

# JCR Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting on 29.09.2023 at 10:30 UK time

## List of Committee Members

| Names, initials, pronouns and * to mark non-attendance | Role                                   |
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| Jacob Hougie, <b>JH</b> , He/him                       | President                              |
| Daisy O'Connor, <b>DOC</b> , she/her                   | Vice President                         |
| Oliver Law, <b>OL</b> , he/him                         | Treasurer                              |
| Luka Murphy, <b>LM</b> , he/him                        | Secretary                              |
| Salma Salifu, <b>SS</b> , she/her                      | Welfare                                |
| Julia Sinkinson, <b>JS</b> , she/her                   | Welfare                                |
| Luke Tyler, <b>LT</b> , he/him                         | Welfare                                |
| Jess Morrissey, <b>JM</b> , She/her                    | Academic and Access                    |
| Ryan Simpson, <b>RS</b> , she/her                      | Green                                  |
| Ruth Chapman, <b>RC</b> , she/her                      | Catering, Accommodation and Facilities |
| Amit Ramakrishna Prasad, <b>ARP</b> , he/him           | Sports and Societies                   |
| Neela Nee, <b>NN</b> , she/her                         | Ents                                   |
| Saira Ahmed, <b>SA</b> , she/her                       | Ethnic Minorities                      |
| Cosma Rubben, <b>CR</b> , she/her                      | International Students                 |
| Harley Chidley, <b>HC</b> , they/them                  | LGBTQ+                                 |
| Maisie Johnson, <b>MJ</b> , she/her                    | Gender Equalities                      |
| Malachi Gee, <b>MG</b> , he/him                        | Disabled Students                      |
| Eleanor Lewis, <b>EL</b> , she/her                     | Class Act                              |
| Lucy Robertson, <b>LR</b> , she/her                    | Computing (non-voting)                 |

# Agenda

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## Summary of Key Points

JH thanks the committee for joining, makes them aware of administrative documents, introduces new members of the JCR.

JH invites the JCR to discuss any JCR work they have done over the summer.

JCR is made aware of Fresher's week timetable.

JCR is informed of new constitutional amendments that the president would like to be implemented.

JCR is made aware of the results of the room re-pointing survey.

The President makes the JCR aware of the SU president's NHS prescription reimbursement scheme.

The JCR discusses the formation of a new charities sub-committee.

The JCR discusses points relating to the JCR bank account, the provision of locked storage, as well as ensuring an adequate supply of toilet paper in communal bathrooms.

## Action Points

1. JCR to stay abreast of Freshers' Week Timetable, and mull over the suggestions discussed in the meeting.
2. Constitutional Amendment to EB and Open Meeting
3. Repointing to be discussed further with Open Meeting and new Accommodation Manager
4. Prescription Scheme to be considered further
5. Charities Subcommittee to begin meeting
6. **OL, JH and DO** to work on new bank account

7. **JH** to investigate gathering data on lockable storage
8. **RC to** investigate increasing access to and size of lockable storage
9. **RC** to further investigate increasing the reliability of toilet roll provisions

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## 0. Administrative Matters

Meeting begins at 10:34

**OL** is absent with apologies. **AP, NN, MJ, EL, LR** are absent.

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## 1. Checking up on JCR work over the summer (**JH**)

**JH** invites the JCR to share work they have done over the summer.

**JM** is planning a road trip for access across the North of England and Northern Ireland.

**RC** has worked with CAF to expand meal options.

**RS** is working on finding staff to clean up Leck gardens.

**HC** has worked with college to produce a new version of the liberation booklet.

**SA** has planned a Black History formal.

**JS** and **LT** have struggled to plan puppy therapy for welfare, a possible date for near the end of term.

**SS** aims to implement a physical health programme, for instance a free fruit programme. She also suggests a candy cane pidge service.

**DO** has been working on Fresher's week and working on producing an accurate list of college societies.

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## 2. Fresher's Week Timetable (**DO**)

**DO** explains that the timetable is relatively self-explanatory. College is particularly concerned about leaving a mess.

**JH** interjects that everyone should read the emails **DO** has sent to the committee.

**DO** says we still need people for Fresher's events such as the Fitzwilliam, punting and club nights.

**JH**, explains that the wristbands may be removable to allow JCR members more flexibility, and allows freshers to replace new ones.

**RC** asks when the Fitzwilliam trip is, **DO** responds that it is on Saturday the 7th from 3-5.

**JH** reminds the committee to wear pink jumpers over the next few days to remind the Freshers of our presence and show a friendly face.

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## 3. Constitutional Amendments (**JH**)

**JH** suggests a new mechanism for removing the Computing Officer.

This would involve either resignation or impeachment.

While JCR members can be impeached by a vote of an Open Meeting, the constitutional position of the Computing Officer is slightly ambiguous so he suggests that the officer might be removed by a committee meeting since they are not elected, but appointed by the president.

**JH** suggests another amendment where the secretary is in charge of managing the social media.

**LT** raises the objection that perhaps a Social Media Officer should be instated because social media involves a high workload.

**JH** points out that there are two ways the work of managing the social media could happen, with the secretary able to delegate or take up more work when needs be. He further points out the problems of expanding the committee given that much bigger colleges have much smaller JCRs; we are already up to 18 members.

