

GLASGOW BAR ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee Meeting
Via Video Conferencing
on
Tuesday 2nd February 2021 @ 5.45pm
MINUTES

- **Sederunt**

Billy Lavelle, Moira Deeney, Fiona McKinnon, Craig Dewar, Alison Heron, David Fiskin, Eddie Gilroy, Tracey Mulholland, Lindsay Gaughan, Scott Adair, Katy Wilson

- **Apologies for Absence** – Michael Gallen, Jim Bauld

- **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Moved (after proposed amendment by MD): FMcK, Seconded: DF

- **Treasurer's Report**

In Credit.

Our banking arrangements are presently being updated. It has been a busy period for banking with CPD bookings and membership.

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

- **Membership**

The rate of those re-joining is going well. We have 83 full and country members who have so far not re-joined from last year.

Action: MD to issue a reminder letter then coordinate with FMcK who will arrange for committee members to contact those who have yet to re-join.

- **Social Ideas**

The social sub committee are putting together a quiz night to be held at the end of the month.

Action: The sub committee will continue to organise.

- **CPD**

We have had a good response to the seminars planned thus far. There are still some bookings for last year's family law weekend to be resolved.

Action: CPD subcommittee to continue to coordinate for future events.

- **Matters requiring Special Attention**

- **Court Issues**

- 1. **SSI re %5 increase to LA fees**

The details of this have been released today. It will come into effect on 26th March 2021. LANT had set a deadline for Humza Yousaf / SG to revert re the details of the resilience fund. HY was recently the guest speaker at a LSS Council meeting where he indicated that it was the SG's undertaking to spend the whole £9million allocated to the fund. There have been little details so far in relation to the traineeship fund.

Action: Make members aware of deadlines and criteria for application.

2. LANT Updates - request for Govt Response to COVID

FMcK has written to HY and put him on notice re actions that had been considered by the GBA prior to the 5% increase announcement.

3. Fee Review Panel

This appears to be starting up again later in the month. There are likely to be further discussions in relation to the impact of the pandemic on LA practices.

Action: FMcK to review, continue to next meeting.

4. GBA meeting with SP 1st February 2021

DF and FMcK met with the SP on 1st February 2021. A primary concern of the SP was the uptake of PIDMs. He wished us to impress on members the importance of these. We were able to advise as to anecdotal problems with the system. He was keen that we provide him with examples. We raised with him the interview rooms behind courts 2 and 3. He advised that these would be the responsibility of GeoAmey. However, we understand that these have now been repaired and should be back in use. In relation to civil business, an enquiry was made as to whether there would be an extension of the use of Webex, as in other jurisdictions. However, he considered that the civil business was so well managed, that this would be superfluous to need. He does not intend to issue a practice note in relation to the use of Webex in civil cases where it is being used.

Action: continue to monitor .

5. SCTS Updates

NC has written back to us in relation to the custody court of 2nd January 2021. They are taking no further action in relation to this at this time. NC has also sent on to FMcK and update in relation to Health and Safety.

Action: continue to monitor.

6. COPFS Updates

FMcK has written to COPFS in relation to a number of issues; including, excusing more accused from diets, and deposes being in court 30 mins before the court start. There has been no response. The SP wishes to be copied into further communications.

Action: FMcK will chase, continue to monitor.

7. GeoAmey Updates

Action: FMcK will continue to liaise further with Mark Edwards.

8. COVID issues in court

There has been no response in relation to the issues raised relating to the social work reports.

Action: continue to monitor.

9. Court Facilities and commencement of Tuckshop

The cleaners who are employed by SCTS are getting increasingly concerned about the items of rubbish being left behind by those using the common room etc., particularly used facemasks. FMcK has put up notices to remind users to tidy up after themselves. If this continues, we anticipate that we will have further complaints with the prospect of closure of this facility.

Action: continue to monitor.

10. VC Pilot

DF and FMcK have been able to give a lot of feedback to the SP in relation to members' views of same and he is presently considering this with a view to submitting his report on the Pilot to SCTS.

Action: continue to monitor.

11. PIDMs

This was raised with and by the SP. CD was also able to provide an update in relation to this. A number of issues have been raised with the present system.

Action: FMcK to correspond with COPFS and copy in the SP, continue to monitor.

12. Update from DF – Working groups and Justice Board

DF will attend this when it meets on 23rd February 2021 and comments are invited.

Action: continue to monitor.

• Organisational issues

1. Sheriffs Platt and Liddell retiring next month

It was agreed that a small gift will be arranged for both. EG to coordinate with FMcK.

2. Volunteers for SSBA and TU.

DF has volunteered to be the GBA representative for the SCBA. FMcK is involved in drafting the constitution for this. We are not clear what is involved in the TU at this stage and that will be reviewed.

Action: continue to monitor.

• Constitutional issues

- None

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

- Staff Update

MD has raised an issue with the committee. This will be discussed at a separate meeting.

- **Current Consultations for Information & Consideration**

- None

- Next Meeting –Tuesday 2nd March 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