

Minutes of the
 ACL Council Meeting
 Held on 28 September 2017



Held at Weightmans, Fenchurch Street, London

Council Members Present: Iain Stark, Chairman (IS), Paul Bracewell (PB), David Cooper (DC) Francis Kendall (FK) (from 3pm), Claire Green (CG)

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

Apologies: Steve Davies (SD), David Wright (DW)

The meeting started at 2pm

Item	
1	Welcome
	IS welcomed all to the meeting and apologised for having to change the date of the meeting at short notice.
2	Chairman's report
2.1	IS reported that he had been contacted by the LSB regarding reference in the council meeting minutes of 1 August to ACL being insolvent. He has advised the LSB that in 2013 the then new council had prepared a business plan to show the separation of ACL and ACLT. Whilst this plan was based on growth it became clear that there was unlikely to be growth because of fixed costs and automation. IS has advised the LSB that the CLSB were fully aware of the situation and that there would be an open forum at the October conference, to which the CLSB were invited. IS has a meeting in November with Neil Buckley, Chief Executive of the LSB.
2.2	Reference to ACL being insolvent was discussed. DC felt that ACL has fulfilled its legal responsibilities by being open about the fact that ACL is insolvent. Following discussion it was agreed not to respond to comments on the Forum.
3	Minutes of the council meeting held on 25 August 2017
3.1	DC proposed that the suggested amendments from Kirsty Allison were appropriate and should be made. PB seconded and all agreed that they should be accepted.
3.2	DC suggested that the reference to a 'discussion' in section 4 of the minutes was changed to 'debate'. All agreed.
3.3	It was agreed that there would not be any redactions for the published minutes.
4	Actions following the council meeting held on 25 August
	See attached list for deleted, carried forward and new actions.

5	Presentation pack to members
5.1	IS suggested that the ACLT report produced by KA/CL and the viability report produced by MA (ACL accountant) should not be discussed at the council meeting and be presented to members as independent reports. All agreed.
5.2	IS held the view that the document to members, accompanying the papers should be his personal view and not the view of the ACL council. He acknowledged that not all council members may share all his views and said they should be free to express their own views, as members, at the open forum.
5.3	FK joined the meeting (3pm)
5.4	IS expressed concern that members may be giving log in details to non-members for the protected area of the website. DP to investigate if we can monitor access.
6	2017 London Costs Conference
6.1	Simon Browne QC to be asked to speak on Solicitor and Client – the impact of post LASPO CFA's, the importance of advice as a consequence and does the decision of Tim Martin Interiors Ltd go far enough?'
6.2	Glenn Newberry to be asked to speak on Understanding the J-codes and the benefit of UTBMS .
6.3	PB to read out names of newly qualified Costs Lawyers at the presentations. KA to hand certificates to Senior Costs Judge Andrew Gordon-Saker.
6.4	Claire to ask the 'New Bill tech team' to join her on the Saturday morning for the presentation on the New Format Bill.
6.5	Paul Seddon to be asked to speak on Legal Aid on the Saturday morning.
6.6	IS to chair the panel on the Saturday.
6.7	Neil Rose to be asked to join the Saturday panel Q & A
6.8	Speakers to be invited to the Gala Dinner as guests of ACL
6.9	FK to close the conference.
6.10	Attendance to the gala dinner is lower than expected. It had been planned to have a 1970s disco after the dinner it was agreed to replace this with a Quiz. Prizes to be awarded for the winners. IS to organise quiz and be Quizmaster.
6.11	Photo booth to be in the City Suite gala dinner area. Running order for the dinner – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire – Grace • Loyal Toast – Steve Davies

6.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toast the Guests – David Cooper • Master James to be asked to respond on behalf of the guests.
6.13	IS to award the Chairman’s Cup
6.14	Maurice Cheng and wife to be invited to the Gala Dinner
6.15	The menu design was agreed. The design to include along the lines of 40 Years and Still Going Strong .. Here’s to the next 40 years...
6.16	Menu tasting at the Park Plaza Riverbank is arranged for Friday 6 October, 3pm. IS to attend with 3 colleagues.
7	Manchester Annual Conference - 2018
7.1	The 2017 Manchester Annual Conference showed a profit of <i>(confidential item omitted)</i> . It was agreed that the 2018 conference would be held on Friday 18 May at the Hilton Deansgate.
7.2	Networking Drinks to be held in the Bar after the seminars.
8	Any other business
8.1	<i>Confidential items redacted</i>
8.2	<i>Confidential item redacted</i>
8.3	Email from Terry Wisdom – GC to ‘unofficially’ refer him to Paul Seddon.
8.4	CG advised Council that she was aware of members who have asked for advice from the CLSB who have in turn passed them on to ACL. Discussion followed.
9	Date of next meeting
9.1	The next meeting will be held at 5pm on Thursday 19 October.
9.2	The date of the November meeting was agreed as 9 November at 2pm.