

Company Number: 2070200

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

NEW ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

of

WICKES FINANCE LIMITED

(Adopted by Special Resolution passed on 18 March 2020)

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Introduction

1 Interpretation

1.1 In these Articles, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Act" means the Companies Act 2006;

"appointor" has the meaning given in Article 16(1);

"Articles" means the company's articles of association for the time being in force;

"board" means the board of directors of the company or the directors present or deemed to be present at a duly convened meeting of the directors at which a quorum is present;

"business day" means any day (other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in the United Kingdom) on which clearing banks in the City of London are generally open for business;

"eligible director" means a director who would be entitled to vote on the matter at a meeting of directors (but excluding any director whose vote is not to be counted in respect of the particular matter); and

"Model Articles" means the model articles for private companies limited by shares contained in Schedule 1 of the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/3229) as amended prior to the date of adoption of these Articles.

1.2 Save as otherwise specifically provided in these Articles, words and expressions which have particular meanings in the Model Articles shall have the same meanings in these Articles, subject to which and unless the context otherwise requires, words

1.3 and expressions which have particular meanings in the Act shall have the same meanings in these Articles.

1.4 Headings in these Articles are used for convenience only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of these Articles.

1.5 A reference in these Articles to an "article" is a reference to the relevant article of these Articles unless expressly provided otherwise.

1.6 Unless expressly provided otherwise, a reference to a statute, statutory provision or subordinate legislation is a reference to it as it is in force from time to time, taking account of:

(a) any subordinate legislation from time to time made under it, and

(b) any amendment or re-enactment and includes any statute, statutory provision or subordinate legislation which it amends or re-enacts.

- 1.7** Any phrase introduced by the terms “including”, “include”, “in particular” or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words preceding those terms.
- 1.8** A reference in these Articles to a “person” shall include a natural person and a corporate body.
- 1.9** The Model Articles shall apply to the company, except in so far as they are modified or excluded by these Articles.
- 1.10** Articles 8, 9(1), 11(2) and (3), 13, 14(1), (2), (3) and (4), 17(2), 44(2), 52 and 53 of the Model Articles shall not apply to the company.
- 1.11** Article 7 of the Model Articles shall be amended by:
- (a) the insertion of the words “for the time being” at the end of Article 7(2)(a); and
 - (b) the insertion in Article 7(2) of the words “(for so long as he remains the sole director)” after the words “and the director may”.
- 1.12** Article 20 of the Model Articles shall be amended by the insertion of the words “(including alternate directors) and the secretary” before the words “properly incur”.
- 1.13** In Article 25(2)(c) of the Model Articles, the words “evidence, indemnity and the payment of a reasonable fee” shall be deleted and replaced with the words “evidence and indemnity”.
- 1.14** Article 27(3) of the Model Articles shall be amended by the insertion of the words “, subject to Article 10,” after the word “But”.
- 1.15** Article 29 of the Model Articles shall be amended by the insertion of the words “, or the name of any person(s) named as the transferee(s) in an instrument of transfer executed under Article 28(2),” after the words “the transmittee’s name”.
- 1.16** Articles 31(a) to (d) (inclusive) of the Model Articles shall be amended by the deletion, in each case, of the words “either” and “or as the directors may otherwise decide”.

Directors

2 Unanimous decisions

- 2.1** 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.
- 2.2** Such a decision may take the form of a resolution in writing, where each eligible director has signed one or more copies of it, or to which each eligible director has otherwise indicated agreement in writing.
- 2.3** 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.

3 Calling a directors’ meeting

- 3.1** Any director may call a directors’ meeting by giving not less than two business days’ notice of the meeting (or such lesser notice as all the directors may agree) to the directors or by authorising the company secretary (if any) to give such notice.

4 Quorum for directors' meetings

- 4.1** Subject to Article 4.2, the quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of directors is any two eligible directors.
- 4.2** For the purposes of any meeting (or part of a meeting) held to authorise a director's conflict, if there is only one eligible director in office other than the conflicted director(s), the quorum for such meeting (or part of a meeting) shall be one eligible director.
- 4.3** If the total number of directors in office 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.

5 Casting vote

- 5.1** If the numbers of votes for and against a proposal at a meeting of directors are equal, the chairman or other director chairing the meeting has a casting vote.
- 5.2** Article 5.1 shall not apply in respect of a particular meeting (or part of a meeting) if, in accordance with the Articles, the chairman or other director is not an eligible director for the purposes of that meeting (or part of a meeting).

