

**Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting
held on 28 October 2025**
Online, via Teams
10am



Council members present: David Bailey-Vella (DBV), Victoria Morrison-Hughes (VMH), Julian Caddick (JC), Kris Kilsby (KK), Amy Dunkley (AD) & 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. Apologies were received from Nathan Cameron and Nicholas Lee.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 30 th September 2025
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 30 th September meeting were an accurate reflection. Redacted items were approved.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 30 th September
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated. 1: VMH has received an update from the Master of the Rolls – will bring up at next meeting, wanted to understand rates for CLs currently. AD to assist. 2: Article written, for publication via Black Letter 6: <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	<i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
4.2	DBV and Council discussed the recent publication of the SCCO Guide and the incorrect entries therein – specifically and urgently on page 16 <i>Independent costs draftsmen have no rights of audience as such but, by concession, are treated as if they are in the employ of the firm of solicitors or other legal representatives instructing them. They have no rights of audience on behalf of a litigant in person (but see McKenzie Friend below).</i> <i>Chartered Legal Executives</i> <i>Under the Legal Services Act 2007 Chartered Legal Executive lawyers are 'authorised persons' undertaking 'reserved legal activities', alongside solicitors and barristers. A Chartered Legal Executive lawyer specialises in a particular area of law, and will have been trained to the same standard as a solicitor in that area.</i> DBV to liaise with SCJ Rowley with regards to amending the current version and for the ACL to review and advise on the next publication.

5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	CC to email.
6	Policy Committee Report
6.1	AD detailed that following Mazur both the CLSB and the SRA have issued guidance notes, however further clarification was being sought from the SRA in regards to the instruction of cost lawyers with regard to the reserved activity of the conduct of cost litigation. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i> A joint seminar between the SRA, the CLSB and the ACL has been suggested to promote regulated professions.
6.2	<i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
6.3	KK detailed that both the CLSB and ACLT have seen increases in applications for practicing certificates and course applications since the Mazur ruling.
6.4	KK plans to re-launch the Prec G / S review via the London Conference breakout session with SCJ Rowley.
7	Education Committee Report
7.1	JR asked Council for points to raise at the upcoming review of the ACLT Marketing plan with Station Road – Council are keen to understand how SR plan to market the course to experienced costs professionals / draftsmen and how they can increase consumer awareness in using regulated costs professionals. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
7.2	<i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
8	Finance & Internal Policy Committee Report
8.1	JC and Council discussed final amendments to the constitutions for the Special Interest Groups. Final version to be drafted by JC with a refocus on the SiGs in 2026 alongside the launch of the Group Litigation Group. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
8.2	JC detailed that investment fund continues to strengthen. CC fed back on quarterly management accounts along with budget forecast for end of 2025 with expected higher profit than predicted due to increased membership and attendance at events.
9	Operations Report
9.1	CC asked Council to review subscription rates for 2026. It was decided an uplift should be applied to Affiliate and Student memberships only.
9.2	CC asked if Council had any objection to an IPO application for a ACL Hire Logo. No objection from Council.
10	Any other business
10.1	<i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
11	Date of next meeting
11.1	The next meeting is Thursday 6 th November, Leonardo Royal Hotel, London City, 7 to 8pm