

No. 00656908

The Companies Act 2006

Articles of Association of Wilkinson & Simpson Limited (the "Company")

Private company having a share capital

(Adopted by special resolution passed on 16 January 2023)

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Exclusion of Model Articles and Table A

1. The regulations contained in the Model Articles of Association applicable to the Company pursuant to the Companies Act 2006 or in any Table A applicable to the Company pursuant to the Companies Act 1985 or any former enactment relating to companies, shall not apply to the Company, except in so far as they are repeated or contained in these articles.

Defined terms

2. In the articles, unless the context requires otherwise—
 - "articles" means the Company's articles of association;
 - "bankruptcy" includes individual insolvency proceedings in a jurisdiction other than England and Wales or Northern Ireland which have an effect similar to that of bankruptcy;
 - "chairman" has the meaning given in article 13;
 - "chairman of the meeting" has the meaning given in article 44;
 - "Companies Acts" means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006), in so far as they apply to the Company;
 - "director" means a director of the Company, and includes any person occupying the position of director, by whatever name called;
 - "distribution recipient" has the meaning given in article 36;
 - "document" includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;
 - "electronic form" has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;
 - "fully paid" in relation to a share, means that the nominal value and any premium to be paid to the Company in respect of that share have been paid to the Company;
 - "Group" means the Company and its group undertakings from time to time and all of them and each of them as the context admits and "Group Company" means any one of them;
 - "group undertaking" shall be construed in accordance with section 1161 of the Companies Act 2006;
 - "hard copy form" has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;
 - "holder" in relation to shares means the person whose name is entered in the register of members as the holder of the shares;
 - "instrument" means a document in hard copy form;
 - "ordinary resolution" has the meaning given in section 282 of the Companies Act 2006;
 - "paid" means paid or credited as paid;
 - "participate", in relation to a directors' meeting, has the meaning given in article 11;
 - "proxy notice" has the meaning given in article 50;
 - "shareholder" means a person who is the holder of a share;
 - "shares" means shares in the Company;
 - "special resolution" has the meaning given in section 283 of the Companies Act 2006;
 - "subsidiary" has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006;
 - "transmittee" means a person entitled to a share by reason of the death or bankruptcy of a shareholder or otherwise by operation of law; and
 - "writing" means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

Unless the context otherwise requires, other words or expressions contained in these articles bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act 2006 as in force on the date when these articles become binding on the Company.

Liability of members

3. The liability of the members is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid on the shares held by them.

Directors' general authority

4. Subject to the articles, the directors are responsible for the management of the Company's business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the Company.

Shareholders' reserve power

5. (1) The shareholders may, by special resolution, direct the directors to take, or refrain from taking, specified action.
(2) No such special resolution invalidates anything which the directors have done before the passing of the resolution.

Directors may delegate

6. (1) Subject to the articles, the directors may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under the articles—
 - (a) to such person or committee;
 - (b) by such means (including by power of attorney);
 - (c) to such an extent;
 - (d) in relation to such matters or territories; and
 - (e) on such terms and conditions;
 as they think fit.
(2) If the directors so specify, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the directors' powers by any person to whom they are delegated.
(3) The directors may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions.

Committees

7. (1) Committees to which the directors delegate any of their powers must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of the articles which govern the taking of decisions by directors.
(2) The directors may make rules of procedure for all or any committees, which prevail over rules derived from the articles if they are not consistent with them.

Directors to take decisions collectively

8. (1) The general rule about decision-making by directors is that any decision of the directors must be either a majority decision at a meeting or a decision taken in accordance with article 9.
(2) If—
 - (a) the Company only has one director, and
 - (b) no provision of the articles requires it to have more than one director,
 the general rule does not apply, and the director may take decisions without regard to any of the provisions of the articles relating to directors' decision-making.

Unanimous decisions

9. (1) A decision of the directors is taken in accordance with this article when all eligible directors indicate to each other by any means that they share a common view on a matter.

(2) Such a decision may take the form of a resolution in writing, copies of which have been signed by each eligible director or to which each eligible director has otherwise indicated agreement in writing.

(3) References in this article to eligible directors are to directors who would have been entitled to vote on the matter had it been proposed as a resolution at a directors' meeting.

(4) A decision may not be taken in accordance with this article if the eligible directors would not have formed a quorum at such a meeting.

