



## Executive Committee Meeting - 18-09-2021

Attendance: AW (President), IC (FCO), KM (VP), JS (PG&M), JG (Senior Welfare), EM (JCR Chair), JW (Sports & Socs), LH (PR Officer), TB (Facilities), CL (Outreach Chair), ZH (Librarian)

Apologies: EW (Social Chair)

Absent:

Location: Conference room

Agenda:

Expectations

Updates

New Build

Reserves

JCR Meetings and Etiquette

AOB



Meeting begins with JC calling in

JC: Great outfits, can I roar? This is my first so I apologise if it's not good

\*rawr xd\*

A pitied round of applause

## Expectations (AW)

AW: Welcome. We are here because we want to be, please treat your roles seriously. Please talk to me if you are falling short of your 8 hours, but also if you are stressed with work do talk to us and we can help you. Communication is vital, you are volunteers so you don't have to do anything but please tell me if you can't. No question is silly or stupid I just want updates and I'm here to help. Emails: if anyone sends you an email pls reply in 72 hours, even if you don't answer fully just give a date when you will answer, applies to messages too. Lateness is unacceptable \*looks at LH\* if you have a reason fine but lateness for no reason is not ok. You have committees, if you aren't working well with the people on them talk to me and I can whip them into shape. I would encourage you to read the discipline policy, it exists to punish but should act as a deterrent, no tolerance for discrimination of any kind. Please use the posting schedule and make sure you post in all groups. If you make an event make the JCR page a co host for better reach. Please read the standing orders, write motions and know the charitable aims. You all have budgets too, spend!

IC: If you think you are going to overspend please let me know as we have a lot of money and if it's useful to spend, spend! Will circulate a rough guide on budgets

AW: We can spend money if it's in our charitable aims

JS: Think it happened last year, on a lot of posts my email is wrong it is [pg-rep@cuths.com](mailto:pg-rep@cuths.com) don't want to miss anything

AW: We do have mailing lists for exec, trustees, communities comm, sports and socs - use them

## Updates

TB: We are trying to rebrand green machine, ordering stickers to put on headphones to catalogue properly, and getting hires booked in. Gyms are complicated with the new building and we have to move the bailey gym. Do want to bring back the dark room but not sure it's possible

ZH: I have been working on getting new furniture, moving around rooms potentially, and planning a book sale with a painful amount of donations. Worked out when the library is opening and in the process of getting volunteers and stockmanagers



CL: Been setting up a volunteering page so anyone can post volunteering opportunities, getting framda up and running, and also looking at doing a bonfire night event if the council gets back to me, not sure if it's feasible. Looking ahead to summer want to do a week long trip to a community kitchen in Calais

JG: Prep for freshers week, been doing drop ins, finishing the welfare handbook, and running a freshers week campaign on all relevant freshers week issues. Sorting out campaign team applications too

JS: PGM freshers week is next week, been working with everyone to get them sorted and doing inter college events. Also chair of pgm chair and been doing the handbook too

KM: Wrote the handbook, organised free frep jumpers and all the other stash. Changing stash companies for the first stash order of term to make us more sustainable and because moette are a pain to work with. Doing lots of other bits to help out with freshers week and generally.

LH: Been doing the insta posts and setting up college family forms

AW: Freshers week has been the main focus: setting up the freshtival but that's mainly isaac, been reducing frep numbers, a lot of covid on going things like test to participate. I updated the website and then it broke - please help me. Been talking to TW (Principal) a lot about the building works and reducing impact. There has been a lot of discussion on the drug policy with JG, TW, and SSDP; TW is keen to review the zero tolerance policy and uni could be ditching it. I had a go at the Pro Vice Chancellor about the composition fee and we are getting one, still not got the money back from Hardwick, going with Beamish for Michaelmas which EW has been doing, trying to get the SLA, alumni association also don't reply to me but keen to work with them

IC: Been doing my job, spending money, doing reclaims and invoices for freshers week. Been sorting out the freshtival: hiring bands, looking at gear for music events and we have a lot of random stuff - want to purchase some new music gear as we will have about 4k in donations we need to spend. Also sorting out the matriculation photo

JW: Still tracking down sports and socs exec, entering them in their leagues, a lot of sports and socs still don't have a full exec which has been difficult but do have a lot of them updated on the website. I have been organising freshers fair and we have a lot more space this year, also organising the sports afternoon on the wednesday of freshers week

## New build (AW)

AW: The new building is not extremely big, kind of small actually, but it will do a few things though. I don't know if the multi-purpose space will be licensed yet. The JCR won't be attached to reception making it more of a student space but will be attached to a gym which should increase gym floor space. The little auditorium has a few opportunities. The main thing this does is give the opportunity to move things around - what facilities are we missing as a JCR?



