

**Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting
held on 24th February 2026**
Pogust Goodhead office, London
10am



Council members present: David Bailey-Vella (DBV), Victoria Morrison-Hughes (VMH), Julian Caddick (JC), 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	No apologies were received.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 29 th January 2025
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of 29 th January meeting were an accurate reflection. Redacted items were approved.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 29 th January
3.1	Actions were reviewed and updated.
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	DBV detailed to Council an offer from <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> to provide an Advocacy Workshop <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> . Council suggested this could be split into Beginner and Advanced and there may be potential for a series of workshops. Council wants to consider any offer in line with the ongoing provision of the ACLT Costs Lawyer Profession Development – micro course / credentials as this includes an Award in Costs Advocacy. Potential conflict with ACLT provision, DBV to explore offering from <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> with this in mind.
4.2	DBV discussed with Council a date and platform for a 2026 AGM. This would be a standard AGM providing members the opportunity to review the past year and question Council on upcoming plans. To align with the Business Plan year, this would be scheduled for March / April. Council discussed the possibilities and potential for holding an in-person AGM / Networking event and this could potentially be partnered with a Costs in the City event.
5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	NC gave an update on plans for the Manchester Conference including speakers, breakout hosts and venue. CC plans to run a poll at the Manchester Conference this year to garner opinion on an alternative location for the Northern Conference every few years as Liverpool and Birmingham have been suggested previously.

5.2	NL & NC continue to explore the offering of a mock mediation session following the well received guidance provided to delegates at the London Conference.
5.3	NL detailed his intention to work with the CLSB and ACLT to revise the 'Why Be' brief in order to re-issue to Black Letter and Station Road.
6	Policy Committee Report
6.1	KK & AD detailed to Council an ongoing workload of current and upcoming consultations. DBV offered additional assistance from either current Council members or via members themselves through the creation of temporary working parties.
7	Education Committee Report
7.1	Ahead of the ACL Training Board Meeting held later this week, NN & JR provided a brief update on the Apprenticeship and February intake numbers. <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
7.2	Council have asked for further updates on the performance and ROI of the Station Road marketing plan and spend.
7.3	VMH requested an update on micro-credentials (CLPD) as the CLSB has no objection from an accreditation point of view. Offering to be considered in line with Advocacy WS offered by <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> (Chairmans report above) CC to request data from ACLT on expressions of interest in the PD courses currently offered on the ACLT website (Legal Aid & Advocacy). <i>Redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
8	Finance & Internal Policy Committee Report
8.1	JC provided an update on investments <i>redacted due to confidentiality.</i>
9	Operations Report
9.1	Council discussed at length the categorisation and classification of the Fellow category of membership following further applications from former members who lapsed some 8 and 10 years ago. Council <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> and concluded that the By-Laws should be updated to clearly define the current ambiguity around the wording of "five years prior" with a final decision on the application of the By-Laws with regards to ongoing Fellow applications being deferred to March 2026.
9.2	CC provided an update of 2026 membership levels to Council, showing a further increase in membership year on year.
10	Any other business
10.1	DBV formally thanks AD for her contributions to the editing of the upcoming Costs Compass publication – part of the Costs Law Reports member offer.
10.2	AD detailed that discussions with Solomonic had stalled following a limited response from the SCCO.
11	Date of next meeting
11.1	The next meeting is Thursday 26 th March, via Teams. 10am to 12 midday.