

Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting
held on 28th January 2025
Teams call, 10am



Council members present: Jack Ridgway (JRid), David Bailey-Vella (DBV), Stephen Averill (SA), Kris Kilsby (KK), Julian Caddick (JC), Victoria Morrison-Hughes (VMH), Amy Dunkley (AD), Nathan Cameron (NC) & Jane Risley (JRis)

Also present: Carol Calver (CC) Head of Operations

The meeting started at 10:00

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
1.1	JR welcomed all to the meeting and welcomed Jane Risley to Council.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 3 rd December 2024
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 3 rd December 2024 were an accurate reflection of the meeting. It was agreed that item 4.2 should be partially redacted before publishing on the website.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 3 rd December 2024
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated.
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	JRid advised Council that the reviewed articles and by-laws had been received back <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> and all suggested changes were shown as tracked. Council to review and feed back final changes by 31/01. A lunchtime EGM will be scheduled for Wednesday 12 th March for members to vote on the article and by-law changes. JRid will formally hand over to the new Chair at this meeting.
5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	AD detailed to Council the intent to submit a FoI request to the SCCO regarding hourly rates to provide data for the 'Cost of a Costs Lawyer' project. Council to review questions before submission to SCCO and recruitment agencies.
5.2	DBV reminded Council of the ACL Sponsorship of Women in Costs on 31/01 – DBV and VMH will attend with the 5 sponsorship tickets having been offered to trainees via a ballot as per last year.
5.3	DBV updated Council on the sponsorship of the Modern Law awards for the Costs Lawyer of the Year category. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality</i>
6	Policy Committee Report
6.1	KK updated Council on the Prec G review advising that it would be picked up again following the submission of the CJC Litigation Funding Consultation response which is due 31/01. KK advised Council the response was somewhat limited by the specialism of litigation funding. Council to review response and feedback to KK by 29/01 Members and invited contributors will be given the opportunity to review the final Prec G

	suggestions before submission to SCCO late February.
6.2	KK is liaising with the CLSB on a response to the LSB Business Plan consultation. Opinions are aligned and the ACL will provide a response by 31/01.
6.3	<p>Following a discussion with colleagues KK approached Council with the suggestion that the ACL become involved in lobbying for a review and improvement on fixed costs for default cost certificates, caps for recovery and provisional assessment as these have not been reviewed for some time. This lead Council to a further discussion on the ongoing campaign for costs lawyers being recognised in the schedule of GHR and Statement of Costs.</p> <p>JRid reminded Council that the Master of the Rolls in 2014 did recognise CLs as grade B however while the report was ultimately unapproved and as such not formally implemented, it recommended that from Oct 2024 qualified and regulated costs lawyers should be eligible for payment at GHR grade C or B. While it is understood that the SCCO do in general adhere, VMH highlighted the need to include general day-to-practice as well as in-court. The ACL will liaise with the SCCO in the first instance to progress this.</p>
7	Education Committee Report
7.1	DBV reported that a full update to Council will be provided following the ACLT Board Meeting in February, where the first cohort completing the course will be discussed and reviewed alongside the Scholarship and Apprenticeship schemes.
7.2	CC updated Council on the 22 applications for the Scholarship place for February 2025. VMH, DBV and KK considered all applications before selecting a first and a runner up offering. The place has been offered, fully accepted and the application to ACLT is in progress. CC will work with NR at BL to promote. VMH suggested that a few applications had been deemed to have been submitted via AI processes and sub-committees considering future applications should be aware of this. Council also discussed an appeal made by one applicant and discussed the measures in place for future appeals.
8	Finance & Internal Policy Committee Report
8.1	<p>SA updated Council on cashflow and investment value, along with informing Council that an instant access savings account had been opened to make the most of annual revenue deposits <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i>.</p> <p><i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i></p>
9	Operations Report
9.1	CC updated Council on member renewal levels for 2025, showing a small but consistent year-on-year increase in membership. Council agreed this was satisfactory in lieu of economic instability. Council also noted increased Trainee numbers.
9.2	A short discussion was had on format, duration and speakers for both the 2025 Manchester and London conferences. CC will action suggestions and feed back to Council. Likely viewings of potential Manchester venues in February 2025.
10	Any other business
10.1	KK detailed his engagement to Alice in January and JRid advised Council he had been made Partner at BBK – Council congratulated both.
10.2	Meeting ended at 12:00

11	Date of next meeting
11.1	Next meeting 25 th February, in person – venue tbc, to include a lunch for outgoing Chair JRid.