

# ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE JCR

## JCR Meeting Minutes

**Date and Time:** Sunday 14th November 2021 at 2:30pm in  
the Upper Octagon

**Present:** President (AV), VP (SS), Communications (DL), Accommodation (LM), BAME (SO), Disabilities (AA), Environment and Ethical (AD), Welfare (AM), Academic (CD), Access (ES), Charities (NW), Catering (JD & HP), Ents (VM), International (JK)

**Apologies for Absence:** Treasurer (KP), Fresher reps (DT & EG), Welfare (AB), Ents (AW), LGBT+ (MT & IW), Women's and NB (GS)

**Absence without Apologies:** Environment and Ethical (AO), International (AT), Sports and Societies (RM)

**Ordinary Members:** RC

### Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting

#### Catz Condoms

- AM (Welfare) will receive a design proof of the Catz Condoms next week and they will be finalised in due course.

### News and Updates

#### New President!

- AV (President) is now the new president and chaired her first meeting successfully today!

#### St Catharine's Day and Bridgemas

- These are both on the same day, 25th November.
- SS (VP) will be contacting College with some ideas for the day including sparklers (dependent on College Health and Safety policy) and some charity

events. These includes a potential bake sale at the same time and place as the Girls Choir singing at Bridgemas, with the theme of 'Wheel Shaped Food'. All profits can go to Women's Aid as the 25th November is also the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women'. NW (Charities) to follow up with this.

- There is an idea to also hold a baking competition (Great Wheel Bake Off?) which can be incorporated from a welfare perspective and AM (Welfare) will follow up on this.
- Bridgemas formal is on the 24th November, NW (Charities) and JD (Catering) will follow up with a potential idea to have a donation box in Hall as well.

### BOGOF and Embrace Wintercomfort

- BOGOF - Buy One Give One Free - is a charity Oxbridge competition between the different participating colleges where you donate unopened good items for local food banks between the 16th November and 30th November. NW (Charities) will publicise soon where the donation box will be kept but it will either be in Plodge or in the Pidge Room.
- Embrace is the same company that helped deliver the Homelessness Workshops with Freshers and conducted the Period Product Drive last term too. This week there will be a toothbrush and toothpaste drive happening and NW (Charities) will be publicising soon. Follow the Charities Facebook to keep up to date.

### Governing Body Meeting (12/11/2021)

- The JCR confirmed they are continuing to boycott Prevent (a government strategy that was introduced to help identify extremist behaviour from the education level but disproportionately has seen to target Muslim students).
- There are staffing problems across the hospitality sector and College has suspended formals for the time being (details were sent in email by Catering earlier last week).
- Cases are low in the Catz community which is why overall testing capacity has been reduced to 50%, but students are still highly encouraged to do Lateral Flow Tests.
- AM (Welfare) will be contacting the College Health Practitioner to remind students to do LFT's before attending events because some students aren't aware that spot checks are still happening. Reminder to students that both Formals and Bops require LFT's.

### Freshly Planted

- RC had a meeting with DefaultVeg, which is a USA based Environmental Consulting Organisation, where ideas were suggested to include a 'Dips' course at Formals alongside the Cheese course which Vegan individuals can choose from. This could include houmous, crackers, guacamole among other appetising dips. JD and HP (Catering) to contact the Catering Department about this.

### First Aid Workshop

- The CUFAS run First Aid workshops last week were a success and everyone seemed to find it really helpful and enjoyable too. Those who had requested it on the anonymous form felt like they were reassured on how to carry out first aid.
- Students have expressed interest in wanting first aid training during the Fresher's welcome talks however with experience from this year, we are aware it is quite a busy week in itself. Next year however, we anticipate Matriculation Dinners and Workshops to hopefully be held on 1 night instead of many due to a better covid environment and the reopening of Hall, so possibly it is a feasible idea for the next committee to consider.
- AV (President) will contact College to see if there can be one First Aid/Drinking related first aid workshop taking place each term and/or making an online resource available since it can be quite technical and may need referring back to.

### Bike Sale

- RC has got round to tagging about half of all bikes in the main site underground garage and there will be an email sent round once they have all been tagged to remove them off your own bike. This will allow us to see which bikes no longer belong to a member of the JCR community and will be sold in Lent term.
- The bike sale will be held early in Lent term with a part exchange scheme available too.
- Any unbought and unused bikes will be sent to a charitable scheme that helps prisoners to learn new skills.

### Scoop (Zero Waste Market)

- Scoop is a zero waste market where food is sold cheaply in mass and it could potentially be run along the bike sale that will probably take place in Lent. For this

reason we could have a rebranding of a week in Lent to be 'Zero Waste week' where there can be a Green Formal, Green Bop, Kitchenware Sale, Plant Sale, Clothes Sale, Bike Sale and this Zero Food Waste sale.