Calling a directors' meeting

10. (1) Any director may call a directors' meeting by giving notice of the meeting to the directors or by authorising the company secretary (if any) to give such notice.
- (2) Notice of a directors' meeting must be given to each director, but need not be in writing.
- (3) Notice of a directors' meeting need not be given to directors who waive their entitlement to notice of that meeting, by giving notice to that effect to the Company either before, on or after the date on which the meeting is held. Where such notice is given after the meeting has been held, that does not affect the validity of the meeting, or of any business conducted at it.

Participation in directors' meetings

11. (1) Subject to the articles, directors participate in a directors' meeting, or part of a directors' meeting, when—
 - (a) the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the articles, and
 - (b) they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.
- (2) In determining whether directors are participating in a directors' meeting, it is irrelevant where any director is or how they communicate with each other.
- (3) If all the directors participating in a meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

Quorum for directors' meetings

12. (1) At a directors' meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting.
- (2) The quorum for directors' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the directors, but unless so fixed, the quorum for directors' meetings shall be: (a) one director, if the Company has only one director; and (b) two directors, if the Company has more than one director.
- (3) If the total number of directors for the time being is less than the quorum required, the directors must not take any decision other than a decision—
 - (a) to appoint further directors, or
 - (b) to call a general meeting so as to enable the shareholders to appoint further directors.

Chairing of directors' meetings

13. (1) The directors may appoint a director to chair their meetings.
- (2) The person so appointed for the time being is known as the chairman.
- (3) The directors may terminate the chairman's appointment at any time.
- (4) If the chairman is not participating in a directors' meeting within ten minutes of the time at which it was to start, the participating directors must appoint one of themselves to chair it.

Casting vote

14. (1) If the numbers of votes for and against a proposal are equal, the chairman or other director chairing the meeting has a casting vote.
 (2) But this does not apply if, in accordance with the articles, the chairman or other director is not to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum or voting purposes.

Conflicts of interest

15. (1) Where a director has disclosed the nature and extent of any direct or indirect interest, and that interest has been authorised by all, or a majority of, the other directors, a director may vote, at any meeting of the directors or of any committee of the directors, on any resolution, and may otherwise take, or take part in, any decision, and if he shall vote on any such resolution (or take, or take part in, any such decision) his vote shall be counted; and in relation to any such resolution as aforesaid he shall (whether or not he shall vote on the same) be taken into account in calculating the quorum present at the meeting. This is subject to section 175 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the other provisions of these articles.
- (2) Provided that he has disclosed to the directors the nature and extent of any interest of his in accordance with and to the extent required by the Companies Act 2006 or the interest is deemed disclosed by article 15(3), and that interest has been authorised by the directors, a director notwithstanding his office:
- (a) may be a party to, or otherwise interested in, any transaction or arrangement with the Company or in which the Company is otherwise interested;
 - (b) may be a director or other officer of, or employed by, or a party to any transaction or arrangement with, or otherwise interested in, any body corporate in which the Company is interested or any Group Company or any body corporate in which any Group Company is interested;
 - (c) may act, by himself or through a firm in which he is interested, in a professional capacity for the Company or any Group Company or any body corporate in which any Group Company is interested (otherwise than as auditor); and
 - (d) may hold any other place of profit with the Company (otherwise than as auditor) in conjunction with his office as the directors may determine;
- and (i) he shall not, by reason of his office or the fiduciary relationship thereby established, be accountable to the Company for any remuneration or other benefit which he or any other person derives from any such office or employment or from any such transaction or arrangement or from acting in a professional capacity or from any interest in any such undertaking or body corporate; and (ii) no such transaction or arrangement shall be liable to be avoided on the ground of any such interest or remuneration or other benefit; and (iii) receipt of any such remuneration or other benefit shall not constitute a breach of his duty under section 176 of the Companies Act 2006.
- (3) For the purposes of this article a director shall be deemed to have disclosed the nature and extent of an interest which consists of him being a director, officer or employee of any Group Company in relation to the Company.
- (4) For the purposes of section 175 of the Companies Act 2006, the directors may authorise any matter proposed to them which would, if not so authorised, constitute or give rise to an infringement of duty by a director under that section.
- (5) Any authorisation of a matter pursuant to article 15(4) shall extend to any actual or potential conflict of interest which may reasonably be expected to arise out of the matter so authorised.
- (6) Any authorisation of a matter under article 15(4) shall be subject to such conditions or limitations as the directors may specify, whether at the time such authorisation is

given or subsequently, and may be terminated or varied by the directors at any time. A director shall comply with any obligations imposed on him by the directors pursuant to any such authorisation.

