

Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting
held on 16 April 2021
 by Conference Call



Council members present: Claire Green, Chairman (CG), David Cooper (DC), Kris Kilsby (KK), Jack Ridgway (JR), Adam Grant (AG), Natalie Swales (NS), Rachel Wallace (RW)

Also present: Diane Pattenden (DP), Head of Operations,

Apologies for absence: Stephen Averill (SA), Francis Kendall, Vice-Chairman (FK)

The meeting started at 11am

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
	CG welcomed all to the meeting and apologies from SA and FK were accepted.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 11 March 2021
	The draft minutes of the council meeting held on 11 March were approved without amendment and agreed for publication.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 11 March 2021
3.1	The actions arising were reviewed and discussed.
3.2	Item 5 – JR provided an overview of the working party’s work to date and confirmed that the report should be available by 23 April.
3.3	Item 8 - DP confirmed that it was possible for all members to post on the Forum anonymously but it was a large task to change all their details and it was not possible for members to choose when to post anonymously and when to attribute their name to a post. RW felt that discussions were often more useful and productive if members could post anonymously. It was agreed to run a poll on the website to gauge the views of members.
3.4	Item 12 – CG reported that there had been good progress regarding investigating opportunities with Legal 500 and Chambers. David Wright is liaising with Kerry Jack and CG will report back on progress at the next council meeting.
4	Education update/working party report
4.1	CG asked RW to join NS on the education executive. RW also agreed to join the education working party.
4.2	JR suggested that members should be consulted on a number of things including what they consider to be core skills of a Costs Lawyer, their views on the current electives and whether there are areas of study that should be options but are not currently available. It was agreed that the working party would draft a consultation paper by the 23 April.
4.3	CG reported on a recent conversation with Kate Wellington (KW) regarding the audit framework and confirmed that KA had provided the report which will be reviewed by the CLSB.

5	Options for attracting non-qualified costs professionals
	This item will be carried forward to the next meeting
6	Marketing the profession
	It was agreed that the first 3 recommendations in the working party's report on marketing the profession would be progressed.
7	Social media
	RW suggested approaching Black Letter for a proposal and a 'menu of options' for discussion at the next council meeting. CG will organise a zoom call with FK, NR and KJ.
8	PI cover for Costs Lawyers
8.1	Carried forward to the next council meeting.
9	Policy Report
9.1	AG reported that the GHR consultation response had been submitted and thanked everyone for their input.
9.2	AG confirmed that the consultation regarding taking assessments in-house was currently being considered ahead of the deadline in May.
9.2	AG reported on a recent meeting with the LSB at which he raised the issue of separation of the practising fee and advised that the LSB anticipated being able to confirm ACL's obligations by the end of April.
9.3	The LSB has asked to have greater visibility of content on the ACL website. AG will liaise with DP to review this with a view to making the protected areas accessible and providing log in credentials.
9.4	AG reported that Heather Clayton, Policy Officer, CLSB had been in touch regarding PI cover for Costs Lawyers and in particular cyber related cover. AG will work with JR and RW to progress this.
10	Operations Report
10.1	DP reported that bookings for the conference on 30 April were in line with expectations and that a run through for speakers would take place at 11am on 26 April.
10.2	Conference evaluation will be managed via survey monkey and DP suggested adding in questions to gauge interest in the proposed event pencilled in for November. Council members agreed.
10.3	Council members approved DP's recommendation regarding JG's annual salary review.
11	Any other business
11.1	CG reported that she had received an email recently from a member regarding an assessment at the SCCO and remuneration for costs lawyers. CG will forward the email to DC to raise the issue, if he feels it appropriate, at the next meeting of the GHR working party committee on 24 April.
11.2	RW will put together a list of providers of costs management and costs control software with a view to approaching them regarding opportunities for sponsoring ACL events.
12	Date of next council meeting
	Subject to the availability of SA and FK, the next council meeting will be held by conference call on 1pm on 13 May.
	There being no further business the meeting ended at 12.05