

Approved Minutes, Meeting of the Conservation Committee
Michaelmas Term, 18 October 2022
1.00 – 2.30
Godwin Room, Clare College

Present: Prof. Tim Chesters (Acting Chair), Ms Lizzy Conder, Dr Patricia Fara, Dr Tamara Follini, (Chair) Mr Donald Hearn, Ms Deborah Hoy, Mr Haley Huang, Rev. Peter Judd, Mr Graham Ross, Dr Anne Stillman, Dr Jo Costin (in attendance).

1. Apologies and Welcome to New Member: the new MCR representative, Ms Samantha Mason, did not attend.
2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.
3. Minutes of Last Meeting (03.05.2022): These were approved.
4. Matters Arising and for Report:
 - a. Search for an Interior Designer/Finder: Donald Hearn had reported to the Chair that the designer the Committee had formerly used appeared to be no longer in business. Discussion of the basis on which such a person might be employed (formerly this was on a project basis); Deborah Hoy had one proposal of a suitable person and will make further enquiries.
 - b. Lanterns for Screen Hall (entryway to Great Hall): Following a Joint meeting of Conservation and the Old Court Working Party, when it was decided that the proposed lighting fixtures were not appropriate, we are still awaiting new designs. Tamara Follini mentioned the modern fixtures that had been used in the historic interior of the Royal Academy and will supply photographs.
5. Progress on Great Hall Renovation and Finances: Chair, Deborah Hoy and Bursar to report
 - a. Ceiling design and Execution: The Bursar reported that the final design for the ceiling had still not been received, despite reminders sent by Deborah Hoy and the fact that fifty per cent of the fee had already been paid. She also clarified that we cannot afford to go beyond the amount budgeted for the ceiling and may have to resort to Plan B: to have the ceiling cleaned and repainted in its present colours. Plans were put in place to ask for the final design and execution costs by Monday, 24th at the latest, and the question was raised as to whether extra funding could be found if required; the Bursar reported that Development believe this is no longer possible. There was a general feeling that the need to adopt Plan B was deeply regrettable.

[On Friday, 21 October, Lizzy Conder reported the results of her meeting with Tim Dolby, the ceiling designer; as his estimate of the cost of painting the ceiling to his design was a minimum of £300,00 and would need fifteen weeks of work the project is no longer feasible in terms of cost and our project timeline (returning the Great Hall for use for graduation 2023). Planning will therefore go ahead for restoring the ceiling on a white and gold decoration basis.]
 - b. Chairs; colour and shape: The photo received from Luke Hughes for Great Hall chairs did not match our request for a chair with a curved back, but the cost of such a model would raise the overall price of the chairs by a minimum of £20,000 owing to the extra labour and rising price of oak. It was agreed, therefore, to adopt the model he had supplied.
6. Fellows' Library, Progress: Chair and Deborah Hoy to report.
 - a. Painting, Lighting, Treatment of Floor: The Chair brought the Committee up to date on the successful completion of these elements of redecoration; thanks were expressed for the helpful collaboration of the College decorators, to Tim Chesters, and to Deborah Hoy for allowing extra time to bring the project to this stage. Discussion was held as to whether the wood nearest the windows needed treatment; Deborah Hoy will pursue.
 - b. Blinds and Heating Mats: It was agreed that it would be desirable to match the blinds to those in the SCR; some samples of shades of green had been received but more were being requested; the point was also made that good quality blinds with appropriate cords (not white plastic) would be appropriate. It was also reported that heating mats will be contingent on furnishings. We also require more information on the amount of weight that can be placed on the mats.
 - c. Furnishings: Table from Great Hall; possible chairs: It was reported that a long table that formerly

was used on the Great Hall dais, as well as the Fellows' dining chairs, could be used *on a temporary basis only*