- (7) A director shall not, by reason of his office or the fiduciary relationship thereby established, be accountable to the Company for any remuneration or other benefit which derives from any matter authorised by the directors under article 15(4) and any transaction or arrangement relating thereto shall not be liable to be avoided on the grounds of any such remuneration or other benefit or on the ground of the director having any interest as referred to in the said section 175.
- (8) A director shall be under no duty to the Company with respect to any information which he obtains or has obtained otherwise than as a director or officer or employee of the Company and in respect of which he owes a duty of confidentiality to another person. However, to the extent that his connection with that other person conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interests of the Company, this article 15(8) applies only if the existence of that connection has been authorised by the directors under article 15(4) above. In particular, the director shall not be in breach of the general duties he owes to the Company by virtue of sections 171 to 177 of the Companies Act 2006 because he fails:
 - (a) to disclose any such information to the directors or to any director or other officer or employee of the Company; and/or
 - (b) to use any such information in performing his duties as a director or officer or employee of the Company.
- (9) Where the existence of a director's connection with another person has been authorised by the directors under article 15(4) and his connection with that person conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interests of the Company, the director shall not be in breach of the general duties he owes to the Company by virtue of sections 171 to 177 of the Companies Act 2006 because he:
 - (a) absents himself from meetings of the director or any committee thereof at which any matter relating to the conflict of interest or possible conflict of interest will or may be discussed or from the discussion of any such matter at a meeting or otherwise; and/or
 - (b) makes arrangements not to receive documents and information relating to any matter which gives rise to the conflict of interest or possible conflict of interest sent or supplied by the Company and/or for such documents and information to be received and read by a professional adviser,
 for so long as he reasonably believes such conflict of interest (or possible conflict of interest) subsists.
- (10) The provisions of articles 15(8) and 15(9) are without prejudice to any equitable principle or rule of law which may excuse the director from:
 - (a) disclosing information, in circumstances where disclosure would otherwise be required under these articles or otherwise; or
 - (b) attending meetings or discussions or receiving documents and information as referred to in article 15(9) in circumstances where such attendance or receiving such documents and information would otherwise be required under these articles.
- (11) For the purposes of this article 15 a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties.

Records of decisions to be kept

- 16. The directors must ensure that the Company keeps a record, in writing, for at least 10 years from the date of the decision recorded, of every unanimous or majority decision taken by the directors.

Directors' discretion to make further rules

17. Subject to the articles, the directors may make any rule which they think fit about how they take decisions, and about how such rules are to be recorded or communicated to directors.

Methods of appointing directors

18. (1) Any person who is willing to act as a director, and is permitted by law to do so, may be appointed to be a director—
- (a) by ordinary resolution, or
 - (b) by a decision of the directors.
- (2) In any case where, as a result of death, the Company has no shareholders and no directors, the personal representatives of the last shareholder to have died have the right, by notice in writing, to appoint a person to be a director.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), where 2 or more shareholders die in circumstances rendering it uncertain who was the last to die, a younger shareholder is deemed to have survived an older shareholder.

Termination of director's appointment

19. A person ceases to be a director as soon as—
- (a) that person ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Act 2006 or is prohibited from being a director by law;
 - (b) a bankruptcy order is made against that person;
 - (c) a composition is made with that person's creditors generally in satisfaction of that person's debts;
 - (d) a registered medical practitioner who is treating that person gives a written opinion to the Company stating that that person has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months; or
 - (e) notification is received by the Company from the director that the director is resigning from office, and such resignation has taken effect in accordance with its terms.

Removal of a director

20. The holder or holders for the time being of more than one-half of the issued ordinary shares of the Company shall have the power from time to time and at any time to appoint any person or persons as a director or directors either as additional directors or to fill any vacancy and to remove from office any director howsoever appointed. Any such appointment or removal shall be effected by a notice in writing signed by or on behalf of the member or members exercising the power and shall take effect upon lodgement at the registered office of the Company or upon presentation at a board meeting or general meeting of the Company, or upon such later date as may be specified in the notice.

Alternate directors

21. (1) Any director (the "**appointor**") may appoint as an alternate any other director, or any other person approved by a resolution or other decision of the directors to:
- (a) exercise that director's powers; and
 - (b) carry out that director's responsibilities,
- in relation to the taking of decisions by the directors in the absence of the alternate's appointor.
- (2) Any appointment or removal of an alternate must be effected by notice in writing to the Company signed by the appointor, or in any other manner approved by the directors. The notice must:

