

Peterhouse JCR Meeting – Wednesday 24/01/07 – 4.00pm in the Bar

Minutes

Absent with apologies:

- Ben Fisher
- Jamie Cartwright
- Paul Powlesland
- Dave Kerr

Absent without apologies:

- Krzysztof Honowski

Actions Summary

Pete	Get Housekeeping to approve a Bedders' Contract, publicise JCR minutes and events in toilets/kitchens around College, get someone to organise third year dinner, get input from students regarding bar redecoration and smoking in rooms
Dave Kerr	Replenish the Quiet Room board games and renegotiate the newspaper contracts (and email the Bursar about this)
Jenny	Ask Maintenance Dept. to replenish stock of energy-saving lightbulbs, talk to Mrs Doughty regarding recycling arrangements in College
Katy	Ask kitchens for place mats in formal, and salad dressing; get figures for bar prices in other colleges
Nat/Krzys	Decide on a theme for this term's bop, tidy up ents equipment in Quiet Room

Full Minutes

Actions Summary

Jenny said that lightbulbs are being sorted, and asks if we have Fairtrade vending machines in the JCR yet. Pete suggested that she pass on this idea to her successor.

Information from a meeting with the Bursar on Fri 19 Jan 2007

Recycling: Apparently the city council can deal with the big bins in College and providing recycling facilities for houses, but are not able to provide recycling boxes etc. for in-College accommodation. The Bursar will agree to any arrangements that are agreed to by the Housekeeper, Mrs Doughty, who has some experience in this field.

Smoking: The bar will become non-smoking later this year (probably in Easter term). Junior Members will be allowed to smoke in their rooms, **provided their bedders don't mind**. If the bedders complain, then no smoking will be permitted in the rooms (as the bedders have a right to a smoke-free working environment). The Bursar wants to know what people think of being able to smoke in their rooms, and would like feedback from students.

Billing: It was noted that cheques sometimes go missing in the College Office. Soon, students will be able to pay their College bills by debit card.

Bicycle tagging: All bicycles must be tagged according to College Regulations, but it was noticed that this practice has lapsed in recent years. However, College has obtained some bicycle security 'wristbands' which will be rolled out to undergraduates later this term. This will be handled by Mr Meade, the Head Porter.

Bar prices: Mr Speller says that our bar prices are in line with other colleges', and asks for proof if we claim the contrary. He says that people are not coming to the bar as much as they used to – students need to drink more!

Bar redecoration: Pete thought that the College would not be inclined to redecorate the bar as it is going to be moved to Gisborne Court anyway in the near future, but the Bursar says he doesn't mind. The money will come from a 'general upkeep and maintenance' fund. Pete asks the committee for

suggestions. Nat suggests leaving it as it is; as Pete says, "It's empty, cold, expensive, ugly – but we love it!" It was decided that we should ask people about this and get a bit more input.

Kitchens: According to the Bursar, the amount spent on meals has dropped recently. He concludes, therefore, that we should have more Superhalls. The committee noted this as clear proof that Superhalls are a means of ripping students off. The committee decided that the current frequency of Superhalls is suitable for the demand – and that, at the moment, they are much too expensive.

Mark asks about place mats in formal, and salad dressing. Katy will bring this up with the kitchens.

Katy also reported that, at a recent meeting with Mr Speller, he asked her if she knew of any bagpipe players for the Burns Night Superhall, adding that said player will be paid, and that the Fellows would like him/her to play for Friday night as well. It was alleged that Sean knows how to play the bagpipes (which he denies), and that even if he doesn't, he could simply get hold of a set of bagpipes and learn to play it. This was thought impractical. The final decision was to get Ben to ask the Peterhouse choir to imitate the bagpipes.

Energy conservation: Apparently we have the second greenest energy suppliers available on the market (Scottish and Southern). This assertion was met with some doubt (particularly by Jenny).

In other news, the new William Stone Building will have solar panels on the roof. The new boilers purchased by College are doing well; figures will follow but the Cosin Court ones (which have been around for longest) have saved 20% to date. New showers with water-saving heads have also been installed around College.

Electricity: Almost everyone is on individual metering now. The electricity bill is typically £15 per term, and ranges from £3 to £30.

PAT Testing: It was noted by the Bursar that the PAT Testing exercise revealed that undergraduates have a great deal of illegal equipment in their rooms, including cooking equipment, rice cookers, toasters, kettles and refrigerators. Pete noted that, due to this, the College has acquired a lot of equipment by putting 'Property of Peterhouse' stickers on them.

Some statistics: The results of the testing indicated that undergraduates were much better than graduates – we only had about 10 – 20 failures although there are 4 – 5 times as many of us. In total there were about 6 – 8 dangerous items for each of the undergraduate/graduate categories. Only 3 undergraduates had had all their appliances already PAT tested.

From now on, PAT testing will be done on matriculation for all undergraduates as a one-off event (regardless of what the PAT label says).

The Bursar suggested that the JCR committee, or its successors, could organise its own PAT-testing event if it wishes.

WSB: WSB will not be in operation next year. Among the renovations will include new electrical work, a new heating system, double glazing, *en suite* rooms, solar panels, and more storage space. It will be back in operation in Michaelmas 2008, and next year's freshers who would normally be housed in WSB will be housed in Fitzwilliam Street instead.

Council legislation on hobs: The City Council wants to remove hobs from gyp rooms in College (SPT and Parkside are unlikely to be affected). Trinity and Caius have ripped out all their hobs; Peterhouse's solution is simply not to fix any broken ones. Pete wants CUSU to put pressure on the Council to withdraw this stupid law, instead of focusing too much on things that are not directly related to student welfare.

Bops tis term

The new committee will do the Miss Peterhouse bop this term. Ideas were sought for another one earlier this term, and suggestions included the following:

- PAT Testing Bop
- Rubik's Cube
- 'P' Party
- Back to Skool
- Poor Person's Party
- Rich and Poor (Bourgeois) bop
- Ancient Civilisations
- Come With Your Favourite Barman

Nat will consider the issue and decide on a theme.

Elections and Handover

Today, Pete will send out an email announcing the JCR elections. Nominations for positions open in a week, and close next Sunday. Manifestos and hustings will follow, and everything will culminate in Handover Hall on Tuesday 20th February (which happens to be Pancake Day). The committee felt that pancakes were a very good idea.

Any Other Business

Emma wants to buy a welfare phone. She asks if she can use half the welfare budget for this; the committee says yes. Nat suggests a Welfare bop to help with fundraising.

Emma wants a condom machine; she states that Dr P is fully in favour of it, it costs £250, and we can set the price of individual condoms to be whatever we like. Emma suggests using the money saved from buying the jukebox; Nat suggests merging the jukebox with the condom machine. Finally, it was decided that Ben would make a decision as to whether we have enough money or not.

Nat suggests a condom machine ceremony.

Pete says he is not opposed to a condom machine, **provided the JCR can afford it**. Coco suggests prostituting for an evening to raise funds, and Mark suggests getting pregnant and using the welfare benefits.

The Rooms Committee for this year consists of Sam Genway, Lara Stewart, Rowenna Wood, Trevar Kolodny and Chris Hopkins. They will start their work shortly.

Pete asked Nat why the ents equipment was lying all over the place in the JCR Quiet Room. Nat will sort this out.

Pete will send an email to get someone to organise the Third Year Dinner in Easter term.

The date of the next meeting will be arranged by email.