

**Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting
held on 26 September 2023**
via Teams



Council members present: Jack Ridgway (JR), Stephen Averill (SA), 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 10:00

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
1.1	Apologies were received from Stephanie McBride JR welcomed all to the meeting and acknowledged Stephanie McBride officially stepping back from the Council <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> . This is expected to be temporary, and JR & CC will liaise with Stephanie in January 2024 for review.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 29 August 2023
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 29 August were an accurate reflection of the meeting. It was agreed that items 7.1, 8.1 & 9.1 should be partially redacted before publishing on the website.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 29 August 2023
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated.
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	JR confirmed the instruction of Urban Media to create, design and host the new Association website. This is due to go live in January 2024.
4.2	JR continues to review the Association Bye-Laws and Articles and expects to have this finalised by the end of September.
5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	Black Letter to attend a council meeting before the end of the year to discuss future projects and PR.
5.2	Costs in the City moved to 09/11, DBV intends to organise similar for Manchester / Leeds / Liverpool during 2024.
5.3	CC detailed a replacement to Slido of Vevox and provided a brief overview to Council.
6	Policy Committee Report
6.1	KK summarised the involvement and influence of the ACL in the recent suggested changes to the Cop eBill migration to v2, resulting in a positive and appreciated outcome for the membership with a delay of the migration and further changes moving forwards.

6.2	The Policy sub-committee met with the CLSB and successfully reviewed the collaborative approach to career promotion, routes to qualification and training.
6.3	KK detailed the response of the Association to the FRC Extension consultation, utilising opinion and discussion derived from the members via an ACL survey and town hall meeting.
6.4	KK summarised a further consultation regarding FRC in Clinical negligence cases up to £25k, with the members being encouraged to submit responses directly.
6.5	KK attended a Law Society meeting on behalf of the ACL Legal Aid group in review of civil legal aid, concerns of the MoJ approach to economic analysis.
7	Education Report
7.1	VMH confirmed that the final recruitment numbers for Yr1 of the CLQ course were excellent and beyond expectations, with Yr2 intake in Feb 24 already encouraging.
7.2	Fees for 2024 were approved at the latest ACLT Board meeting with T&Cs to be reviewed to allow for any necessary mid-point/term increases.
7.3	<i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i> Overall, the 2023 year is anticipated to be ahead of budget. ACLT have had an initial discussion with PR-AM regarding the promotion of the profession going forward. DBV will work with the CLSB, Black Letter and JR to formalise the approach to this in 2024 and beyond.
7.4	The ACLT have recruited a Chair to the CLQ Apprenticeship pilot <i>redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
8	Finance & Internal Policy Committee Report
8.1	SA reported on current value of investments <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> and proposed to Council that, as detailed in a previously shared report that underperforming funds should be sold off and reinvested – this was agreed in full by the Council.
9	Operations Report
9.1	DBV reported on newly added breakout sessions for Special Interest Groups at the ACL London conference <i>redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
9.2	CC detailed increased momentum in the ACL Special Interest Groups with Costs Judge Rowley joining the September meeting for Solicitor / Client Costs and Costs Judge James attending the December meeting for Court of Protection.
9.3	Council discussed at length subscription rates for 2024, unanimously deciding in no increase for the coming 12 months to further support members during ongoing economic instability. Operations will work with sole practitioners who may prefer membership through 10 x installments rather than a single annual fee. Operations also intend to contact lapsed members from 2021 and 2022 as historically these members are not contacted again once lapsed.
9.4	<i>Item 9.4 redacted due to confidentiality.</i> <i>VMH left the meeting at 11:30</i>
10	Any other business & Date of next meeting
10.1	KK to explore alternative hosts for Newcastle Regional meetings <i>redacted due to</i>

10.2	<p><i>confidentiality.</i> Ongoing shared hosting of meetings.</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting ended at 11:50 The next meeting is scheduled for 19 October 2023, at the Leonardo Royal Hotel at 19:00</p>
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