- (a) identify the proposed alternate; and
 - (b) in the case of a notice of appointment, contain a statement signed by the proposed alternate that the proposed alternate is willing to act as the alternate of the director giving the notice.
- (3) An alternate director has the same rights, in relation to any directors' meeting, and all meetings of committees of directors of which the appointor is a member, or directors' written resolution, or other decision of the directors reached in accordance with article 9, as the alternate's appointor. For the purposes of article 9(1) and 9(2) (Unanimous decisions) if an alternate director indicates that he shares the common view, his appointor need not also indicate that he shares the common view and if a resolution is signed by an alternate director (or to which an alternate director has indicated his agreement in writing), it need not also be signed or so agreed to by his appointor.
- (4) Except as the articles specify otherwise, alternate directors:
- (a) are deemed for all purposes to be directors;
 - (b) are liable for their own acts and omissions;
 - (c) are subject to the same restrictions as their appointors; and
 - (d) are not deemed to be agents of or for their appointors.
- (5) A person who is an alternate director but not a director:
- (a) may be counted as participating for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is participating (but only if that person's appointor is not participating); and
 - (b) may sign (or otherwise indicate his agreement in writing to) a written resolution (but only if that person's appointor has not signed or otherwise indicated his agreement in writing to such written resolution).
- No alternate may be counted as more than one director for such purposes.
- (6) A director who is an alternate director has an additional vote on behalf of each appointor who is:
- (a) not participating in a directors' meeting; and
 - (b) would have been entitled to vote if they were participating in it.
- (7) An alternate director is not entitled to receive any remuneration from the Company for serving as an alternate director except such part of the alternate's appointor's remuneration as the appointor may direct by notice in writing made to the Company.
- (8) An alternate director's appointment as an alternate terminates:
- (a) when the alternate's appointor revokes the appointment by notice to the Company in writing specifying when it is to terminate;
 - (b) on the occurrence in relation to the alternate of any event which, if it occurred in relation to the alternate's appointor, would result in the termination of the appointor's appointment as a director;
 - (c) on the death of the alternate's appointor; or
 - (d) when the alternate's appointor's appointment as a director terminates.

Directors' remuneration

22. (1) Directors may undertake any services for the Company that the directors decide.
- (2) Directors are entitled to such remuneration as the directors determine—
- (a) for their services to the Company as directors, and
 - (b) for any other service which they undertake for the Company.
- (3) Subject to the articles, a director's remuneration may—
- (a) take any form, and
 - (b) include any arrangements in connection with the payment of a pension, allowance or gratuity, or any death, sickness or disability benefits, to or in respect of that director.
- (4) Unless the directors decide otherwise, directors' remuneration accrues from day to day.

(5) Unless the directors decide otherwise, directors are not accountable to the Company for any remuneration which they receive as directors or other officers or employees of the Company's subsidiaries or of any other body corporate in which the Company is interested.

Directors' expenses

23. The Company may pay any reasonable expenses which the directors, including alternate directors, properly incur in connection with their attendance at—
- (a) meetings of directors or committees of directors,
 - (b) general meetings, or
 - (c) separate meetings of the holders of any class of shares or of debentures of the Company, or otherwise in connection with the exercise of their powers and the discharge of their responsibilities in relation to the Company.

All shares to be fully paid up

24. (1) No share is to be issued for less than the aggregate of its nominal value and any premium to be paid to the Company in consideration for its issue.
 (2) This does not apply to shares taken on the formation of the Company by the subscribers to the Company's memorandum.

Allotment of shares

25. (1) The directors shall have the powers given by section 550 of the Companies Act 2006.
 (2) In accordance with section 567 of the Companies Act 2006, the requirements of sections 561 and 562 of the Companies Act 2006 are excluded in relation to allotments of equity securities by the Company.

Powers to issue different classes of share

26. (1) Subject to the articles, but without prejudice to the rights attached to any existing share, the Company may issue shares with such rights or restrictions as may be determined by ordinary resolution.
 (2) The Company may issue shares which are to be redeemed, or are liable to be redeemed at the option of the Company or the holder, and the directors may determine the terms, conditions and manner of redemption of any such shares.

Payment of commissions on subscription for shares

27. (1) The Company may pay any person a commission in consideration for that person:
- (a) subscribing, or agreeing to subscribe, for shares; or
 - (b) procuring, or agreeing to procure, subscriptions for shares.
- (2) Any such commission may be paid:
- (a) in cash, or in fully paid or partly paid shares or other securities, or partly in one way and partly in the other; and
 - (b) in respect of a conditional or an absolute subscription.

Company not bound by less than absolute interests

28. Except as required by law, no person is to be recognised by the Company as holding any share upon any trust, and except as otherwise required by law or the articles, the Company is not in any way to be bound by or recognise any interest in a share other than the holder's absolute ownership of it and all the rights attaching to it.

