

Minutes of the
 ACL Council Meeting
 On 25 August 2017



Held at the offices of Irwin Mitchell,
 Bauhaus, Rosetti Place, 27 Quay St, Manchester

Council Members Present: Iain Stark, Chairman (IS), David Cooper (DC), David Wright (DW), Paul Bracewell (PB), Claire Green (CG), Francis Kendall (FK) (by phone), Steven Davies (SD)

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

The meeting started at 12.45pm

Item	
1	Welcome
	The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and congratulated CG on her recent election to council.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 1 August 2017
	The minutes were agreed and approved (no redactions) for publication on the ACL website.
3	Actions arising from the meeting held on 1 August 2017
	See attached list for actions deleted, carried forward and new actions.
4	The Future of ACLT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KA advised that following the meeting on 1 August, the ACLT Chairman (Carl Lygo) has investigated the possibility of selling ACLT. No interest has been shown and CL believes that ACLT is too small to successfully attract investment. ▪ KA reported that she and Carl had recently had a positive meeting with Head of the SRA re the Solicitors Qualifying Examination. ▪ IS/CL have had a telecom with the CLSB CEO who advised that an easier and shorter route to qualification could be ready within 12-18 months. ▪ CL and IS are of the opinion that it is not viable for ACLT to run a course for the 20 students that have been accepted for the September 2017 intake. <p>IS suggested there were 3 key issues for ACLT:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a commitment to current Y2 and Y3 students 2. Can/should ACLT run the course for the 20 new students?

	<p>3. What happens to ACLT?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council members agreed that they had no objections to running the existing course for the next 2 years. ▪ A debate took place regarding the whether the intake of around 20 new students should go ahead in September. ▪ IS/CLSB have agreed that CLSB new regulations will not apply to the current students. <p>IS proposed that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>ACLT undertakes to continue the training for the student intake from 2014 – 2016 and enrolled on the course as at 25 August 2017.</i> <p>All council members were in agreement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>The September intake of new students was stopped on the basis that there is not enough certainty to guarantee the future of the course.</i> <p>IS and DC voted in favour of the proposal. FC/DW/SD/CG/PB were in favour of keeping the intake of students and voted against the proposal.</p>
5	Report on financial and tax implications for ACL/ACLT
	<p>The report by Matthew Aldous (ACL/ACLT Accountant) will form part of the pack to go to members for the October Forum.</p> <p>MA's report did not conclude with a recommendation and IS suggested that he is asked to produce a viability report.</p> <p>DC proposed that MA is asked to prepare a report for the benefit of the membership and undertake a cost/benefit analysis on (1) continuing with the existing structure and (2) merging into a single corporate entity. DP to ask Matthew to telephone DC w/c 28 August.</p> <p>It was agreed that the report includes projections for ACL and ACLT for 2017 – 2020.</p>
6	Briefing document to members
	<p>The pack to be emailed to member ahead of the Open Forum on 21 October should include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A note from IS as Chairman ▪ 2016 accounts ▪ A briefing note ▪ A document re the future of ACLT. KA to write this and to pass by CL to ensure objectivity ▪ A viability report from the ACL/ACLT account, Matthew Aldous <p>KA will look at costings for ACLT for the next 3 years.</p>

7	2017 London Costs Conference
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The programme of speakers is close to being finalised. DP/IS to liaise regarding topics. ▪ Senior Costs Judge Andrew Gordon-Saker to be asked to join the Friday panel in addition to the Saturday panel. ▪ Senior Costs Judge Andrew Gordon-Saker to be asked to present the Certificates to the newly qualified Costs Lawyers. KA to read out names as certificates are presented. ▪ Agreed that a Costs Lawyer should be asked to speak on the Friday. ▪ CG to ask Master James for suggestions for a female QC to be included on the Friday panel.
8	40 th Anniversary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The gala dinner menu should be designed to include a few pages of quotes/pictures/key moments in 1977. ▪ Agreed that the Friday night gala dinner should be followed by a 70's style disco (glitter ball etc). ▪ Student Cup to be presented at the dinner, not with the certificates in the evening. ▪ 1970's style photo booth to be organised for the Friday evening. ▪ There will be a 1977 related picture quiz. Council members were asked if possible to provide a picture of themselves from 1977 to be included in the quiz. IS to prepare the quiz.
9	Policy Committee
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DC reported that things were being monitored but that there was nothing new to report. ▪ Paul Seddon and GC have been representing ACL on contingency legal aid fund. IS asked CG to prepare a short summary as to why ACL should be involved, for the September meeting. ▪ IS supported GC maintaining her other contacts made during her time as Policy Officer asked that she reported back at council meetings. ▪ CG raised the question of her providing training for the Bar Pro Bono Unit. IS asked that prior to undertaking any training it was signed off by council and KA. ▪ No action to be taken on the MOJ consultation on review of LASPO. ▪ IS requested that any consultations that come through that need responding to be added to council meeting agendas.
10	Operations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council agreed that on the website the ACL Bill should be password protected – for members only. ▪ All agreed that the May Manchester conference should be held on a Friday (avoiding immediately before bank holidays and during school holidays) ▪ Council agreed that JM should be paid for the 2012/2013 expense claim of £899

	for expenses incurred whilst on council.
11	Date of next council meeting
	25 September. 2pm at the offices of Weightmans, London. (subsequently postponed to 28 September)
12	Any other business
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CG is chairing a CLT conference on 31 October. IS agreed that the ACL Bill technical team could present the Bill on the basis that they do so as costs lawyers and not as representatives of the Association. ▪ There will not be a 2018 ACL diary. The information pages will be updated and put on the website in January with updates every 6 months. DC will review the fees in time for uploading during the first week of January. They should be added to the Knowledge Hub and password protected for members only. ▪ The CLSB Consultation on practising certificate fees has a response deadline of 15th September. SD to prepare a response for council members to comment on. ▪ A council meeting will be held on the day prior to the London Conference – Thursday 19 October – 2pm.

The meeting ended at 5pm