

Minutes of the
 ACL Council Meeting
 held on 18 June 2018



at Weightmans, Fenchurch Street, London

Council members present: Iain Stark, Chairman (IS)
 Francis Kendall, Vice Chairman (FK), David Cooper (DC),
 Claire Green (CG)

Attending via conference call: Paul Bracewell (PB) and David Wright (DW)

Also in attendance: Kirsty Allison (KA), Head of Education
 Diane Pattenden (DP), Head of Operations

The meeting started at 2pm

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
	IS welcomed all to the meeting.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 20 April 2018
	The minutes of the council meeting held on 20 April were approved for publication on the website, subject to some redactions of confidential information.
3	Actions following the council meeting held on 20 April 2018
	Revised action list agreed
4	Letter from the LSB dated 24 May
	The letter of 24 May from NB at the LSB was discussed. The letter asked ACL to:- (a) Forward to the LSB a copy of ACL's accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017 and (b) Keep the LSB proactively informed of any new developments, copying in the CLSB, as soon as they arise, that could adversely affect ACL or ACLT's financial position to a material extent Council members did not object to keeping the LSB informed and agreed to both requests.
5	CLSB request for ACL to sell shares
5.1	IS sought council members' views as to whether ACL should sell back its shares in the CLSB.
5.2	It was generally agreed that even without the holding ACL would, as the representative body, still be able to hold the CLSB to account. Discussion followed on whether ACL should seek payment in excess of the original amount and it was decided that this was not appropriate.
5.3	FK raised the issue that at the February 2018 General Meeting, members voted against the proposal to sever the MoU with the CLSB. IS replied that selling the shares was a

	commercial decision and therefore he did not feel it necessary to canvass the membership. He continued that the issue was whether ACL should cease to have a financial interest in the CLSB. IS stressed that the shares were, as confirmed by the LSB, not an asset and that control of the CLSB was derived from the MoU, not ownership. A full discussion followed.
5.4	Discussion took place regarding whether the CLSB could collect a fee for representation. DW to forward a copy of the MoU to council members.
5.5	IS asked if council members were in agreement with the transfer of ownership of the shares, conditional upon re-working the MoU to reflect financial independence and satisfaction of both parties. All council members were in agreement.
5.6	IS proposed that a response is sent to the CLSB stating that ACL is prepared to consider relinquishing its financial interest in the CLSB, leaving the transfer of ownership being conditional upon the wording of the MoU being considered by both parties. Council members agreed unanimously.
6	Confidential item
	KA was asked to leave the room whilst an item confidential to council members was discussed.
7	Deletion of confidential correspondence
	Following SD stepping down from council, DP will email him to ask that any confidential emails/documents regarding ACL are deleted from his PC/server.
8	ACL Manchester Annual Costs Conference 2018
	DP reported a profit. Feedback from the conference was very good – and in answer to the question on the evaluation form asking if delegates would recommend the event 100% replied yes.
9	ACL London Annual Costs Conference 2018
9.1	A list of potential speakers was drawn up.
9.2	IS said that he intended holding one conference in 2019 – in London (May). CG disagreed with this and IS said that the possibility of holding a Manchester conference in November 2019 could be discussed later in 2018.
9.3	It was agreed to book the Cavendish Venue for May 2019.
10	Education Report
10.1	IS questioned whether it was necessary for ACL and ACLT to respond to the CLSB consultation on the CLCT. Discussion followed and council members agreed that it was appropriate and necessary for both companies to respond. KA advised that ACLT student council was also responding to the consultation. It was agreed that the ACL and ACLT responses would be posted on the ACL website.
10.2	IS advised council members of a recent email exchange with the CLSB regarding the potential for a two year qualification course to start in September 2018. A reply requesting that a 2 year course is accredited in time for September 2018 entry was drafted at the meeting.
11	Bill Format/Excel training
	Excel and Bill Format workshops are being run in Newcastle, Manchester, Sheffield and London. Due to demand a further London workshop will be run. DP to set a date and

	advertise.
12	PR update
12.1	FK to circulate the Black letter PR options for cutting back the PR budget, for discussion at the next council meeting.
12.2	NR is seeking additional contributors for articles in the Costs Lawyer. DP to ask him to put a note to this effect in the e-bulletin.
13	Operations Report
	DP advised council members of the current bank balance of the combined companies and of the amount currently under investment. A draft set of 2017 accounts should be available for the next council meeting.
14	Request for IS to appoint an independent costs expert
	Following recent letters to IS to appoint an independent costs expert, it was agreed that the ACL Council was under no obligation to recommend or appoint costs lawyers. DP to reply to the request on behalf of IS in the terms that he is not prepared to nominate an individual as a costs expert and ask that they seek remedy elsewhere.
15	Date of next council meeting
15.1	A conference call will be set up for a meeting for 11am on 23 July, should a confidential matter need to be discussed.
15.2	The next full meeting will take place in August in Manchester. Date to be confirmed.
16	Any other business
	CG advised that she had met recently with Alice Owen, Judicial and Professional Liaison Officer for the court reforms, at HMCTS, and subject to council approval intended setting up a meeting with her in Manchester. Council were in full agreement. There being no other business the meeting ended at 15.50