Share certificates

29. (1) The Company must issue each shareholder, free of charge, with one or more certificates in respect of the shares which that shareholder holds.

- (2) Every certificate must specify—
 - (a) in respect of how many shares, of what class, it is issued;
 - (b) the nominal value of those shares;
 - (c) that the shares are fully paid; and
 - (d) any distinguishing numbers assigned to them.
- (3) No certificate may be issued in respect of shares of more than one class.
- (4) If more than one person holds a share, only one certificate may be issued in respect of it.
- (5) Certificates must—
 - (a) have affixed to them the Company's common seal, or
 - (b) be otherwise executed in accordance with the Companies Acts.

Replacement share certificates

- 30. (1) If a certificate issued in respect of a shareholder's shares is—
 - (a) damaged or defaced, or
 - (b) said to be lost, stolen or destroyed, that shareholder is entitled to be issued with a replacement certificate in respect of the same shares.
- (2) A shareholder exercising the right to be issued with such a replacement certificate—
 - (a) may at the same time exercise the right to be issued with a single certificate or separate certificates;
 - (b) must return the certificate which is to be replaced to the Company if it is damaged or defaced; and
 - (c) must comply with such conditions as to evidence, indemnity and the payment of a reasonable fee as the directors decide.

Share transfers

- 31. (1) Shares may be transferred by means of an instrument of transfer in any usual form or any other form approved by the directors, which is executed by or on behalf of the transferor.
- (2) No fee may be charged for registering any instrument of transfer or other document relating to or affecting the title to any share.
- (3) The Company may retain any instrument of transfer which is registered.
- (4) The transferor remains the holder of a share until the transferee's name is entered in the register of members as holder of it.
- (5) The directors may refuse to register the transfer of a share, and if they do so, the instrument of transfer must be returned to the transferee with the notice of refusal unless they suspect that the proposed transfer may be fraudulent.

Transmission of shares

- 32. (1) If title to a share passes to a transmittee, the Company may only recognise the transmittee as having any title to that share.
- (2) A transmittee who produces such evidence of entitlement to shares as the directors may properly require—
 - (a) may, subject to the articles, choose either to become the holder of those shares or to have them transferred to another person, and
 - (b) subject to the articles, and pending any transfer of the shares to another person, has the same rights as the holder had.
- (3) But transmittees do not have the right to attend or vote at a general meeting, or agree to a proposed written resolution, in respect of shares to which they are entitled, by reason of the holder's death or bankruptcy or otherwise, unless they become the holders of those shares.

Exercise of transmitters' rights

33. (1) Transmitters who wish to become the holders of shares to which they have become entitled must notify the Company in writing of that wish.
- (2) If the transmitter wishes to have a share transferred to another person, the transmitter must execute an instrument of transfer in respect of it.
- (3) Any transfer made or executed under this article is to be treated as if it were made or executed by the person from whom the transmitter has derived rights in respect of the share, and as if the event which gave rise to the transmission had not occurred.

Transmitters bound by prior notices

34. If a notice is given to a shareholder in respect of shares and a transmitter is entitled to those shares, the transmitter is bound by the notice if it was given to the shareholder before the transmitter's name has been entered in the register of members.

Procedure for declaring dividends

35. (1) The Company may by ordinary resolution declare dividends, and the directors may decide to pay interim dividends.
- (2) A dividend must not be declared unless the directors have made a recommendation as to its amount. Such a dividend must not exceed the amount recommended by the directors.
- (3) No dividend may be declared or paid unless it is in accordance with shareholders' respective rights.
- (4) Unless the shareholders' resolution to declare or directors' decision to pay a dividend, or the terms on which shares are issued, specify otherwise, it must be paid by reference to each shareholder's holding of shares on the date of the resolution or decision to declare or pay it.
- (5) If the Company's share capital is divided into different classes, no interim dividend may be paid on shares carrying deferred or non-preferred rights if, at the time of payment, any preferential dividend is in arrear.
- (6) The directors may pay at intervals any dividend payable at a fixed rate if it appears to them that the profits available for distribution justify the payment.
- (7) If the directors act in good faith, they do not incur any liability to the holders of shares conferring preferred rights for any loss they may suffer by the lawful payment of an interim dividend on shares with deferred or non-preferred rights.

