

Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting
held on 26th March 2024
 via Teams



Council members present: Jack Ridgway (JR), David Bailey-Vella (DBV), Stephen Averill (SA), Kris Kilsby (KK), Julian Caddick (JC), Stephanie McBride (SM) & Amy Dunkley (AD)

The meeting started at 10:00

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
1.1	Apologies were received from Victoria Morrison-Hughes, Laura Rees and Carol Calver JR welcomed all to the meeting and welcomed Stephanie McBride back to council after a short break.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 27 February 2024
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 27 February 2024 were an accurate reflection of the meeting. It was agreed that items 7.1 & 7.2 should be redacted before publishing on the website.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 27 February 2024
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated.
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	2023 Business Plan review fully signed off by council.
4.2	2024 Business Plan fully signed off by council.
4.3	JR summarised the recent ACL AGM attended by <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> members and council. Council discussed suggestions from membership for a revival of the annual gala dinner, the reinstatement of a paper costs lawyer journal and the potential for a special interest group for sole practitioners.
4.4	JR will circulate changes to ACL Articles & Bye-Laws to council for final review before April council meeting with the intention to launch the member consultation at the Manchester costs conference on 26/04.
4.5	Council briefly discussed a letter received to the Association from Minister Hands (Dept of Business & Trade) regarding recognition of professional qualification in free trade agreements between the UK, Australia and New Zealand. Policy will review with the CLSB.
5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	DBV updated council on preparations for the upcoming Manchester Costs conference on 26/04, confirming the breakout sessions and speakers.
5.2	Irwin Mitchell has contacted Operations with regards to collaborating with the ACL in creating an annual Costs Awards and ceremony. Council discussed the implications of partnerships along with potential conflicts of interest and member / sponsor bias.

5.3	<i>Item 5.3 redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
6	Policy Committee Report
6.1	KK detailed the LAG submission on RoCLA
6.2	A new contact has been established at the LSB following a change in personnel – Policy have had a full discussion on our relationship with CLSB, the ACL Business Plan and the petitioning on judicial appointment of CLs. Upcoming ACL involvement and liaison is likely in diversity, pricing services and AI.
6.3	The CLSB have shared their draft application to the MoJ on judicial appointments of CLs with the ACL providing suggested additional information for inclusion.
7	Education Committee Report
7.1	DBV detailed intent to improve collaboration between ACL & ACL Training when attending events – Women in Costs, Costs in the City etc.
7.2	ACLT to fully investigate possible work experience exemptions with the CLSB for future students.
7.3	<i>Item 7.3 redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
7.4	KK suggested to council the potential of an ACLT scholarship fund for 1 / 2 students a year, <i>redacted due to confidentiality?</i> Council discussed at length and operations will provide further data on student costs <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> to council.
8	Finance & Internal Policy Committee Report
8.1	SA reported that the investment portfolio continues to improve following the re-investment of underperforming funds.
8.2	SA also detailed the changeover of business credit card from Lloyds to Barclaycard <i>redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
9	Operations Report
9.1	On CC's behalf, DBV requested an eBulletin advertising cost review – CC to provide further data regarding demand and price history.
9.2	Council discussed access limitations of Costs Lawyer articles. Council approved a one week release whereafter articles are only available to members within the members area.
9.3	Council discussed and agreed a change to the London Conference date from 11 th to 18 th October, enabling the ACL to re book Leonardo Royal, St Paul's, a well-received and economic venue from 2023.
9.4	Council discussed the proposal for ACL to provide members with bespoke CPD through short videos made in collaboration with Chambers, SCCO, ACLT etc. for members to assist in completing the new regulatory requirement for Ongoing Competency Framework. Council suggested bi-monthly or quarterly provision due to levels of organisation required and CPD conflicts.
10	Any other business
10.1	AD confirmed Costs in the City Manchester – 13/06

11	Date of next meeting
11.1	Next meeting is 25th April 2024 in-person, 19:00 Pizza Express, Salford Quays There being no further business the meeting ended at 11:45