The JCR concurs by physical acknowledgement that these amendments make sense.

**JM** points out that adding new particular officers might cause tension, perhaps one of the current members can assume a charity role.

**JH** and **RC** discuss the merits of incorporating the computing officer more heavily in the JCR.

**JM** and **HC** leave gracefully at this point.

**JH** argues that the computing officer should stick to technology, because the social media is a significant role.

**RC** points out that the computing officer is paid and has a technical role.

**MG** points out that social media management is similar to working with spreadsheets, among large organisations.

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#### 4. Repointing (**JH**)

**JH** waves around a spreadsheet of the room repointing survey and passes it around the room.



The Accommodation Manager is leaving, which implies that further repointing work may be somewhat delayed.

**JH** shows that points are being redistributed around college. For instance, noise no longer represents a possible -14 points, but rather a maximum of +120.

**OL** arrives at this point.

**JH** shows that an en-suite set is the most popular, but a culinary corner is less popular than a bed-sit which he thinks is unexpected given that a flat is 'objectively' best.

**JS** argues that Corpuscles may be using reverse psychology to reverse their rent.

**JH** concurs but argues that some results are predictable e.g. being close to a bathroom, having a larger room, so this is unlikely.

**LT** points out that individuals may be confusing location and facilities.

**JH** shows that Old and New Court were still the most popular, so this seems unlikely there is a difference between location in college and location as compared to facilities. Sinks are a top 5 most important factor.

**JH** invites the JCR to share their thoughts on their spreadsheet. Suggests that we might stick to the old list system, before unveiling a nifty new list.

**JS** asks if there is going to be an effort to search for new data to ensure that the spreadsheet is accurate.

**DO** leaves at this point.

**JH** complains that manual repointing of rooms has led to a number of inaccuracies in the data that might need to be revised.

**LT** asks if this is solely for repointing, or if college will use this information for renovation. For instance, nobody wants a bath, yet Newnham is full of them.

**JH** says that college might, they are just taking a while (though baths have already been mostly replaced).

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## 5. SU Prescription Scheme (**JH**)

**JH** has been emailed by the SU president about setting up a new scheme where the JCR refunds individuals for prescriptions.

Cost per student was between £2.13 and £3.41, at Christs, where the SU president established a scheme while JCR president, which would multiply to between £700 and £1150.

**OL** argues that the policy is possible but not in the short term.

**JH** asks how much leeway there is in the budget.

**OL** says there is enough, but you'd have to eat into the one-off purchase fund of which there is around £3000, which is under extreme pressure.

**JH** suggests that college could fund a proportion of the cost.

**OL** point out that there is room for cuts, around £20,000 currently lies unclaimed from the last budget.

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## 6. Charities Subcommittee (**JH**)

**JH** argues that there is no room for a new officer. We already have a charities sub-committee which has not met for a while.

**JH** suggests that **RS** and the liberation officers meet to organise a charity fundraiser once per term, along with any 'lay' members of the JCR.

JCR members nod their assent.

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## 7. AOB

**OL** raises his hand, asks if there is anything he missed. Mentions that the JCR needs a new bank account at Co-op.

**JH** asks if he has seen if the constitution has any information on opening a bank account.

**SS** leaves at this point.

**OL** is unsure and suggests that the President and Vice President can be added onto the account.

**JH** points out section 12.1 of the constitution, suggests that this can be treated as a normal transfer, but that **OL** should check with the Senior Treasurer.

**RC** mentions that she is trying to open a short-term storage space, or lockable storage under beds. Asks the JCR for their thoughts.

**JS** says that storage varies by room, perhaps college could put more locks on college.

**RC** and **JH** doesn't think lockable storage should be pointed since this would become complicated for pointing long-lease and flexi-lease rooms and possibly further increase rates for international and long-distance students. **JH** suggests that it be used as a datapoint for information rather than pointing.

**RC** Asks **JS** if the storage is dangerous.

**JS** says that shorter individuals have to stand on a chair and lean far forward to store anything.

**RC** asks if we should institutionalise storing short term stuff in long-lease rooms.

**JS** mentions that much of the storage is missing keys.

**JH** queries how many of the JCR Committee have kettles in their room (about half of present members raised their hands). To explain this question, he complains about college's proposed ban on personal cooking devices including kettles. He complains that he felt this had already been resolved after college had threatened to ban all heating devices, including hairdryers and hairstraighteners.

**RC** mentions that housekeeping are mentioning filling up storage space with toilet rolls for common spaces e.g. the library toilets.

**JS** mentions this came up in a welfare meeting, the suggested solution was the place extra toilet rolls on a Friday.

**OL** and **JS** mention that maybe there should just be a higher reserve in each toilet.

**RC** says that the housekeepers don't remember to clean and organise the toilets.

**JH** says that this should be happening every day, maybe just have more toilet roll for the library.

**LT** points out that this policy would mainly benefit Old House, asks if they could have a sign to remind new members of staff.

The JCR suggests that **RC** works with Housekeeping to improve the reliability of toilet roll provision, especially in the library toilets, perhaps using signs as reminders.

**OL** asks if there is a WhatsApp group for JCR presidents, asks **JH** to check which banking apps other JCRs are using.

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MEETING ENDS AT 11.32