Payment of dividends and other distributions

36. (1) Where a dividend or other sum which is a distribution is payable in respect of a share, it must be paid by one or more of the following means—
- (a) transfer to a bank or building society account specified by the distribution recipient either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide;
 - (b) sending a cheque made payable to the distribution recipient by post to the distribution recipient at the distribution recipient's registered address (if the distribution recipient is a holder of the share), or (in any other case) to an address specified by the distribution recipient either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide;
 - (c) sending a cheque made payable to such person by post to such person at such address as the distribution recipient has specified either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide; or
 - (d) any other means of payment as the directors agree with the distribution recipient either in writing or by such other means as the directors decide.
- (2) In the articles, "the distribution recipient" means, in respect of a share in respect of which a dividend or other sum is payable—

- (a) the holder of the share; or
- (b) if the share has two or more joint holders, whichever of them is named first in the register of members; or
- (c) if the holder is no longer entitled to the share by reason of death or bankruptcy, or otherwise by operation of law, the transmittee.

No interest on distributions

37. The Company may not pay interest on any dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share unless otherwise provided by—
- (a) the terms on which the share was issued, or
 - (b) the provisions of another agreement between the holder of that share and the Company.

Unclaimed distributions

38. (1) All dividends or other sums which are—
- (a) payable in respect of shares, and
 - (b) unclaimed after having been declared or become payable,
- may be invested or otherwise made use of by the directors for the benefit of the Company until claimed.
- (2) The payment of any such dividend or other sum into a separate account does not make the Company a trustee in respect of it.
- (3) If—
- (a) twelve years have passed from the date on which a dividend or other sum became due for payment, and
 - (b) the distribution recipient has not claimed it,
- the distribution recipient is no longer entitled to that dividend or other sum and it ceases to remain owing by the Company.

Non-cash distributions

39. (1) Subject to the terms of issue of the share in question, the Company may, by ordinary resolution on the recommendation of the directors, decide to pay all or part of a dividend or other distribution payable in respect of a share by transferring non-cash assets of equivalent value (including, without limitation, shares or other securities in any Company).
- (2) For the purposes of paying a non-cash distribution, the directors may make whatever arrangements they think fit, including, where any difficulty arises regarding the distribution—
- (a) fixing the value of any assets;
 - (b) paying cash to any distribution recipient on the basis of that value in order to adjust the rights of recipients; and
 - (c) vesting any assets in trustees.

Waiver of distributions

40. Distribution recipients may waive their entitlement to a dividend or other distribution payable in respect of a share by giving the Company notice in writing to that effect, but if—
- (a) the share has more than one holder, or
 - (b) more than one person is entitled to the share, whether by reason of the death or bankruptcy of one or more joint holders, or otherwise,
- the notice is not effective unless it is expressed to be given, and signed, by all the holders or persons otherwise entitled to the share.

Authority to capitalise and appropriation of capitalised sums

41. (1) Subject to the articles, the directors may, if they are so authorised by an ordinary resolution—
- (a) decide to capitalise any profits of the Company (whether or not they are available for distribution) which are not required for paying a preferential dividend, or any sum standing to the credit of the Company's share premium account or capital redemption reserve; and
 - (b) appropriate any sum which they so decide to capitalise (a "capitalised sum") to the persons who would have been entitled to it if it were distributed by way of dividend (the "persons entitled") and in the same proportions.
- (2) Capitalised sums must be applied—
- (a) on behalf of the persons entitled, and
 - (b) in the same proportions as a dividend would have been distributed to them.
- (3) Any capitalised sum may be applied in paying up new shares of a nominal amount equal to the capitalised sum which are then allotted credited as fully paid to the persons entitled or as they may direct.
- (4) A capitalised sum which was appropriated from profits available for distribution may be applied in paying up new debentures of the Company which are then allotted credited as fully paid to the persons entitled or as they may direct.
- (5) Subject to the articles the directors may—
- (a) apply capitalised sums in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4) partly in one way and partly in another;
 - (b) make such arrangements as they think fit to deal with shares or debentures becoming distributable in fractions under this article (including the issuing of fractional certificates or the making of cash payments); and
 - (c) authorise any person to enter into an agreement with the Company on behalf of all the persons entitled which is binding on them in respect of the allotment of shares and debentures to them under this article.

Attendance and speaking at general meetings

42. (1) A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when that person is in a position to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the meeting.
- (2) A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting when—
- (a) that person is able to vote, during the meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the meeting, and
 - (b) that person's vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the meeting.
- (3) The directors may make whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to enable those attending a general meeting to exercise their rights to speak or vote at it.
- (4) In determining attendance at a general meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more members attending it are in the same place as each other.
- (5) Two or more persons who are not in the same place as each other attend a general meeting if their circumstances are such that if they have (or were to have) rights to speak and vote at that meeting, they are (or would be) able to exercise them.