TB: It would be nice to have a JCR office that is not horrible. More storage spaces would be good for sports, socs, music, and making sure the keys in the right hands

LH: I feel like there isn't anywhere but the bailey bar to hang out on the bailey, the bailey JCR locked a lot of the time

AW: I don't think this conference room is fit for purpose

TB: A new room or better use of the room? You could fit more people in here if you rearranged

JS: A few quiet rooms for studying would be great, clicking on laptops can be annoying for some people

ZH: I'm hoping the computer room will be able to become more of a study space and the conference room I'm hoping to utilise more

AW: Firstly we need an art space, a conference room is not enough space for art. We need a second music room, we are the only college with one

TB: It would make sense for it to be on the bailey

CL: If there isn't anything disability/accessibility friendly the conference room would be good as its ground floor

JS: Agreed, more spaces should be more accessible as getting a ramp takes a lot of time

JG: Would be good to have a space on the bailey too for welfare drop ins

AW: Do you feel able to access spaces properly and do they feel like you as a student? Personally the JCRs don't feel like student spaces

TB: They are more like a corridor

CL: No one ever used them

IC: Porters always being there doesn't help

TB: You want to be able to play a drinking game or board game without staff barging in

JS: It is a lot less tragic than it used to be

ZH: Could the music room become soundproof if we move it?

AW: We can't move it and it is only moderately soundproofed properly. I tried to do it properly before but they said it was a health and safety risk. In the new building if we are moving the gym what are we doing with the refounders gym? College aren't happy with the bailey gym remaining there. How do we feel about moving bailey gym to refounders - personally I agree

JW: Weights take up more room and if the new one has more space it would be good to move that there



TB: Counter point, the new one will be way better ventilated and refounders one is terrible for ventilation

JW: You do get sweaty lifting weights too and refounders overall is a bit grim

AW: We get a lot of feedback saying the weights gym is very male dominated and we could do a combined gym with a smaller weights section

TB: Would be good to be able to do a full workout in one, that never worked with it split over two sites

JS: It will also make bailey freshers spend more time at parsons which wouldn't be a bad things

CL: Are we getting blinds in the big fat windows?

AW: Hopefully, students were not consulted on any fittings. That opens up the bailey gym, then we have the questions of office space, storage, conference and JCR student space

TB: It is a smaller space and could be used for art. The room across the gym seems the most suitable for a JCR. With the art room it would be good if it was open for most of the day

AW: I think you could fit 4 desks in there and then it could be an office space

LH: It could be a library space

ZH: You can take the desks from the library as I want to replace them

AW: JCR in bailey will no longer be used as a walkway for dining hall and also college complain about any noise

TB: We could put JCR office space in that bit by the TV as it is very accessible and makes officers more available. Could it be a conference room and an office space?

AW: We do have to keep a JCR there as for events like formals and feast it has to be used as a drinks reception. I also don't care about a bailey JCR as there  $\frac{3}{4}$  of students at parsons and the main JCR should be at parsons

TB: We could still have a bailey common room so people aren't stuck in there rooms

LH: There are no kitchens on the bailey too so there isn't anywhere to hang out without it

AW: We are going to turn it into a common room. Any one got any more suggestions?

TB: I think this is a suitable space for a conference room too - can get a modern projector and screen too

IC: I think the conference room worked well as an overflow space for the library too

TB: Majority of the time the conference room will be empty - when its not used for conference it should still be used as a library overflow space

AW: If we put a conference room in house 12 and keep the left of it as a formal common room we could make the conference room an entire study space



JS: If you turn house 12 into a conference room surely you face similar logistical problems for feast and things

AW: If we got foldable tables it would work for events. We wouldn't be able to keep filing cabinets or anything in there - it would have to be bare in case we have to move things. Also because house 12 gets locked, if we move the conference room it does inconvenience some societies but we need to turn the bailey JCR into something

KM: Why don't we get foldable desks instead of a whole foldable table so we can use it as an office if it wont work as a conference room?

TB: Can keep the old exec office as storage space for files and archives

KM: Are college going to move the pigeon holes?

AW: Will raise that with TW as they can set up temporary ones. Construction should be starting on monday but should be done by jan 31st.

TB: Would it be worth setting up a working group?

KM: It shouldn't just be us deciding on stuff like this

AW: I would like to do a group with TB, we have surveys and questionnaires from the last two years. I want to measure the gyms because I'm not sure everything will still fit in the new spaces. Is everyone on board?

\*Everyone on board with facilities working group\*

AW: Who should be on the working group?

IC: I can be on it

ZH: I could be on it

KM: I could be on it

AW: I think Euan could be on it, Chair does the survey and he is neutral so he could be chair of it

TB: I think we should have non exec member on it too with method III style applications for two positions

## Reserves

IC: Just upwards of £120k in reserves with £52k is becoming available, still not clear on how much to go to fashion show as waiting for £20k from fixr and £10k from hardwick

AW: We have a lot of money and can anyone think of what to buy?

TB: A dark room

AW: College could fund it



IC: College have issues with the ventilation of the dark room

JS: A heated pool where the Wendy House is!

AW: I want to renovate the wendy house with downstairs as a music room, upstairs as office and art room but its about £120k so that likely won't happen. It's a world heritage site and so that is spenny

JS: We could put money into the bailey wardrobe so it isn't based off donations to broaden the inventory

AW: I agree, we are paired with Johns and Hatfield, I'm pretty sure they have a lot of stock. We also don't have a lot of space anymore for it

TB: There was talk of buying gowns and we could have a stock and give them out for those who just want it for a photo

AW: We could do a gown buy back scheme: you get £15 for selling them back and we would get a lot back

CL: Is brooks bar getting done up with this?

