

The Ex Camera Minutes of

THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF CLOSED COUNCIL

Sunday 11th May 2025, University College, 16:15 BST

Present

The President (Will Lawson, *Mansfield College*); **President-Elect** (Theo Cunningham, *St John's College*); **The Secretary** (Harry Morgan, *Pembroke College*); **Returning Officer, President Emeritus** (Zagham Farhan, *University College*); **The Secretary Emeritus** (Richanne Davies, *University College*); **The Treasurer Emeritus** (Benedict Masters, *New College*).

Apologies

The Treasurer (Lauren Crabtree, *Pembroke College*); **The Returning Officer Emeritus** (Julian Wang, *University College*); **The Publications Officer** (Milo Donovan, *Lincoln College*).

Absent without Apologies

None.

Positions of **The Social Secretary** and **The Director of Communications** are currently vacant.

Attending

The Ex-Returning Officer (Oliver Jones-Lyons, *Christ Church*)

The President-Elect opens the meeting at 16:26.

Ratification of previous minutes

The Secretary moves to ratify the minutes from the Week 2 ordinary meeting of Closed Council.
Seconded by RO, *with amendment*.

Changes to the composition of Closed Council

None.

Business of The President (Will Lawson, *Mansfield College*)

Postponed until the **President** arrives.

Business of the President-Elect (Theo Cunningham, *St John's College*)

None.

Business of the Treasurer (Lauren Crabtree, *Pembroke College*)

None, not present.

Business of the Secretary (Harry Morgan, *Pembroke College*)

- 1) **The Secretary** requests that anyone with any document or recording surrounding Hilary Term council minutes sends it to him this week. He also requests that more time is allowed to collate these minutes - suggest the Termly Meeting? RO has some minutes from Vee, SDRO has one recording, President has the rest. EX-RO thinks the termly meeting would be fine for new deadline.
- 2) **The Secretary** informs Council that he has updated the Wikipedia page for the society.
- 3) **The Secretary** thinks that travel and accommodation for the Cambridge trip should be booked today. Postponed until the President arrives.

Business of the Returning Officer, President Emeritus (Zagham Farhan, *University College*)

- 1) **Society ties and pins** - RO thinks we should have some kind of merchandise.

EX-RO thinks ties are easier because they do not need to be custom made - regular colours. **RO** - suggests that pins more gender neutral. **EX-RO** - could use an MP to try to get custom ties. **Secretary Emeritus** - pin badges don't need a strict number of orders. **RO** - Emeritus committee pin bages. **Sec** -

what about actual clothes. **EX-RO** - labour club did puffer jackets but really expensive. **Tres Em** - agrees very expensive, but ties have to be silk. **EX-RO** - thinks standard tie with an imprint - significantly cheaper - black and gold tie with imprint. **RO** suggests that the **Tres Em** takes charge of this. *He agrees.*

Action Point that Tres Em will look into stash options before or at week 4 ordinary Closed Council.

2) **Establishing Society policy book.**

EX-RO- lots of thoughts: **3 types of YL branches** - *ones that really like to drink* (we are this EX-RO thinks); *really neeky policy based societies* (Sex Em - 'virgins'); *Campaigning societies* (like Cambridge Liberals). Proposal: if we do it, change first motion of LnL to serious policy debate and record vote. **RO**: at general meeting - vote on 3 things (or at pub trip). **RO**: should not be in the governing documents but can go on the website.

Agreed on once a term pub trip to create a policy book.

3) **Discussion regarding the times of council.**

RO and EX RO - *stop before LnL.* **President** - best time to do it Friday's at a pub. *Potential agreement.*

4) **RO - Discussion about whether to abolish Open council.**

Pres-Elect: currently 8 people turning up, OUCA lots turn up. If there was only Closed Council, people wanting to get involved can't attend. **RO** - in the new 'Council', all members can attend. He also confirms to the Secretary that Ex-Camera closed council minutes can go on the website so society would still be accessible.

Council Agrees. Action Point that the RO will bring a proposal to Closed Council to implement this.