Quorum for general meetings

43. No business other than the appointment of the chairman of the meeting is to be transacted at a general meeting if the persons attending it do not constitute a quorum.

Chairing general meetings

44. (1) If the directors have appointed a chairman, the chairman shall chair general meetings if present and willing to do so.
 (2) If the directors have not appointed a chairman, or if the chairman is unwilling to chair the meeting or is not present within ten minutes of the time at which a meeting was due to start—
 (a) the directors present, or
 (b) (if no directors are present), the meeting,
 must appoint a director or shareholder to chair the meeting, and the appointment of the chairman of the meeting must be the first business of the meeting.
 (3) The person chairing a meeting in accordance with this article is referred to as “the chairman of the meeting”.

Attendance and speaking by directors and non-shareholders

45. (1) Directors may attend and speak at general meetings, whether or not they are shareholders.
 (2) The chairman of the meeting may permit other persons who are not—
 (a) shareholders of the Company, or
 (b) otherwise entitled to exercise the rights of shareholders in relation to general meetings,
 to attend and speak at a general meeting.

Adjournment

46. (1) If the persons attending a general meeting within half an hour of the time at which the meeting was due to start do not constitute a quorum, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the chairman of the meeting must adjourn it.
 (2) The chairman of the meeting may adjourn a general meeting at which a quorum is present if—
 (a) the meeting consents to an adjournment, or
 (b) it appears to the chairman of the meeting that an adjournment is necessary to protect the safety of any person attending the meeting or ensure that the business of the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.
 (3) The chairman of the meeting must adjourn a general meeting if directed to do so by the meeting.
 (4) When adjourning a general meeting, the chairman of the meeting must—
 (a) either specify the time and place to which it is adjourned or state that it is to continue at a time and place to be fixed by the directors, and
 (b) have regard to any directions as to the time and place of any adjournment which have been given by the meeting.
 (5) If the continuation of an adjourned meeting is to take place more than 14 days after it was adjourned, the Company must give at least 7 clear days’ notice of it (that is, excluding the day of the adjourned meeting and the day on which the notice is given)—
 (a) to the same persons to whom notice of the Company’s general meetings is required to be given, and
 (b) containing the same information which such notice is required to contain.
 (6) No business may be transacted at an adjourned general meeting which could not properly have been transacted at the meeting if the adjournment had not taken place.

Voting: general

47. A resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is duly demanded in accordance with the articles.

Errors and disputes

48. (1) No objection may be raised to the qualification of any person voting at a general meeting except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting is valid.
 (2) Any such objection must be referred to the chairman of the meeting, whose decision is final.

Poll votes

49. (1) A poll on a resolution may be demanded—
 (a) in advance of the general meeting where it is to be put to the vote, or
 (b) at a general meeting, either before a show of hands on that resolution or immediately after the result of a show of hands on that resolution is declared.
 (2) A poll may be demanded by—
 (a) the chairman of the meeting;
 (b) the directors;
 (c) two or more persons having the right to vote on the resolution; or
 (d) a person or persons representing not less than one tenth of the total voting rights of all the shareholders having the right to vote on the resolution.
 (3) A demand for a poll may be withdrawn if—
 (a) the poll has not yet been taken, and
 (b) the chairman of the meeting consents to the withdrawal.
 (4) Polls must be taken immediately and in such manner as the chairman of the meeting directs.

Content of proxy notices

50. (1) Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a “proxy notice”) which—
 (a) states the name and address of the shareholder appointing the proxy;
 (b) identifies the person appointed to be that shareholder’s proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
 (c) is signed by or on behalf of the shareholder appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and
 (d) is delivered to the Company in accordance with the articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.
 (2) The Company may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.
 (3) Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.
 (4) Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as—
 (a) allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting, and
 (b) appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

Delivery of proxy notices

51. (1) A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the Company by or on behalf of that person.
 (2) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the Company a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.

(3) A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.

(4) If a proxy notice is not executed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf.

Amendments to resolutions

52. (1) An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if—

(a) notice of the proposed amendment is given to the Company in writing by a person entitled to vote at the general meeting at which it is to be proposed not less than 48 hours before the meeting is to take place (or such later time as the chairman of the meeting may determine), and

(b) the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the chairman of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution.

(2) A special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if—

(a) the chairman of the meeting proposes the amendment at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed, and

(b) the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution.

(3) If the chairman of the meeting, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chairman's error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution.

Means of communication to be used

53. (1) Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the Company under the articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the Company.

(2) Subject to the articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.