6 Directors' interests other than in relation to transactions or arrangements with the Company – authorisation under section 175 of the Act

- 6.1** The board may authorise any matter proposed to it which would, if not so authorised, involve a breach of duty by a director under section 175 of the Act.
- 6.2** Any authorisation under Article 6.1 will be effective only if:
- (a) any requirement as to the quorum at the meeting at which the matter is considered is met without counting the director in question or any other director interested in the matter under consideration; and
 - (b) the matter was agreed to without such director voting or would have been agreed to if the vote of such director had not been counted.
- 6.3** The board may give any authorisation under Article 6.1 upon such terms as it thinks fit. The board may vary or terminate any such authorisation at any time.
- 6.4** For the purposes of this Article, a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties, and interest includes both direct and indirect interests.

7 Confidential information and attendance at board meetings

- 7.1** 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 of the company and in respect of which he owes a duty of confidentiality to another person. 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 Act because he:

- (a) fails to disclose any such information to the board or to any director or other officer or employee of the company, and/or
- (b) does not use or apply any such information in performing his duties as a director of the company.

However, to the extent that his relationship with that other person gives rise to a conflict of interest or possible conflict of interest, this Article 7.1 applies only if the existence of that relationship has been authorised by the board pursuant to Article 6.1.

7.2 Where the existence of a director's relationship with another person has been authorised by the board pursuant to Article 6.1 and his relationship with that person gives rise to a conflict of interest or possible conflict of interest, 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 Act because he:

- (a) absents himself from meetings of the board 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 on his behalf,

for so long as he reasonably believes such conflict of interest (or possible conflict of interest) subsists.

7.3 The provisions of Articles 7.1 and 7.2 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
- (b) attending meetings or discussions or receiving documents and information as referred to in paragraph 7.2, in circumstances where such attendance or receiving such documents and information would otherwise be required under these Articles.

8 Declaration of interests in proposed or existing transactions or arrangements with the Company

8.1 A director who is in any way, directly or indirectly, interested in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the company shall declare the nature and extent of his interest to the other directors before the company enters into the transaction or arrangement.

8.2 A director who is in any way, directly or indirectly, interested in a transaction or arrangement that has been entered into by the company shall declare the nature and extent of his interest to the other directors as soon as is reasonably practicable, unless the interest has already been declared under Article 8.1 above.

8.3 Any declaration required by paragraph 8.1 or 8.2 must be made at a meeting of the directors or by notice in writing in accordance with section 184 of the Act or by general notice in accordance with section 185 of the Act.

8.4 If a declaration made under paragraph 8.1 or 8.2 above proves to be, or becomes, inaccurate or incomplete, a further declaration must be made under paragraph 8.1 or 8.2, as appropriate.

8.5 A director need not declare an interest under this Article:

- (a) if it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest;
- (b) if, or to the extent that, the other directors are already aware of it (and for this purpose the other directors are treated as aware of anything of which they ought reasonably to be aware);
- (c) if, or to the extent that, it concerns terms of his service contract that have been or are to be considered by a meeting of the directors or by a committee of the directors appointed for the purpose under these Articles; or
- (d) if the director is not aware of his interest or is not aware of the transaction or arrangement in question (and for this purpose a director is treated as being aware of matters of which he ought reasonably to be aware).

9 Ability to enter into transactions and arrangements with the Company notwithstanding interest

9.1 Subject to the provisions of the Act and provided that he has declared to the board the nature and extent of any direct or indirect interest of his in accordance with this Article or where Article 8 applies and no declaration of interest is required, a director notwithstanding his office:

- (a) may be a party to, or otherwise be interested in, any transaction or arrangement with the company or in which the company is otherwise directly or indirectly interested;
- (b) may act by himself or through his firm in a professional capacity for the company (otherwise than as auditor), and in any such case on such terms as to remuneration and otherwise as the board may decide; and
- (c) may be a director or other officer of, or employed by, or a party to any transaction or arrangement with, or otherwise be interested in, any body corporate in which the company is otherwise directly or indirectly interested.

