

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor S. J. Elston, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor K. Nation, The Revd Professor W. Whyte, Professor D. Martin, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor S. Myers, Professor J. Schnell, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor H. Skoda, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor C. Newton, Professor J. Obloj, Dr G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor K. Southwood, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor B. McFarlane, Dr M. Nicholls, Professor N. K. Jones, Ms Z. Hancock, Dr S. Campbell, Dr K. Doornik, Professor R. Hoye, Professor L. Hunt, Professor R. Lall

Apologies: Professor R. G. Compton, Professor M. Cannon, Professor P. K. Maini, Professor C. A. Larrington, Professor A. Hills, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor A. Russell, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor L. di Mare, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor E. Wonnacott, Professor B. Stevenson, Professor K. J. Patel

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

AGENDA 'C'

ACTION

1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meetings of Governing Body held on 19th April and 26th April 2023 were **approved**, with an addition to the latter to note the Governing Body's view that the current committee structure allowed for robust governance, with trustees able to attend all committees if they wished and with access to all information.

2. Finance & Estates Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May 2023 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** to authorise the Principal Bursar to invest [], subject to satisfactory conclusion of the due diligence process. The Principal Bursar was also authorised to commit to contingency funding []. If the nature of the agreement varied significantly from that outlined to date, or if the due diligence raised any concerns, delegated authority was given to the Finance & Estates Committee to consider these in a separate meeting before authority would be given to the Principal Bursar to proceed with the transaction.

It was noted that in the budget for 2023/24 the main capital spend was for the Pusey Lane development and the refurbishment of 19–21 St John Street. Variances in spend within the domestic budget were the consequence of allocating costs to the correct cost centres and to improve overall cost control. The budget for 2023/24 was **approved**.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

The Principal Bursar thanked members of Governing Body who had attended the recent display of the projects proposed as part of the consultation process on the College's Masterplan. The overall aim of the Masterplan was to make the College net zero carbon through the delivery a

new energy centre, renewable energy technology and building fabric upgrades, as well as to improve accommodation and facilities for students and staff and to create better connections between College areas.

The Governing Body reviewed the scope and scale of the plans, noting that the ten-year programme was very ambitious. It was **agreed** to:

- complete a RIBA stage 2 report for the site-wide thermal improvements, focusing on roof insulation and window installations;
- complete a RIBA stage 2 design for the Thomas White building, including improved JCR facilities;
- complete a RIBA stage 1+ report for the energy centre, including a full client brief;
- progress to a RIBA stage 2 design for 15 St Giles and 22/23 St Giles (as potential enabling projects following a full review of College accommodation capacity);
- progress electrical load testing across the site.

The Governing Body noted that the costs for these projects had already been budgeted and agreed as part of the Works budget.

It was also **agreed** to set up a Masterplan Working Party to ensure discussion and scrutiny of the Masterplan in detail as the various projects within it moved forward to the next decision stages.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

The Principal Bursar had taken advice to understand the correct VAT treatment and relief for new build and development works. It was **agreed** to use a services design and build company to deliver major projects, to enter a master design and build contract with the new services company, to appoint directors, and to set up new accounting processes.

The Principal Bursar noted that she would define the scale of a major project in the course of doing this.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

It was also **agreed** to dispose of [] and four properties in Oxford [], all of which required major works that would likely result in negative returns on investment.

The Principal Bursar noted the further legal advice on the College loan scheme. She also updated Governing Body on plans for the Eagle and Child.

3. Statutes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May 2023 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** in principle that the College's Visitor should be elected and that the detail should be picked up in the Working Party on Governance.

PRESIDENT

4. General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2023 were received.

Conflicted Fellows left the meeting at this point.

The Governing Body **agreed** to renew the Fellowships of Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor A. Russell and Professor S. Toussaert should be renewed from 1st October 2023 for a period of seven years or until retirement, whichever was sooner.

Conflicted Fellows returned to the meeting.

Dr M. Winterbottom was **elected** to a Supernumerary Fellowship (without membership of Governing Body), coterminous with his holding a curatorial post at the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology. Professor P. Visscher was also **elected** to a Supernumerary Fellowship (without membership of Governing Body), coterminous with his holding a personal Chair in the Nuffield Department of Population Health.

PRESIDENT

The Governing Body **agreed** that, if the post became available, the College would make a bid for association with a new Associate Professor (APTF-U) post in climate science in the School of Geography and the Environment and that, if successful, the undergraduate quota in Geography would be increased by one place (from four to five), but with no automatic additional open offer place.

PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Governing Body decided not to take the recommendations of General Purposes Committee in relation to setting up an Executive Council, but to draw on the substantive points made and, at the President's suggestion, to ask the Working Party on Governance to consider the particular questions raised in relation to decision-making over the Long Vacation. The Working Party was asked to consider specifically whether the issue should be addressed via a By-Law or some other mechanism.

The Governing Body made a number of points in discussion of the issue.

[].

PRESIDENT

It was **agreed** that the SCR Standing Committee should meet termly and that any business arising should go to the relevant College committee for further discussion.

STEWARD OF THE SCR

It was **agreed** to sign up for the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

The updated College Officer role profiles and committee terms of reference were **approved**. It was noted that some further changes would be required as the new welfare structures became operational.

PRESIDENT

The Governing Body **agreed** that the College should continue to support the Nuffield Professorship of Population Health after the retirement of Professor Sir Rory Collins and would indicate this to the Medical Sciences Division.

PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

5. College governance

The Governing Body noted the publication of the Christ Church Governance Review.

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

6. Fellows' Housing Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2023 were received.