(3) A director may agree with the Company that notices or documents sent to that director in a particular way are to be deemed to have been received within a specified time of their being sent, and for the specified time to be less than 48 hours.

Deemed delivery of documents and information

54. (1) Any notice, document or other information sent or supplied by the Company:

(a) sent by post (whether in hard copy or electronic form) to an address in the United Kingdom (provided that the Company is able to show that it (or the envelope) was properly addressed, prepaid and posted) shall be deemed to have been received by the intended recipient on the day following that on which it (or an envelope containing it) was put in the post if first class post was used or 48 hours after it was posted if first class post was not used;

(b) sent or supplied by electronic means, (provided that the Company is able to show that it was properly addressed) shall be deemed to have been received by the intended recipient on the day on which it was sent or supplied;

(c) sent or supplied by means of a website, shall be deemed to have been received by the intended recipient:

(i) when the material was first made available on the website; or

(ii) if later, when the recipient received (or is deemed to have received) notice of the fact that the material was available on the website;

(d) left at a shareholder's registered address or such other postal address as notified by the shareholder to the Company for the purpose of receiving Company communications, shall be deemed to have been received on the day it was left.

(2) For the purposes of this article 54, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.

(3) A shareholder whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the Company an address within the United Kingdom at which notice may be given to him, or an address to which notices may be sent by electronic means, shall be entitled to have notices, documents or other information sent to him at that address, but otherwise no such shareholder shall be entitled to receive any notice, document or other information from the Company.

Company seals

55. (1) Any common seal may only be used by the authority of the directors.

(2) The directors may decide by what means and in what form any common seal is to be used.

(3) Unless otherwise decided by the directors, if the Company has a common seal and it is affixed to a document, the document must also be signed by at least one authorised person in the presence of a witness who attests the signature.

(4) For the purposes of this article, an authorised person is—

(a) any director of the Company;

(b) the company secretary (if any); or

(c) any person authorised by the directors for the purpose of signing documents to which the common seal is applied.

No right to inspect accounts and other records

56. Except as provided by law or authorised by the directors or an ordinary resolution of the Company, no person is entitled to inspect any of the Company's accounting or other records or documents merely by virtue of being a shareholder.

Provision for employees on cessation of business

57. The directors may decide to make provision for the benefit of persons employed or formerly employed by the Company or any of its subsidiaries (other than a director or former director or shadow director) in connection with the cessation or transfer to any person of the whole or part of the undertaking of the Company or that subsidiary.

Directors' indemnity and insurance

58. (1) Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (but so that this article does not extend to any matter insofar as it would cause this article or any part of it to be void under the Companies Act 2006) but without prejudice to any indemnity to which the person concerned may otherwise be entitled, every person who is or was at any time a director of the Company or any Group Company may be indemnified out of the assets of the Company against all costs, charges, expenses, losses or liabilities (together "Liabilities") which he may sustain or incur in or about the actual or purported execution and/or discharge of his duties (including those duties, powers and discretions in relation to any Group Company or any company that is a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Companies Act 2006)) and/or the actual or purported exercise of his powers or discretions and/or otherwise in relation thereto or in connection therewith, including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) any Liability suffered or incurred by him in disputing, defending, investigating or providing

evidence in connection with any actual or threatened or alleged claims, demands, investigations, or proceedings, whether civil, criminal, or regulatory or in connection with any application under section 661(3), section 661(4) or section 1157 of the Companies Act 2006.

- (2) The Company may also provide funds to any director of the Company or of any Group Company to meet, or do anything to enable a director of the Company or any Group Company to avoid incurring, expenditure to the extent permitted by the Companies Act 2006.
- (3) Without prejudice to any other provisions of these articles, the directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to purchase and maintain insurance for or for the benefit of any persons who are or were at any time directors of the Company, or of any other Group Company or any other body which is or was otherwise associated with the Company or any Group Company or any other body in which the Company or any such Group Company has or had any interest, whether direct or indirect, or of any predecessor in business of any of the foregoing, (together with Group Companies, "Associated Companies") or who are or were at any time trustees of (or directors of trustees of) any pension, superannuation or similar fund, trust or scheme or any employees' share scheme or other scheme or arrangement in which any employees of the Company or of any such other body are interested, including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) insurance against any costs, charges, expenses, losses or liabilities suffered or incurred by such persons in respect of any act or omission in the actual or purported execution and/or discharge of their duties and/or the actual or purported exercise of their powers and discretions and/or otherwise in relation to or in connection with their duties, powers or offices in relation to the Company or any such other body, fund, trust, scheme or arrangement.