

The Ex Camera Minutes of

THE ExTRAORDINARY MEETING OF CLOSED COUNCIL

Saturday 3rd May 2025, Oxford Union Courtyard, 17:03 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 Treasurer Emeritus** (Benedict Masters, *New College*); **The Secretary Emeritus** (Richanne Davies, *University College*); **The Publications Officer** (Milo Donovan, *Lincoln College*); **The Ex-Returning Officer** (Oliver Jones-Lyons, *Christ Church*);

Apologies

The Treasurer (Lauren Crabtree, *Pembroke College*); **The Returning Officer Emeritus** (Julian Wang, *University College*)

Absent without Apologies

None.

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

Attending

Ordinary Member (Isaac Cusworth, *Pembroke College*)

The President opened the meeting at 17:03

Business arising from the minutes

Ex-RO moves to go *in camera* 17:05, seconded by president.

Access and Welfare Officer arrived at **17:06**.

Publications Officer arrived at **17:08**.

Move *ex-camera* at **17:11**.

Isaac Cusworth enters **17:12** – no speaking rights.

Proctors registration discussion:

RO: thinks we should still register – the constitution would have yearly elections then people resign.

President: we can deal with most things, extreme circumstances we refer to proctors anyway.

Treasurer Emeritus: Proctors can and will investigate anything on or off uni property.

RO: welcome tres emer – committee welcoming.

RO: to be a proctored registered society is a boat held to shore – has protection – ceasing to register is cutting the rope.

RO: we would have to do a lot to stay afloat – financial/disciplinary procedures. Number or areas – proctors keep us secure, despite hard lines.

Ex-RO: hard lines is underplaying. If we register, Senior Member will get annoyed despite his hard work.

President: if we delay, we can always do it later,

RO: disagrees – was a year long process – substantial work – it is yes or no now. Notes that the President picks who speaks.

President-Elect: like Brexit – tied to legal rules of sovereign rules of body we did not want – ships are not made to be tied to harbour – made to set sail – sailors have chosen to set sail and find new horizons – creating something new in acceptance of risk of storm – we will do so valiantly.

Access and Welfare Officer: everything is hypothetical – we have to cover our backs – if we do get into trouble, don't want to be responsible.

Ex-RO: only Closed Council is liable if things happen. In extremist cases like sexual assault – they don't deal with it – so against proctors. Costs society – we lost money to proctors before. Proctors can

get us in trouble – in RO v Kumar – so we could deal with less and harder. We have an appellant process.

President: If we don't do anything criminal – no problem.

President and Ex-RO: any student can raise complaint with Proctors. All student stuff goes to proctors and otherwise goes to YL processes (we are a registered YL branch).

Ex-RO: could not have presidential ability to kick people out of events. Financial matter – if continuance problem in society – there is a money issue – proctors gets money – before money was lost. Set up a trustee instead until it can be restored. Proctors takes money if we stop/fail in functions.

President-Elect: brings up the problem of room bookings.

Ex RO: College branches - Colleges don't care if through a college society.

Treasurer Emeritus: easier to have a professor on side with your existence then they can book the room – agreement that it may be easier.

President-Elect will take charge of College Branches.

RO: suggests indicative vote – will have to pass a rules change – will require a general meeting – members of closed council will vote – all voting members bound. **President:** *indicative non binding vote. Agreed.*

Indicative non-binding vote on whether to continue with pursuing proctors registration: 4-2 in favour of not registering - RO and Ex-Secretary in favour of registering; Treasurer Emeritus, President, President-Elect, Secretary against. *2 abstentions* from Pubs Officer and Access and Welfare Officer.

RO: change standing order 14 to becoming 13 as existing 13 removed. *Passed.*

RO: wants to set money aside for society sword – it is a foam sword. **Ex RO** objects as it is foam. Vote *passes.*

Closed Council is closed by the President at 17:29.

Action Items

RO1: **The Returning Officer** is to bring back standing order 15 (as 14)

PE1: **The President-Elect** will take charge of setting up College branches

Minuted by,

Harry Morgan,

The Secretary, *Pembroke College*.