amendment, submitted as friendly.

(0 against, 2 abstentions)

Motion Passed

b/ The “Lower the Quorum, Keep Decorum” Constitutional Motion

Proposer: Harry Sugden (JCR President)

Seconded: Benedict Gardner (JCR Secretary)

This JCR notes that:

- f. Quorum is currently set at 25 full members, except that if any single vote is cast against a motion, then at least 30 full members must be present. This is not applied to procedural motions, for which 25 full members must be present.
- g. The “Can We Start the Meeting Yet?” Constitutional Motion (Trinity Term 2018 2nd General Meeting) led to the current quorum requirements.

This JCR believes that:

- h. Struggling to reach quorum harms engagement with the JCR and disillusioned those who wish to participate by forcing them to wait arbitrarily long periods of time for Members to arrive.

This JCR therefore resolves to:

- i. Replace Section 40 of the Constitution with “There must be 25 full members present throughout an Ordinary General Meeting unless the voting on a Motion results in a result where the margin between the ‘yes’ votes and the ‘no’ votes is 10 people. In this case, the quorum shall be deemed to be 30 and, a quorum not being present, the motion shall be placed at the top of the agenda at the next ordinary meeting and the Secretary shall be instructed to draw the attention of members to the fact that motion has been voted against. This process shall repeat until a quorum of 30 is present”.
- j. Replace Section 46 of the Constitution with: “There must be 25 full members present throughout an Extraordinary General Meeting unless the voting on a

Benedict Gardner
JCR Secretary
03/06/2019

Motion results in a result where the margin between the 'yes' votes and the 'no' votes is 10 people. In this case, the quorum shall be deemed to be 30 and, a quorum not being present, the motion shall be placed at the top of the agenda at the next ordinary meeting and the Secretary shall be instructed to draw the attention of members to the fact that motion has been voted against. This process shall repeat until a quorum of 30 is present."

Minutes:

[At this point, the JCR voted again on the proposal submitted by Lachlann. This is the final form of the Motion, which will be added to the Constitution if approved at the next meeting]

(0 against, 2 abstentions)

Motion Passed

7. Any Other Business

Minutes:

Harry closed the meeting at 21:20