

**Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting**  
**held on 15 December 2025**  
 online, via Teams  
 10am



Council members present: David Bailey-Vella (DBV), Kris Kilsby (KK), Amy Dunkley (AD), Nathan Cameron (NC), Jane Risley (JR), Nicholas Lee (NL) & Nick Northrop (NN)

Also present: Carol Calver (CC) Head of Operations

The meeting started at 10:00

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
1.1	DBV was slightly delayed, therefore CC welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Victoria Morrison-Hughes and Julian Caddick. Nicholas Lee left the meeting slightly early at 12:25.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 6 <sup>th</sup> November meeting were an accurate reflection. Redacted items were approved.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 6 <sup>th</sup> November
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated: 4. Policy – name change & chartered status: Mazur & subsequent appeal has impacted this <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> . Policy continuing to liaise and work with CLSB on evidence of non-regulated costs complaints. Name change rolled over to January, Chartered Status moved to March 26 for further review and update.
4	Chairman’s Report
4.1	DBV asked Councils opinion on an offer <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> to assist the Association pro bono to intervene on the Mazur Appeal. A lengthy discussion ensued debating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– safeguarding categories of membership aside from our regulated costs lawyer members</li> <li>– risks of not being involved and ultimately not having a ‘voice’ within the appeal</li> <li>– overall marketing opportunities</li> <li>– legal threshold for the application to intervene to be successful and potential risk of an adverse costs order against the ACL if such an application is unsuccessful</li> <li>– historic challenges and regulation consultations between individuals and firms</li> <li>– whether we should be involved at any level due to the majority of our members being wholly unaffected by the decision and the possibility of contradicting our own messaging on qualification and regulation.</li> </ul>
4.2	Council concluded it would be sensible to have sight of the grounds of appeal as well as taking advice on the potential impact on members with an accompanying risk analysis – Council could then decide if risk is high enough to intervene.

4.3	<p>DBV asked Council to consider whether Council members should have free membership of the Association while on Council. Council discussed at some length and all agreed that Council should not receive free membership as it was felt to contradict the voluntary commitment that being a elected member of Council set out to achieve. A formal vote was held with all members of Council present at the meeting voting against. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i></p>
4.4	<p>DBV detailed how <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> have contacted the Association in regard to taking membership out <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> and had asked for clarification on the Fellow category of membership. DBV has discussed in person the category requirements, restrictions and flexibility the Council ultimately hold in awarding this category of membership. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i> CC provided the current Fellow application data to Council highlighting the applications where no concession was required and those that had a concession applied.</p> <p>Council considered the specific wording of the Association by-laws 2025 with regard to Fellow membership criteria, which state:</p> <p><i>6.1.2 They have been a member of the Association of Costs Lawyers, in whichever category, for a period of five years prior to application for Fellow; and</i></p> <p><i>6.1.3. the Council may apply its discretion to shorten the period in Article 6.1.2 of the by-laws when determining the period of five years, to allow for short absences, career breaks, or parental leave.</i></p> <p>Council noted that the requirement is simply that the applicant has been a member for a period of five years prior to the application. There is <b>no</b> specific requirement in the by-laws for a period of five “consecutive” years of membership “immediately” prior to Fellow application.</p> <p><i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i></p>
5	<p>PR &amp; Marketing Committee Report</p>
5.1	<p>NC detailed to Council the intention to hold another ‘ACL in Conversation’ event early next year. This will be hosted <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> on a date in January or February. Black Letter will coordinate and organise, with attendance from ACL. Lady Justice Cockerill has been invited to be interviewed.</p>
5.2	<p>PR-AM are also working in collaboration with the CLSB and ACLT in a joint, triple branded campaign on ‘Why be a Costs Lawyer’ focusing on Qualification, Regulation &amp; Representation – brief to be sent to BL and SR for approval early next year. Campaign is likely to need direct and focused marketing spend.</p>
6	<p>Policy Committee Report</p>
6.1	<p>KK provided feedback to Council on a roundtable held on 03/12 for the CPRC FRC Consultation. The meeting provided members an opportunity to share thoughts and examples. The response is being prepared ahead of a submission deadline of January 2026.</p>
6.2	<p>The Prec G / S working party has been handed to JC and NC for progressing, this will take place in January 2026.</p>
7	<p>Education Committee Report</p>
7.1	<p>CC asked Council to sign off the proposed ACLT CPLQ Budget for 2026. Council reviewed, discussed and subject to a request for further information below, unanimously agreed.</p>
7.2	<p>CC asked Council to sign off the proposed ACLT Apprenticeship Budget. Council reviewed, discussed and agreed in principle on receipt of detail and clarification on the individual</p>

	marketing plans for the CLPQ and the Apprenticeship along with the outsourced business development costs.
7.3	<i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
<b>8</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Internal Policy Committee Report</b>
8.1	CC asked Council to sign off the proposed ACL Budget for 2026. Council reviewed, discussed and unanimously agreed.
<b>9</b>	<b>Operations Report</b>
9.1	Due to time limitations CC will email Council regarding ICO Awareness to membership and consideration of subscription dispensation for parental leave.
9.2	CC also briefly detailed a suggestion to offer member slots / focus as an additional benefit to members, allowing the sharing of member social posts and events one day a week and perhaps a dedicated networking area on the website. Council are happy to promote members' own initiatives and free events but would have concerns regarding promoting paid events / sessions. To be trialed in 2026.
<b>10</b>	<b>Any other business</b>
10.1	NN suggested the consideration of merchandise for the Association. CC to investigate member appetite and costs, along with any restrictions as a not-for-profit Association.
<b>11</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
11.1	The next meeting is Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2026, online via Teams at 10am.