President enters the meeting at **16:51**, and the '**First Lady**' with her as a non-member.

Business of the Treasurer Emeritus (Benedict Masters, *New College*)

None.

Business of the Secretary Emeritus (Richanne Davies, *University College*)

None.

Business of the Returning Officer Emeritus:

None. Not present.

Business of the EX-RO:

Postponed until after more important business.

Business of the Social Secretary (Vacant)

None.

Business of the Director of Communications (Vacant)

None.

Business of the Publications Editor (Milo Donovan, *Lincoln College*)

None.

Any other business:

Business of the Webmaster:

- 1) **The Webmaster** recommends *all present Committee members* to view and verify their respective *profiles* on the updated Committee (for Trinity Term 2025) web page located at:
www.oxuniberals.com/committee for accuracy.
- 2) **The Webmaster** extends his thanks to **The Secretary** (*Pembroke College*) for logging into the new secretarial GitHub account for the Association and cordially reminds **The Publications**

Officer (*Lincoln College*) to read provided onboarding material for managing the Association Blog at his earliest convenience.

Action point for Publications Officer to read material for managing the Blog.

Delayed Business of the President:

- 1) **The President** seeks to ratify a Junior Officer. He proposes **Joseph Cryan** as Social Secretary. Seconded by **RO**. No objections. *Passes*.
- 2) **President** informs council that Mansfield JCR is fine for week 3 LnL, but week 4 trying to get Keble booked from Senior Member.
- 3) **The President** informs the Council that OSLA will go to OSFL on Monday.
- 4) **The President** will send the secretary a form for the Cambridge trip sign-up to go in the weekly email. Suggests that we book an AirBnB or a premier Inn. Premier Inn in central Cambridge. The president will make a group chat, and phone numbers will therefore be on the form.

The **President** and the **'First Lady'** (*Cambridge College*) depart at **17:06**. (The President returns about 5 minutes later)

Delayed Business of the EX-RO:

EX-RO - moves that anyone who attends council from Cambridge is referred to as being from Cambridge College. RO objects. Vote held - *motion fails by 3 to 2*.

EX-RO wishes to draw closed council's attention to the voluptuous size of his rear.

Discussion about Standing Order 14:

EX-RO *proposes Standing Order 14*: OUCA scheme where if you are a member and want to be a party member, we could subsidise membership for a year.

EX-RO wants the society to move towards being *a more Lib Dem society*. Many in society that if pushed would join the party. **President** - people who want to be in the party can be involved, and people who do not do not have to be.

Proposal: *Advertised on website, social media once a term, any email newsletter and freshers fair.*

RO - fix this and bring it back, requests editing access. **The President-Elect** questions whether it could be abused. **RO** - reassures that it would only be members of the society. **EX-RO**: stick it as a link at the bottom of the weekly email. **RO** makes amendments. **The president** questions whether it should be at the freshers fair. **President Elect** - we want to appear as the society of political discussion. **EX-RO** - we have been a political discussion group, but the party side has been neglected. **President-Elect** wants Ed Davey to be at Freshers Fair if possible. **President** - we need to persuade non-Lib Dem's to be in the society. **President Elect** does not want it mandatory for this party membership subsidy to be advertised at Freshers Fair. **RO** makes the change. **EX-RO** is happy with this. **The President-Elect** is happy with this.

RO seconds the motion.

It passes

RO moves that CC goes *in camera*. Seconded by **EX RO**.

Anniversary of Gladstone's death on Monday week 4 we are holding a debate in the Goodman Library in the Oxford Union, with President of the Union's permission.

We need to decide a motion. Hoping for 30 or 40 members. Would be nice to say we were the only political society to host an event at the Union.

Speakers from **Liberal Association**: *Will, Zagham, Theo, Harry. Potentially Lauren, J-L.*

From **Labour Club**: *Jack Leader, potentially Willow*

From **OUCA**: *Joseph Kay*

Other speakers: *RO objects to Maya from OUCA*

Would we have floor speeches? **President** wants them. **RO** - when Gladstone became president of Union, gave such a good speech that he was scouted as a Tory MP.

