

Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting - 26 June 2017



Held at Weightmans, Fenchurch Street, London
(Approved for publication at the council meeting held on 1 August 2017)

Council Members Present: Iain Stark, Chairman (IS), Francis Kendall (FK), Steven Davies (SD) David Cooper (DC) Paul Bracewell (PB)

Also in attendance Diane Pattenden, Head of Operations (DP),

Apologies: David Wright (DW)

Items 8 (Part), 9 (part), and 12 (part) of these minutes is deemed to be CONFIDENTIAL by as they contain commercially sensitive information. These minutes are not available for public circulation, and are held separately by the Administrator.

The meeting started at 3pm

Item	
1	Minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2017
	The minutes were approved. It was agreed that as the meeting progressed, council members would highlight any sensitive issues which could not be included in the minutes for publication on the website. It was also agreed that the action list could be uploaded to the website.
2	2016 Accounts
	DC proposed that the accounts for 2016, for submission to Companies House should be approved. SD seconded this and all agreed. IS signed the accounts.
3	Position of ACL Policy Officer
	It was agreed that the degree of input into ACL policy is dependent on what is happening at the time in the profession. Council considered and discussed which areas ACL Policy can influence and it was unanimously agreed that policy is important and that some representation is required. It was also agreed that the ACL budget cannot currently support a 3 days per week position of Policy Officer. This will be re-considered in October.
4	ACL London Costs Conference
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IS and FK to agree on and approach potential speakers. • DP to speak with Neil/Kerry re advertising outside the membership. • Seminars on the Friday should finish at 4.30pm– to be followed by the presentation to newly qualified Costs Lawyers. Certificates to be handed out on the day. Presentations should take around 30 minutes in total. • Bill training in some form should be held on the Saturday • An EGM or Forum will be held on the Saturday • IS suggested a string quartet or classical music on the Friday evening • To celebrate 40 years of ACL, it was suggested having a free bar (5.30pm – 6.30pm) after the certificate presentations on the Friday. • The 40th theme to be carried through to the gala dinner • FK to chair the panel on the Saturday. There will also be a panel on the Friday.
5	40 th Anniversary Celebrations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC advised council members that the date of incorporation of the Association was 20 September 1977. • Claire Green to be invited to prepare an ACL stand for the conference to detail the history and rise of the Association. • There should be a 'bumper issue' of the Costs Lawyer to celebrate 40 years.

6	Council member nominations
	Robert Cooks' term of office ended on 18 June and it was agreed to seek nominations for a new council member. DP to organise asap.
7	Moderation and recent posts on the ACL Forum
	This was discussed and it was agreed that no action would be taken.
8	Education Report
	There has been some communication with the CLSB regarding the ownership of the qualification. (<i>Confidential item omitted</i>) SD to discuss with the CLSB.
9	Operations Report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers to the Manchester conference were lower than in very recent years. The reason is not known but switching the event to May and holding it on a Monday could have influenced numbers. Feedback from delegates was very good – arguably better than in previous years – particularly with regard to the quality and variety of speakers. Despite the numbers being low, the event returned a profit and it was agreed that the annual Manchester should continue as long as it was profitable. DP to email DC with feedback from his talk PB suggested looking at an alternative venue (<i>Confidential item omitted</i>). DP advised that she would consider other options but the delegate rate at the Hilton was competitive and the format works well for exhibitors and lunch. IS agreed that the venue worked well, that the Cloud Bar was a good venue for post conference networking. IS suggested that as there is little duplication of attendees between the ACL London and Manchester events delegates should be invited to a drink after the seminar to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Association. All agreed that potential speakers should be approached as soon as possible so that advertising for the event could start early. DP suggested inviting the ACL accountant to present on the current position with ACL/ACLT finances/investments, to discuss legacy issues and to advise council of tax implications for intercompany transfers/loans/payments. All agreed. DP to arrange. It was agreed that the minutes from the open Forum in May 2016 could be uploaded to the website.
10	PR
	Neil Rose, Black Letter attended this part of the meeting to share his views on the strategy for ACL. Not minuted. Chatham rules applied.
11	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 19 April
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some actions were carried forward – see separate list which also includes actions from this meeting. It was agreed that an ACL diary would not be printed for 2018. DP will look into the cost of putting together a printed version of Court Fees for members.
12	Any Other Business
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The letter addressed to council from Claire Green, dated 24 June will be discussed at the next council meeting. (<i>Confidential items omitted</i>)
13	Date of Next Meeting
	28 July 2017 14:00 at Weightmans, Fenchurch Street The August council meeting will be held in Manchester. DP to liaise with Megan re dates
14	The meeting closed at 18:35

Approved 1st August 2017.