JS: Brooks bar recently got done up lol

CL: It looks like a PGL centre

IC: It's just structurally wrong

AW: We should get a third of the profits from the bar, we used to get all of them but the uni then decided if the bar would make a profit the uni would just take it and we had £40k to do it up but we can do it for this year, again not a JCR things but a college one

JS: We could splash out beyonce tribute for cuths day

AW: I want a house - we have enough to buy a 6 bed house, put down 25% deposit, could get a lower mortgage rate as a charity and because we aren't looking to make a profit we can rent it cheap and what we do accumulate we can save to buy another house. This would be attractive to alumni relations for donations

TB: How do we decide who gets to rent this house?

IC: Also who would look after the house like a landlord?

AW: Housing in Durham is very expensive with the highest profitability for student cities in the UK, it's also a huge welfare issue and means we would spend the money we need to spend. It has been done in Bristol and a few other unis but not by a JCR obviously. We would ideally buy a block of flats and that's where I see it going, but we could start with a house or two and then sell them to then get a block of flats.

CL: How do you decide who gets to rent it though?

AW: Potentially ballot or an element of means testing. The other cooperatives have done it by a question application



IC: The main problem is this being a student run thing as someone could come in one year and mess it all up

JS: How would the JCR manage those properties - would we need to hire someone full time like a landlord or property manager and that would lead to additional costs

IC: I think our main concern should be how are we going to spend the money to make a difference for the current students that have poured money into the JCR over the last two years that will make a difference?

TB: Fixing the boat house up?

AW: We already pour so much money into the boat club, no.

KM: It is still inaccessible even with the new plan

AW: Why are we making rowing more accessible? What is so special about rowing? I don't go around shouting let's buy a load of new saxophones which would be much cheaper than buying a boat

CL: What about green spaces and maybe buying chickens and bees? I love bees!

JS and CL on the side of bees, AW anti bees

CL: We could have a nicer green space with benches

IC: House 8 garden would be great to improve

AW: We are renegotiating license to occupy with uni and college now and if we have a beautification plan we could propose them

JS: One time I've been there is for inflatables for cuths day - beyond that it's not really used by others

CL: Is there anywhere more neutral than house 8 garden?

AW: I want to talk to college about house 8 access anyway, no one really uses house 8 anyway except house 8 students anyway and it's not just their space. If we put something where the gym currently is, make an accessible common room then the house 8 entrance needs to be accessible with clear signs saying office and garden or whatever so it's not just a house 8 space

JS: Is there disability access into house 8 at all because beyond the library not really and we should do something like that

AW: The green machine cupboard is an entrance...

\*Silence in awe\*

TB: There is still a small step but we could get a ramp as we wouldn't be able to lower the doors or anything as they are listed buildings





AW: Things like this fall under the working group and that should get started very soon and we should have some tentative proposals at least in the first few weeks of term

ZH: Gardening soc is very keen to help with rejuvenating outdoor spaces

TB: Bring back free brunch for gardening soc!

AW: College have so much money and they should help spend! TW wants to make use of all our spaces, they are not keen on how any of it is used at the moment

JG: Our welfare room is not suitable for its purpose being an office and used by cleaners for storage

AW: CI is set on still using the welfare room for college office but she doesn't use it a lot so I think you could just rejig it and rearrange and I don't think she would say no

JS: Does feel like a job interview in there instead of anything comfortable but the room is small so it's a good space to give thought too

IC: Generally we need to claim our spaces, TW is keen to make parsons very cuths-y and not just a random accommodation block. I want murals!

AW: College are buying banners, there will be new signage and I want a big crest on the side of refounders

IC: We need to build a college identity as over the last year we have students who don't really know a lot about cuths. We should utilise our historical memorabilia more

AW: If we are going to stress house 8 more as the JCR then we should give the bailey one a historical name

CL: Signage at the end of fonteyn would be so ideal

## JCR Meetings and etiquette (EM)

\*EM sent in a voice note\*

EM : Exec need to neutral, don't show favouritism and...

AW: In an election body language is important, don't tell people who you will vote for and make yourself available to people in meetings! Wear your exec polos

KM: They are long sleeved more like a rugby shirt style because AW doesn't look good in a polo

## AOB



AW: I would like hour long meetings every two weeks, can make it hybrid if needed. Will send out suggestions. I went through the tankards in the bars, if you want a tankard in the bar you have to pay for it yourself. They are about £50. Tankards are fun and historical.

ZH: Donate to the library if you have any mugs that would be great!

IC: I'm here to help you spend so please think of what we can buy as we can make change asap!

CL: When can I get a committee together?

AW: Committee application forms done by the end of freshers week and by the end of second week of term I want everyones committee finalised

JG: LM and TA are happy to sit on the committee panel if that frees up your time

LH: How are SU comm being elected?

AW: I forgot to check that over summer with everyone - oops! Shall we sing the song?