

GLASGOW BAR ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee Meeting
Via Video Conferencing
on
Tuesday 12th January 2021 @ 5.45pm
MINUTES

- **Sederunt**

Billy Lavelle, Moira Deeney, Fiona McKinnon, Craig Dewar, Alison Heron, David Fiskien, Eddie Gilroy, Tracey Mulholland, Jim Bauld, Lindsay Gaughan, Michael Gallen, Scott Adair, Katy Wilson

- **Apologies for Absence** – None

- **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Moved: FMcK, Seconded: JB

- **Treasurer's Report**

In Credit

- **President and Chief Executive's Report (See Action Points)**

- **Membership**

The rate of those re-joining is going well. We have 166 whom have so far not re-joined from last year. 22 of those are students and will be unlikely to rejoin.

- **Social Ideas**

This remains under review.

- **CPD**

We have published our winter/spring programme and there has been a healthy interest so far.

Action: CPD sub committee to meet before next committee meeting.

- **AGM date, Constitution, Membership categories**

These matters are all being continued to the next meeting.

Action: Constitution Sub committee to meet before next committee meeting.

- **Staff Contracts**

We had a lengthy discussion in relation to this, in light of AMcI's departure. Staff contracts have been on the agenda for some time, however, progress hampered by variations caused by Coronavirus. The Office Bearers were able to update the Committee that there were meetings before and after Christmas about MD and AMcI returning to work some of the time in the office. We had a general discussion about whether we required to advertise for an Administrator at this time. The consensus was that we did not.

Action: This remains under review.

- **Matters requiring Special Attention**

- **Court Issues**

- 1. Survey of members following Govt response**

We recently conducted a survey of members following receipt of the Govt response to fee increase request, with regards to possible direction of travel as regards further action. The majority of responses were in favour of further action.

Action: FMcK to publish further information with regards to members' views.

- 2. LANT request for Govt Response to COVID**

LANT have held a couple of further meetings already with reference to Legal Aid package, including in between Christmas and New Year re draft SSI. The proposed updated package is embargoed by the Govt at this stage. LANT had attempted to cherry pick the more lucrative elements of the previous draft SSI, however, it is now being suggested that the review of these elements will be dispensed with altogether. There is to be further discussion between Law Soc, GBA, EBA, ABA etc. with Justice Minister There has been no indication at this stage when details of the proposed new package are going to be made available.

- 3. Fee Review Panel**

It has been suggested that this will be up and running again soon. However, no timetable has been issued.

- 4. GBA meeting with SP 8th January**

FMcK produced a note in relation to the meeting. DF also in attendance. The Sheriff Clerk was unable to make the meeting and this will be followed up as there are a number of issues that are better directed to him. There has been an offer to meet with the SP regularly going forward. We are pursuing CJSWR's being issued directly via CJSM. Govan will be up and running as a remote VC centre in early course. Cathcart will be nominated Covid VC station moving forward. Engagement with PIDM process to be encouraged. SCTS measures for Pandemic follow SG Guidance, additional safety measures will be for SCTS. SP considers that all that can be done remotely is being done. We will liaise with COPFS in relation to associated matters.

- 5. Changes to the court programme**

This is ever changing.

Action: continue to monitor.

- 6. Bank Holiday Courts**

Action: continue to monitor.

- 7. COVID issues in court**

These are ongoing. We have endeavoured to pass on any information to members that has been brought to our attention.

Action: continue to monitor.

- 8. Court Facilities and commencement of Tuckshop**

It is not likely that there is to be any other food provision in the court building in the near future. It is likely that the tuck shop will be required going forward. There has been good feedback in relation to this. MD has indicated that she has safety concerns being involved in the replenishment of the tuck shop.

Action: Further discussions will take place between OBs and MD. Executive Committee will be updated. Tuck shop provision to continue.

9. Commencement of Sheriff and Jury cases.

S&J cases running. Single accused meantime. FMcK discussed that with SP.

Action: Monitor.

10. PIDMs

The SP has indicated that the take up of these has been “woeful”.

Action: CD will prepare an email to members for feedback. We will liaise with COPFS and SP content to be copied in.

11. COPFS updates.

There has been nothing further to report.

Action: FMcK to correspond with COPFS regarding matters arising.

12. Jury and Criminal working group updates.

DF indicated feedback is required by tomorrow re Domestic VC courts.

Action: MD will email the members to remind them of request. DF to prepare correspondence for SP.

13. Justice Board updates

There is nothing further to report at this time.

Action: continue to monitor.

• Organisational issues

1. Shrieval Retirements and elevations

Action: continue.

2. Furlough of Staff

We had a lengthy discussion in relation to this. MD and AMcI were to return to the office on a very limited basis starting this month. AMcI has now resigned. MD wished to obtain the Committee’s views on the measures that have been put in place.

Action: continue to monitor.

3. Aileen’s departure

AMcI has left the GBA after 24 years in post. We would wish to thank her for her long service to the Association and wish her well in her next adventure. A gift will be sent to her on behalf of the Executive Committee and members as a token of our appreciation.

4. CPD programme for next year

Discussed above.

5. Media and social media

We have now established a Social Media sub committee comprising MD, JB, DF, AH, FMcK.

- **Constitutional issues**

- None

- **A.O.C.B**

- None

- **Current Consultations for Information & Consideration**

- None

- Next Meeting –Tuesday 2nd February 2021

contd....Action points/

Action	Owner	Close	Continue
Membership	MD/ALL	Continue to next meeting	2021 membership drive
Social Ideas	LG TM KW EG	Continue to next meeting	Overview
CPD	EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE	Continue to next meeting	Update
Date for Next AGM	Constitution SC	Continue to next meeting	Update
Update constitution	Constitution SC	Continue to next meeting	Update
Membership Category for those not practising	Constitution SC	Continue to next meeting	Update