

**Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting**  
**held on 17 August 2020**  
 by Conference Call



**Council members present:** Claire Green, Chairman (CG), Francis Kendall, Vice Chairman (FK), Stephen Averill (SA), Derek Boyd (DB), David Cooper (DC) Kris Kilsby (KK), Jack Ridgway (JR), Adam Grant (AG), Natalie Swales (NS)

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

The meeting started at 11am

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
	CG welcomed all to the meeting.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 13 July 2020
	The draft minutes of the council meeting held on 13 July 2020 were discussed and approved.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 13 July 2020
3.1	The action list was discussed and updated.
3.2	Points 9 – 11 regarding ACLT were discussed at length. DB gave his views on the current management of ACLT and on the role of the executive and directors. FK expressed frustration that the directors and executive had not had the opportunity to meet in the last month. NS/DB explained the reasons for the delay. NS said she believed that good progress had been made and suggested that she and DB be given the opportunity to provide a written report on the outstanding issues before the next council meeting. Council members agreed. FK added that whilst he acknowledged that the executive were working on the issues he wished to stress the importance of the executive communicating with the directors of ACLT and keeping them informed.
3.3	It was agreed that separate payrolls would be set up for ACL and ACLT. DP to action
4	ACL/ACLT 2019 accounts
	CG proposed that the 2019 end of year accounts should be signed off. All agreed.
5	CPD
5.1	CG said that she had always felt that CPD should be provided to members as a benefit and reminded council members of the recent commitment to provide CPD. She suggested that accredited trainers (Costs Lawyers) should be approached to offer free training this year and in return they would remain on a register to provide CPD for ACL in future, for which they would be remunerated.
5.2	SA proposed that members (costs lawyers) were emailed to establish interest in providing CPD. DC seconded the proposal and all council members agreed. CG asked NS/DB to make Kirsty Allison (KA) aware of the proposal and added that there would be

	further discussion regarding the training at the next education executive meeting.
<b>6</b>	<b>Training for external companies</b>
	CG referred to the the electronic bill training which was discussed at the last council meeting and confirmed that she felt that KA should deliver the training. FK argued that ACL should not train non-members to deliver bills. Discussion followed and council members were invited to express their views. JR reminded council that the training had previously been agreed, subject to ACLT directors seeing and agreeing to content. FK stressed that the prime duty of ACL was to protect its members but went on to say that subject to seeing the content of the proposed training he was in agreement that it could go ahead. CG asked NS and DB to provide the seminar details to FK/CG asap.
<b>7</b>	<b>Legal Aid Group/LAA</b>
	CG said that one of the committee members of the ACL Legal Aid Group had advised her that that the Legal Aid Agency had recently taken all legal aid billing from the SCCO in house. She added that the ACL LAG had proposed to the LAA that bills could be prepared by LAG members but that the proposal was not accepted. CG expressed her view that this was a serious issue for legal aid practitioners and said she believed that the ACL council should prepare a consultation paper. All council members agreed. KK agreed to take on the role and it was agreed that he should seek to work very closely with Paul Seddon from the ACL LAG.
<b>8</b>	<b>Policy report</b>
	AG advised that the LSB had asked for minor amendments to the MoU and that Kate Wellington (CEO, CLSB) will be asked to sign the revised version.
<b>9</b>	<b>PR report</b>
9.1	FK asked council members if his emails to members regarding PR reports and council minutes were appropriate. All agreed that they were.
9.2	FK referred to two responses to the last set of minutes regarding CPD. DP confirmed that whilst planned ACL LAG seminars for this year had been cancelled, the group is holding an online seminar on 7 September and planning a further two before the end of the year. DP to send FK details of the LAG seminars so that he can respond to the emails.
<b>10</b>	<b>Operations Report</b>
	DP advised that she had attended a demonstration of a platform that was able to deliver online seminars to a high standard. The ACL Legal Aid Group is using the platform to deliver a seminar in September. KK and FK asked to be added to the attendee list so they can understand what the platform can offer with a view to using it for CPD seminars later in the year.
<b>11</b>	<b>Any other business</b>
	CG said that the next LSB 3-way meeting is scheduled for 10 September. FK gave his apologies for not being able to attend and it was agreed that AG will attend in his place with CG.
<b>12</b>	<b>Date of next council meeting</b>
	The next council meeting will be held by conference call on Monday 14 September at 11am.

	There being no further business the meeting ended at 12.50
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