

**Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting  
held on 29 August 2023**  
via Teams



Council members present: Jack Ridgway (JR), Stephen Averill (SA), David Bailey-Vella (DBV), Kris Kilsby (KK), Julian Caddick (JC), 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 Victoria Morrison-Hughes and Stephanie McBride JR welcomed all to the meeting.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 25 July 2023
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 25 July were an accurate reflection of the meeting. It was agreed that items 7.1 & 8.1 should be partially redacted before publishing on the website.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 25 July 2023
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated.
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	JR detailed his intent to fully review the Articles & Bye-Laws by the end of September.
4.2	JR has agreed to sit on the Claims Media Personal Injury awards panel in Manchester on 23/11
4.3	JR changed the September Council meeting to virtual due to the October council meeting already being in person. Suggested November may be more suitable to review Articles and Bye-Laws, with a full member consult following in December and January, voting on changes at AGM in February 2024.
5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	DBV confirmed Black Letter will be creating some short video clips for use on Social Media accounts.
6	Policy Committee Report
6.1	KK summarised the response from members so far to the FRC consultation on issues relating to the new regime. We have received 17 responses so far with 5 members wishing to join the Town Hall event on 04/09.
6.2	JR highlighted that by the end of September the ACL should consider if any intervention is required, with consideration to the APIL judicial review in terms of effect to Costs Lawyers. KK updated council on Policy involvement where the SCCO intended to move to V2 of CoP e-Bills at the beginning of September. The concerns were the manner in which the changes were communicated and the notice provided before the change was due to be implemented. The

	ACL sought immediate clarification from Senior Costs Judge Gordon-Saker who subsequently requested amendment by the Court. KK will continue to monitor and feedback to the membership.
6.3	The LSB have invited the ACL to contribute on the first tier complaints consultation due in November. The Council will consider this in September.
6.4	KK has requested a review meeting with the CLSB during September. Council to provide any agenda points.
6.5	JC reminded Council that we would ask members opinion on the CJC Reports via the eBulletin.
<b>7</b>	<b>Education Report</b>
7.1	LR confirmed applications for the new course have now closed with ACLT exceeding the required numbers for enrolment. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
7.2	CC detailed that DBV and LR will take part in Student inductions during the first week of September, providing an overview to students of the ACL of what we do along with benefits of membership.
<b>8</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Internal Policy Committee Report</b>
8.1	SA provided council with an update on investments, <i>redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
8.2	CC reminded Council to provide details for Lloyds Bank mandate for adding of all Directors as listed at Companies House to the account.
<b>9</b>	<b>Operations Report</b>
9.1	CC detailed current delegate numbers and discussed with Council an outstanding speaker slot. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
9.2	CC highlighted concerns over delegate numbers for the upcoming LAG Seminar in Leeds on 10/09. Council agreed to a final push until 1 <sup>st</sup> September with a review then to either move or cancel.
9.3	CC updated Council on the upcoming meetings for the Special Interest Groups with Court of Protection and Solicitor / Client Costs gaining momentum. Agreed to continue with Commercial Costs group with the intention of reducing to just the LinkedIn group if further interest for meetings not generated.
9.4	An overview and review of website proposals was briefly discussed with preference for Urban Media, however final decision is still dependent on final questions and queries being resolved. CC now anticipates a website re-launch in early 2024.
<b>10</b>	<b>Any other business &amp; Date of next meeting</b>
10.1	KK asked Council's opinion of the ACL providing training on revisions to the CoP eBill and changes to FRC. Council discussed at length and decided it was unnecessary for the ACL to provide training on FRC extension rules as many Chambers are already providing this. The ACL will share with members links to relevant training seminars available along with a reminder to use the member network to voice queries via the conference, regional meetings and SiGs. With regards to eBill training, Council surmised that most members already had sufficient knowledge to process these, if a need for general Excel training was required then it could be reviewed.

10.2

There being no further business the meeting ended at 11:25  
Next meeting is scheduled for 26 September 2023, 10:00 to 12:00 via Teams.