

Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting
held on 3rd September 2024
 via Teams



Council members present: Jack Ridgway (JR), David Bailey-Vella (DBV), Kris Kilsby (KK), Victoria Morrison-Hughes (VMH) & Nathan Cameron (NC)

Also present: Carol Calver (CC) Head of Operations

The meeting started at 11:00

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
1.1	Apologies were received from Stephen Averill, Julian Caddick & Amy Dunkley. JR welcomed all to the meeting.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 23 July 2024
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 23 July 2024 were an accurate reflection of the meeting. It was agreed that items 4.3, 5.3 & 10.1 should be redacted / partially redacted before publishing on the website.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 23 July 2024
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated.
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	<i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
4.2	JR detailed to Council further discussions had with the CLSB regarding the proposed changes to the Association Articles and By-Laws. JR advised queries had centered around the supervisory practice anticipated for the Costs Paralegal member category and that while he had provided <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> explanation on this the CLSB have asked for him to attend a CLSB board meeting for final discussion. As JR is away, DBV will attend in his place on 21/10.
5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	NC reported on a BL suggestion to hold an 'ACL In Conversation' event, possibly in November. An on stage interview/discussion with a high-profile member of the profession. BL have suggested LJ Coulson due to involvement in Court of Appeal costs matters. NR or Council member to interview followed by Q&A and drinks. Circa 75 attendees, free event with minimal admin costs. Due to SCCO involvement Council suggested event should be London based. Venue likely to be member or Chambers offices.
5.2	NC also updated Council on a BL created Social media calendar. This <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> does not include for ad-hoc posts.
5.3	BL have provided costs and details of a Cost Team of the Year award through LexisNexis. Council discussed this at length, determining a response from BL should confirm budget had now been allocated accordingly for 2025 and in asking for further detail, clarification and ROI would allow us to consider the category objectively. BL to confirm if anyone else has been approached to sponsor the category and if LN will offer it either way. <i>Redacted due to</i>

	<i>confidentiality.</i>
5.4	<i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
6	Policy Committee Report
6.1	<p>KK reported back on the creation of the Precedent G working party. A great many members were interested, however 6 were selected due to their experience along with SCCO/Judicial support via Erica Bedford, Kevin Latham and Victoria McCloud.</p> <p>Initial discussions have resulted in members considering three areas: format, standalone or combined documents and compatibility. A further meeting will take place ahead of the breakout session at the London Conference in October, before a final town hall event if required with a final consult on proposals and submission to the SCCO early 2025.</p> <p>As a minimum the ACL will work to provide best practice guidance to its members during 2025.</p>
6.2	<p>KK also reported to Council a request from the CLSB to assist with a Wales and Welsh Government round table. Kris has recommended SA, CC has recommended a member working for Legal Services Department in the Welsh Government and BL will also cover it for PR.</p>
6.3	<p>JR asked for the CLSB to update Council on the consultation for judicial appointments. KK to feed back.</p>
7	Education Committee Report
7.1	<p>VMH reported on September 24 enrollment numbers <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i>. These figures are in line with anticipated and budgeted intake.</p>
7.2	<p>Station Rd digital marketing have been approved by the ACLT Board, while VMH and & DBV reservations were noted, ACLT are confident SR can achieve desired results. Campaign will be in place to influence February 25 intake. JR would like some measurement of success to consider ROI. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i></p>
7.3	<p>DBV raised that ACLT have provided the ACLT board with student feedback following the first full year of the CLPQ. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i> A discussion on feedback followed with the intent to formalise this so all areas are considered – such as course content, delivery and administration.</p>
7.4	<p>CC reminded Council that the re-appointment of ACLT Directors was due at the end of 2024. A discussion was had including the current term of Directors <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i>. On confirmation of Director term, JR will review and revert to Council. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i></p>
8	Finance & Internal Policy Committee Report
8.1	<p>CC provided a brief finance update in the absence of SA. Investments have recovered an initial decrease seen following the change in government. Cash flow remains stable, with a review over the coming weeks in line with conference sponsorship and delegate ticket sales.</p>
9	Operations Report
9.1	<p>CC asked Council advice on the effectiveness and perceived longevity of the ACL forum on the website. Operations are facing further costs to improve the forum which following discussion Council have deemed unnecessary. Forums are not considered the go-to platform for member communication. Operations will continue to promote discussion via the LinkedIn and Special Interest Groups and a formal review and decision as to whether the forum should remain on the website will take place in Feb 25 once the website has been live for 12 months.</p>

9.2	CC reported to Council a full schedule of Chamber speakers for the SiGs into 2025 following discussion with various Chambers, the offer also encourages Affiliate membership from Counsel.
9.3	Operations have been approached by an insurance company interested in advertising in the eBulletin. CC discussed with Council the potential of exploring this as a benefit for members if a discount could be offered. JR anticipates a favorable response as suggests ACL members as part of a professional organisation could be considered lower risk than non-members due to regulation, adherence to best practice and maintaining CPD etc.
9.4	CC provided an update to Council on orders for the new costs law reports benefit, with <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> further promotion planned by the ACL and Class Legal.
10	Any other business
10.1	There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:55
11	Date of next meeting
11.1	Next meeting is Thursday 10 th October at the Leonardo Royal Hotel, London EC3N 2BQ at 19:00