10 Remuneration and benefits

10.1 A director shall not, by reason of his office, be accountable to the company for any remuneration or other benefit which he derives from any office or employment or from any transaction or arrangement or from any interest in any body corporate:

- (a) the acceptance, entry into or existence of which has been authorised by the board pursuant to Article 6.1 (subject, in any such case, to any terms upon which such authorisation was given); or
- (b) which he is permitted to hold or enter into by virtue of Article 9 or otherwise pursuant to these Articles,

nor shall the receipt of any such remuneration or other benefit constitute a breach of his duty under section 176 of the Act No transaction or arrangement authorised or permitted pursuant

to Articles 6.1 or 9 or otherwise pursuant to these Articles shall be liable to be avoided on the ground of any such interest or benefit.

11 General voting and quorum requirements

11.1 Save as otherwise provided by these Articles, a director shall not vote at a meeting of the board or of a committee of the board on any resolution concerning a matter in which he has a direct or indirect interest which is, to his knowledge, a material interest (otherwise than by virtue of his interest in shares or debentures or other securities of or otherwise in or through the company), but this prohibition does not apply to a resolution concerning any of the following matters:

- (a) the giving of a guarantee, security or indemnity in respect of money lent or obligations incurred by him or any other person at the request of or for the benefit of the company;
- (b) the giving of a guarantee, security or indemnity in respect of a debt or obligation of the company for which the director has assumed responsibility in whole or in part, either alone or jointly with others, under a guarantee or indemnity or by the giving of security;
- (c) a transaction or arrangement concerning an offer of shares, debentures or other securities of the company for subscription or purchase, in which offer he is or may be entitled to participate as a holder of securities or in the underwriting or sub-underwriting of which he is to participate;
- (d) a transaction or arrangement to which the company is or is to be a party concerning another company in which he or any person connected with him is interested (directly or indirectly) whether as an officer, shareholder, creditor or otherwise (a "relevant company"), if he and any persons connected with him do not to his knowledge hold an interest in shares (as that term is used in sections 820 to 825 of the Act) representing one per cent or more of either any class of the equity share capital (excluding any shares of that class held as treasury shares) in the relevant company or of the voting rights available to members of the relevant company;
- (e) a transaction or arrangement for the benefit of the employees of the company (including any pension fund or retirement, death or disability scheme) which does not award him a privilege or benefit not generally awarded to the employees to whom it relates; and
- (f) a transaction or arrangement concerning the purchase or maintenance of any insurance policy for the benefit of directors or for the benefit of persons including directors.

11.2 A director may not vote on or be counted in the quorum in relation to a resolution of the board or committee of the board concerning his own appointment (including, without limitation, fixing or varying the terms of his appointment or its termination) as the holder of an office or place of profit with the company or any company in which the company is interested Where proposals are under consideration concerning the appointment (including, without limitation, fixing or varying the terms of appointment or its termination) of two or more directors to offices or places of profit with the company or a company in which the company is interested, such proposals shall be divided and a separate resolution considered in relation to each director In that case, each of the directors concerned (if not otherwise debarred from voting

under this Article) is entitled to vote (and be counted in the quorum) in respect of each resolution except that concerning his own appointment.

11.3 If a question arises at a meeting as to the materiality of a director's interest (other than the interest of the chairman of the meeting) or as to the entitlement of a director (other than the chairman) to vote or be counted in a quorum and the question is not resolved by his voluntarily agreeing to abstain from voting or being counted in the quorum, the question shall be referred to the chairman and his ruling in relation to the director concerned is conclusive and binding on all concerned.

11.4 If a question arises at a meeting as to the materiality of the interest of the chairman of the meeting or as to the entitlement of the chairman to vote or be counted in a quorum and the question is not resolved by his voluntarily agreeing to abstain from voting or being counted in the quorum, the question shall be decided by resolution of the directors or committee members present at the meeting (excluding the chairman) whose majority vote is conclusive and binding on all concerned.

11.5 For the purposes of this Article 11, in relation to an alternate director, the interest of his appointor is treated as the interest of the alternate director in addition to any interest which the alternate director otherwise has. This Article 11 applies to an alternate director as if he were a director otherwise appointed.

12 Miscellaneous

12.1 Subject to the Act, the company may by ordinary resolution suspend or relax the provisions of Articles 6 to 11 to any extent or ratify any transaction or arrangement not properly authorised by reason of a contravention of Articles 6 to 11.

