

Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting
held on 28 February 2023
 via Teams



Council members present: Jack Ridgway (JR), David Bailey-Vella (DBV), Kris Kilsby (KK), Julian Caddick (JC), Victoria Morrison-Hughes (VMH), Laura Rees (LR) & Amy Dunkley (AD)

Also present: Carol Calver (CC) Head of Operations

The meeting started at 10:05

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
1.1	Apologies were received from Stephen Averill and Stephanie McBride DBV welcomed all to the meeting.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 18 January 2023
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 18 January were an accurate reflection of the meeting. It was agreed that items 4.4, 5.2, 7.1, 8.2, 9.3, 9.5 and 10.1 should be redacted / partially redacted before publishing on the website.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 18 January 2023
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated.
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	AGM – JR confirmed a successful AGM and thanked Council for their attendance. The meeting was well attended by the membership with a survey subsequently sent to all members for feedback. The consensus was that members would have preferred a different time (later evening) for the AGM due to work or family conflicts. This will be taken into account for future meetings. Otherwise, members were happy with the level and range of information shared.
4.2	JR detailed his attendance at the annual ILFM (Institute of Legal Finance Management) awards lunch. JR met with Alan Kershaw, incoming head of LSB with JR confirming the solid relationship between the ACL and the LSB.
4.3	<i>Item 4.3 redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
4.4	JR acknowledged a request from the AGM for an Hourly Rates Survey of the membership and whilst this would be incredibly useful it may be difficult to collect data and that if sufficient data cannot be collected (including non-ACL members) it may distort the final analysis. However, the potential usefulness of a banded or average hourly rate per type of work was recognised with JR asking Council to consider how to initiate this.
5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	AD reported back on the CLSB survey to members who do not hold ACL membership – responses can be categorised into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers no longer pay for membership • Lack of valuable benefits • Insufficient representation of CL profession • Cost of membership

	Initial actions to consider <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> increasing awareness of benefits package and wider use of SM channels to promote the ACL overall.
5.2	Manchester conference keynote speaker confirmed as Erica Bedford. Dominic Regan, Rupert Cohen and Shilpa Shah have also confirmed slots. ACLT and the CLSB have confirmed a joint speaker slot. Council discussed potential speakers for the remaining slots with PR-AM to continue to contact as appropriate.
5.3	PR-AM confirmed consultation with Black Letter regarding a list of topics that would need full approval from the PR-AM committee before publishing in the eBulletin, confirming no 'blanket' approach and that each article will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
5.4	DBV confirmed attendance of Council at the upcoming round table event '10 years of Jackson Reforms'
5.5	DBV reported on plan for collaboration with KE Costs for Social Mobility during 2023.
6	Policy Committee Report
6.1	KK has requested from Judge Leonard that either himself or JC are added to the Court of Protection E-Bill Working Party. ACL have received a number of enquiries regarding the Excel Bill on the website.
6.2	KK has spoken with the Access to Justice Foundation and is working with them to raise awareness of Pro Bono Costs Orders. ATJF to contribute to an article for the eBulletin and have been invited as a sponsor and speaker slot at the LAG Spring Seminar.
6.3	Policy attended a Terms of Reference review with the MoJ for the upcoming Civil Legal Aid Review. Due to general concerns regarding long term impacts Policy aim to meet with the LAG (Bob and / or Paul) to formalise the response from the ACL.
7	Education Committee Report
7.1	VMH detailed an initial discussion had taken place with Sarah Hutchinson (ACLT Chair) regarding Chartered Status and that SH was in agreement and will discuss with RAS and feedback.
7.2	VMH confirmed the intent of ACLT to promote the new course along with the CL profession as a whole and to work with HTG on Marketing via round tables, social media and university law fairs etc. Education cont.....
7.3	ACLT are pleased with the reduction in qualifying experience from 3yrs to 2yrs as confirmed by the CLSB, making the course more attractive and accessible.
7.4	ACLT have confirmed initial intake figures for Jan 23 of 53 students - <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> .
7.5	ACLT have asked if the ACL has any data on retention of membership (specifically female v male) and VMH has confirmed that Legal Aid is still part of the core course.
7.6	LR detailed a demo of the updated Online Learning Environment – acknowledging the improvement to the system.

7.7	ACLT have proposed the creation of a Cost Lawyer Apprenticeship and are looking for firms to work with for a pilot scheme – notice will be put into the eBulletin.
8	Finance & Internal Policy Committee Report
8.1	CC confirmed the proposed 2023 budget had been signed off and agreed by the Council.
9	Operations Report
9.1	CC proposed ticket and sponsorship prices for the Manchester conference – Council signed off on proposals. Sponsorship invites to be sent out by CC CC detailed a suggestion from membership that cost of conference is not enough less to encourage full membership – CC to see if conference data supports this and report back.
9.2	CC provided an update on the AGM survey feedback with the majority of respondents being satisfied. Council acknowledged the suggestions of different timings and real time polls etc.
9.3	Council discussed the results of operational analysis regarding potential discounts for the LAG. JR advised this needs to go to the wider membership for a formal vote – <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> .
11	Any other business
11.1	KK – updated Council on plans for further Newcastle Regional Meetings for 2023, with expected meetings in May and Nov/Dec. JR confirmed plans for another London Regional Meeting in May. CC confirmed the creation of a Regional Meeting schedule to share with members via the eBulletin.
11.2	VMH detailed how <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> the ACL had not been <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> closely involved with the Women in Costs meetings. Council agreed the ACL should work to support future events and will discuss with Erica Bedford.
12	Date of next meeting
12.1	Next meeting scheduled for 28 March 2023 – 10:00 to 12:00 via Teams. There being no further business the meeting ended at 11:35