

Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting
held on 30 May 2023
via Teams



Council members present: Jack Ridgway (JR), David Bailey-Vella (DBV), Stephen Averill (SA), 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.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 20 April 2023
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 20 April were an accurate reflection of the meeting. It was agreed that no items should be redacted before publishing on the website.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 20 April 2023
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated.
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	JR congratulated the Council on a very successful Manchester conference. Have interest from many sponsors and have speakers offering to speak in October.
4.2	ACL Training Articles of Association. JR proposed acceptance and sign off. DBV/VMH seconded and was unanimously agreed by remaining council. CC will submit to Companies House.
4.3	CLSB MoU and OP. JR proposed acceptance and sign off. KK seconded and was unanimously agreed by remaining council. CC will acknowledge to Kate Wellington at CLSB.
5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	DBV summarised feedback from Manchester conference with the majority happy with event, comments were venue related due to lack of space for lunch. However speakers, topics, location etc. was very positive. A general discussion regarding potential speakers took place for the upcoming London conference and Manchester next year.
5.2	<i>Item 5.2 redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
5.3	AD mentioned that the Mark Friston 4 th edition of Friston on Costs is due for release on 13/07 which may now cause a clash with the upcoming London Regional Meeting on the same date. This will be monitored and meeting moved if required.
5.4	<i>Item 5.4 redacted due to confidentiality.</i>

6	Policy Committee Report
6.1	CLSB code of conduct consultation, KK suggested ACL monitor but allow members to respond individually unless it is felt the ACL need to provide a formal response. CC to place reminders in eBulletin.
6.2	KK reported on a meeting with the LSB where Business Plans and meeting minutes were shared and confirmed two upcoming consultations: - First Tier Complaints – consumer perspective - Tech Guidance – use of AI / Consumer Access KK highlighted a potential breach of GDPR with ChatGPT, being an information collation tool it may respond using case specific information previously input. It was suggested an article should be used to highlight this to members.
6.3	KK has had an initial conversation with the LSB regarding Chartered Status but highlighted that once achieved changes to the ACL Articles and by-Laws can become limited due to need for privy-council approval.
6.4	KK attended a Law Society workshop on Civil Legal Aid during May. Discussion covered: - Creation of a national legal service - Diversification of funding - Reduction in bureaucracy - Training grants and apprenticeships for Legal Aid - Separation of LAA from the MoJ - Restore Access to Justice KPI KK would like to pursue ACL involvement with Affordability of Legal Services group, he will discuss this and above with the LAG committee.
6.5	KK confirmed DJ Searl attendance at upcoming Newcastle Regional meeting with 13 confirmed attendees. KK is aware of 5 more to book on.
7	Education Report
7.1	VMH & LR to attend ACL Training board meeting in June.
7.2	LR confirmed admissions open for September intake, currently have 12 confirmed. Over 100 expressions of interest. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i> ACL Training to submit their application for accreditation to the CLSB beginning of June. Course Coordinator role filled by Gina Wilderman, starts 05/06 - <i>redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
8	Finance & Internal Policy Committee Report
8.1	SA confirmed the review of the Articles and By-Laws will commence in June, with regular meetings until completion. JR highlighted that any Chartered Status application will be held up by review of Articles & By-Laws and as a lengthy process we need to keep ahead.
8.2	<i>Item 8.2 redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
8.3	SA detailed the ACL dormant accounts currently held with Companies House. These accounts are held in the names of: The Association of Law Costs Consultants Limited - 2002 - 04388378 A L C C Training Limited - 2002 – 04388137 No accounts have been filed for either of these since 2002. The Council discussed these at length and decided unanimously to close them.

9	Operations Report
9.1	Council discussed dates and location for July Council Meeting – in person event.
9.2	Council confirmed logo usage change as voted for by members should be a replacement of terms, not in addition to. However, both terms will apply until this is formally updated in the articles and By-law review.
9.3	Council agreed to ask Mark Friston to review the specialisms listed within the member directory so this can be updated for the new website.
9.4	CC asked Council opinion of a generic, anonymous banded survey of members covering location, salary, type of work, hourly rate, hours etc. etc – Council suggested this was appropriate to mix into the generic questions at conference.
9.5	CC detailed to Council that all Cost Lawyer Journal articles are available to members and the public alike and an intent to limit this going forward to preserve as a true member benefit. Council agreed in principle however more consideration needs to be given with regards to the requirement to log in to the website each and every time may discourage members. Council agreed to leave as for now with CC to investigate ease of access options for new website.
10	Any other business
10.1	JR acknowledged the successful re-nomination of Kris Kilsby to Council, along with an encouraging number of nominees and votes overall. JR detailed his intent to contact other nominees to see how they can assist the ACL outside of the Council by way of Regional Meetings, SiGs etc.
10.2	JR to speak with Kings Chambers with regards to Affiliate membership of the ACL
11	Date of next meeting
11.1	Next meeting scheduled for 27 June 2023, 10:00 to 12:00 via Teams. There being no further business the meeting ended at 12:10