Motion - **President** - has to be vaguely to do with Gladstone. Should not be too modern or about British liberalism.

EX-RO: Western Liberalism has lost its way.

Sec Em: Gladstone quote. Sec: what about UK focus. Settled: *Western Liberalism has lost its way.*

Proctors Registration discussion:

The President reads out the comments from the Treasurer surrounding sexual harassment cases in the society, leading her to recommend proctors registration.

Everyone agrees that she is right that no student should deal with sexual harassment. However, there is still Proctors cover for students without registration. There is then some misunderstanding from Treasurer behind reality of students dealing with cases, EX-RO suggests.

EX-RO suggests that Access and Welfare Officer should have some training, in light of concerns raised by the treasurer.

Sec Em: there is a panel of 3 proctors in an investigation. If not registered, more dubious whether we are covered.

EX-RO: thinks it is the same either way.

President: does not think the society should be conducting its own cases.

EX-RO: not just uni of Oxford students in OSLA, there are also Brookes students. They do not handle Brookes students well.

EX-RO: we do not have an IT officer. RO: can be an arbitrary registration

EX-RO: we could not change constitution as much.

RO: we should now be changing it less.

EX-RO: increasingly convoluted way of getting around proctors rules.

EX-RO: Proctors reviewing standard form constitution, to make it more 'reasonable.' Thinks they would give with one hand and take with the other.

President: only reason to register is sexual harassment.

RO: what about public liability? YL is not good enough

President: but we are a student society, nothing will practically happen. Only practical problem is sexual harassment.

RO and EXRO: public liability - someone trips over or passes out from drinking

EX-RO: options - local party registration; YL registration

RO - Local party do not respond and neither do YL. OXWAB is the local party (Oxford West and Abingdon) - RO says they did not respond.

President: have to adapt to their constitution and have a fake committee or a resignation by convention rule.

SecEm - drastic consequences if we get sued and not proctors registered.

RO - what if we get sued and go bankrupt. Says that the EX-RO does not know contract law and does not know how we lost the money.

President does not know where the money is.

RO: from day 1, the society was going to register. Why are we so arrogant? 95% of societies choose the relevant bodies. Normal adults would register.

EX-RO: almost all Lib Dem YL student societies are not in their SU. Sec - Warwick is.

President: talks about new proposal.

RO: would likely be the last 3 presidents, elected at the AGM. Have to put forward nominations.

Tres Em: other societies with larger budgets and bigger events. Law Society - tried to change constitution, went to over 40 pages long, no internal disciplinary procedure - fine by proctors. Proctors cared about names of positions.

Debate about Brookes students - a significant part of the society who the proctors will not rule on.

President - if we are registered, we are doing the standard thing.

RO - if not a private members club and uni students who like to drink.

President - it does not make it much harder if we have a senior committee.

EX-RO - we cannot put mention of Brookes in the constitution.

Vote proposed by **President** on *changing the rules to include senior officers, subject to proctors approval*.
Seconded by **RO**.

5 votes in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention. *Changes pass.*

Action Items:

S1: The Secretary will *present the recovered Hilary Term minutes* to the Termly General Meeting

TE1: The Treasurer Emeritus will look into *stash options* before or at week 4 ordinary Closed Council.

RO1: The Returning Officer will ensure there is a once a term pub trip to create a *policy book*.

P1: The President will try to *call Council at times other than before LnL*.

RO2: The Returning Officer will bring a proposal to Closed Council to *abolish Open Council* and create a new 'Council.'

PU1: The Publications Officer to *read material for managing the Society Blog*.

P2: The President will inform Joseph Cryan about his *appointment to committee as Social Secretary*.

RO3: The Returning Officer will implement *Standing Officer 14 into the Constitution*.

RO4: RO will *apply for Proctor's registration* under the rules changes to introduce Senior Officers.

Meeting Closed by the RO at 18:01.

Minuted by,

Harry Morgan,
The Secretary, *Pembroke College*.