- AD (Ethical and Environmental) will be taking initial lead on the project with the JCR Committee helping where required.
- AD will also be talking to Full Circle, a zero waste shop, regarding a discount for the JCR.

### Catz Got Talent (First Years)

- Catz Got Talent is taking place tonight (14/11/2021), run by the Master's Fund and raising money for Jimmy's Homeless Shelter.

### Stash!

- Please refer to AV (President) email sent out on 12/11/2021 or the JCR Facebook page regarding Stash reopening.
- Those who did not receive their stash orders last time despite ordering should **not** reorder, as it is being delivered soon.

### Bar Updates

- The Pool Table is functioning again!
- The Football table is in storage and will be returning soon.

### **Issues Raised**

#### Supporting more festivals and holidays and College

- With Diwali having happened recently, there was a large discrepancy between what Colleges around Cambridge had done to help students celebrate. Some Colleges held formals and fireworks but Catz among others did nothing.
- It was raised that College could do something to celebrate all faiths celebrations whether that be Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Diwali among many others which aren't recognised at present.
- This could be as simple as sending out a communication to wish students of those faiths, flying a faith flag or having some simple decorations during the celebration either around College or Hall. We recognise there isn't currently enough capacity for there to be faith celebration formals however some sort of

acknowledgement could help create a more inclusive space for students who aren't able to celebrate the way they normally would.

### Library Space

- There have been numerous anonymous complaints regarding the lack of library space for students and it has been followed up by CD (Academic) multiple times in the past. College has previously said there is little that can be done about the lack of space this year due to a combination of covid restrictions (which is why more chairs cannot be added to each desk), increased use of large rooms (which is why the rushmore and ramsden rooms cannot be used for study) and the building works currently making Sherlock Library unable to use.
- CD (Academic) will be having a meeting with the Librarian this week to bring up some ideas that have been suggested via the anonymous form.
- There are currently earplugs you can get from Plodge if the noise makes it difficult to study in your room and Woodlark's Upper Computer Room is still possible to use as a study space.
- Woodlark's lower computer room is currently a complete mess and the Committee will be looking into how it can be cleaned up and ready for use, although it will require cooperation from the wider JCR Community.

### JCR Cupboard

- This is a room that keeps various items however as of late it has also become very cluttered. RM (Sports and Societies) sent out an email on the 11th November to Presidents and Captains reminding them to claim anything they need.
- The room is not only very packed but is also becoming quite dangerous to get anything from because of multiple trip hazards and if it is cleared out it could open up potential trunk room space for international students and/or study space for students. AV (President) to email the Sports Captains to remind them to pick up anything they need and everything else will be emptied out if not claimed.

### Leaving belongings in rooms over vacation and the trunk room

- The Long Contract does not cover you over Christmas period and those who do pay for the extended period are not guaranteed the same room they are currently living in which poses a problem for students who need to stay in College.
- LM (Accommodation and Facilities) has already emailed College about this and

is waiting on a reply. In the past there has never been the option to leave belongings in rooms over the vacation period but LM will attempt to follow up as best as possible anyway asking from the perspective of both long and short contract residents.

- Trunk Rooms A and B are very disorganised with lots of stuff not collected. This room should be cleared out as soon as possible - JK (International) will be sending out another email to international students to empty the trunk room if any of their belongings are in there.
- Some of the items if not collected are in good enough condition to resell as the 'Zero Waste Week' that was mentioned further above.
- The Committee will decide on 'College Clear Out' days where the trunk rooms, JCR cupboard and lower woodlark computer room will be cleared out via a joint effort from all students across the JCR community - information will be sent out in due course.

#### Catz Bar Essentials Shop

- To be raised next week.

#### **Issues Not Raised**

- If your issue has not been raised - please see the JCR [tracker](#)
- Hobs Driers not working- please send a [maintenance request](#)

#### **Any Other Business**

#### Community Spirit Awards

- Please continue nominating anyone you believe should receive a community spirit award via this [form](#). The committee will decide on who will be receiving one in the final meeting of term.

#### Noise outside rooms

- Reminder to students to be more considerate when talking outside rooms both at Main Site and Chads during the late evening periods.

#### Times for future JCR meetings

- JCR Meetings will take place Saturday's 4pm by default unless anything arises.

If you have any suggestions or feedback you'd like to give the JCR, please get in touch by emailing [SS](#) or using the [anonymous messaging platform](#).

*DL, 2021-2022 JCR Comms Officer*