

Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting
held on 15th April 2025
 via Teams - 10am



Council members present: 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 (JR)

Also present: Carol Calver (CC) Head of Operations

The meeting started at 10:00

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
1.1	DBV welcomed all to the meeting.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 25 th March 2025
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 25 th March 2025 meeting were an accurate reflection. It was agreed that items 5.2, 5.3 & 8.1 should be partially redacted before publishing on the website.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 25 th March 2025
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated.
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	DBV confirmed that following a Council vote on 14/04 <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> Victoria Morrison-Hughes had been voted in as Vice-Chair. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
4.2	DBV detailed the three Council vacancies (JRid Chair term completion and terms ending for JC & SA) confirming five nominees of: Julian Caddick, Claire Green, Sharn Khaira, Nicolas Lee and Nicola Thomas. A member ballot will take place (online) between 16/04 and 23/04.
4.3	DBV proposed re-allocation of roles on Council Sub-Committees, allowing for both Chair & Vice-Chair not sitting on any particular committee permitting them time to devote to any area needing assistance or direction, including Operations. Subsequently DBV will resign his position for the ACLT Board as of 30/04 with VMH remaining in place as hand over until a new Council member is elected and placed on the sub-committee. Current Council Sub-Committees are: Finance & Internal Policy: Julian Caddick Policy: Kris Kilsby & Amy Dunkley PR-AM: Nathan Cameron & tbc (new Council member) Education: Jane Risley & tbc (new Council member)
5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	AD provided an update of speakers confirmed for the upcoming Manchester Conference, detailing the need for a replacement speaker for the CoP breakout session <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> . KK will host the breakout session on a topic tbc once all other speaker topics

	are confirmed. CC confirmed minor conference specifics with Council.
6	Policy Committee Report
6.1	KK updated Council on the re-focus of the Prec G review, with a further WP meeting anticipated prior to presenting to the membership at the Manchester Conference, requesting engagement from members to formally comment on suggestions before submitting to the SCCO.
6.2	KK detailed a request from the LSB seeking suggestion on collaborative initiatives, growth and barriers – KK & AD to review and formalise response.
6.3	JC brought to Councils attention an anticipated consultation of the Solicitors Act following the publication of the Litigation Funding consultation. JC to work with both ACL & CJC in response, as CJC expected to form part of WP.
7	Education Committee Report
7.1	VMH offered ongoing support to JR on the Education sub-committee and proposed a possible review of frequency of ACLT Council meetings. CC also suggested additional interim meetings between the Education sub-committee and JR/Operations.
8	Finance & Internal Policy Committee Report
8.1	SA updated Council on both bank balance and investment fund value. A sharp drop in value has been experienced within the investment fund, with current levels the same as 12 months previous <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> – this is not unexpected due to global market uncertainty with further variances predicted.
9	Operations Report
9.1	CC asked Council to consider the detail of Fellow Costs Lawyer membership applications. Council reviewed the consultation documents along with the articles and by-laws and concluded some leniency should be provided for those with a break in ACL membership <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> . VMH to support Operations with application reviews ahead of formal Council approval going forward.
10	Any other business
10.1	AD requested holding a CitC event prior to the Manchester Conference. This was discussed and while it has merit, it would require management to ensure it did not detract from the conference. An event before conference could potentially be sponsored by the ACL and may replace or reduce post conference drinks in offering delegates opportunity to travel home earlier in the day. Due to timings this will be explored in full for London Conference in November.
11	Date of next meeting
11.1	The next meeting is 8 th May, 19:00 Voco Hotel Manchester