13 Records of decisions to be kept

Where decisions of the directors are taken by electronic means, such decisions shall be recorded by the directors in permanent form, so that they may be read with the naked eye.

14 Number of directors

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, the number of directors (other than alternate directors) shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less than two.

15 Appointment of directors

In any case where, as a result of death or bankruptcy, the company has no shareholders and no directors, the transmittee(s) of the last shareholder to have died or to have a bankruptcy order made against him (as the case may be) have the right, by notice in writing, to appoint a natural person (including a transmittee who is a natural person), who is willing to act and is permitted to do so, to be a director.

16 Appointment and removal of alternate directors

16.1 Any director ("appointor") may appoint as an alternate any other director, or any other person approved by resolution 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.

16.2 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.

16.3 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.

17 Rights and responsibilities of alternate directors

17.1 An alternate director may act as alternate director to more than one director and has the same rights in relation to any decision of the directors as the alternate's appointor.

17.2 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,

and, in particular (without limitation), each alternate director shall be entitled to receive notice of all meetings of directors and of all meetings of committees of directors of which his appointor is a member.

17.3 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 present (but only if that person's appointor is not participating);
- (b) may participate in a unanimous decision of the directors (but only if his appointor is an eligible director in relation to that decision, but does not participate); and
- (c) shall not be counted as more than one director for the purposes of Articles 17.3(a) and (b).

17.4 A director who is also an alternate director is entitled, in the absence of his appointor, to a separate vote on behalf of his appointor, in addition to his own vote on any decision of the directors (provided that his appointor is an eligible director in relation to that decision), but shall not count as more than one director for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present.

17.5 An alternate director may be paid expenses and may be indemnified by the company to the same extent as his appointor but shall not be 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.

18 Termination of alternate directorship

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.

19 Secretary

The directors may appoint any person who is willing to act as the secretary for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit and from time to time remove such person and, if the directors so decide, appoint a replacement, in each case by a decision of the directors.

Administrative arrangements

20 Means of communication to be used

20.1 Any notice, document or other information shall be deemed served on or delivered to the intended recipient:

- (a) if properly addressed and sent by prepaid United Kingdom first class post to an address in the United Kingdom, 48 hours after it was posted (or five business days after posting either to an address outside the United Kingdom or from outside the United Kingdom to an address within the United Kingdom, if (in each case) sent by reputable international overnight courier addressed to the intended recipient, provided that delivery in at least five business days was guaranteed at the time of sending and the sending party receives a confirmation of delivery from the courier service provider);
- (b) if properly addressed and delivered by hand, when it was given or left at the appropriate address;
- (c) if properly addressed and sent or supplied by electronic means, one hour after the document or information was sent or supplied; and
- (d) if sent or supplied by means of a website, when the material is first made available on the website or (if later) when the recipient receives (or is deemed to have received) notice of the fact that the material is available on the website.

For the purposes of this Article, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.

20.2 In proving that any notice, document or other information was properly addressed, it shall be sufficient to show that the notice, document or other information was delivered to an address permitted for the purpose by the Act.

21 Indemnity

21.1 To the extent permitted by the Act and without prejudice to any indemnity to which he may otherwise be entitled, every person who is or was a director or other officer of the company (other than any person (whether or not an officer of the company) engaged by the company as auditor) shall be and shall be kept indemnified out of the assets of the company against all costs, charges, losses and liabilities incurred by him (whether in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust by him or otherwise) in relation to the company or its affairs provided that such indemnity shall not apply in respect of any liability incurred by him:

- (a) to the company or to any associated company; or
- (b) to pay a fine imposed in criminal proceedings; or
- (c) to pay a sum payable to a regulatory authority by way of penalty in respect of non-compliance with any requirement of a regulatory nature (howsoever arising); or
- (d) in defending any criminal proceedings in which he is convicted; or
- (e) in defending any civil proceedings brought by the company, or an associated company, in which judgment is given against him, or
- (f) in connection with any application under any of the following provisions of the act in which the court refuses to grant him relief, namely:
 - (i) section 661(3) or 661(4) of the Act (acquisition of shares by innocent nominee); or
 - (ii) section 1157(1)-(3) of the Act (general power to grant relief in case of honest and reasonable conduct).

21.2 In Article 21.2(d), (e) or (f) the reference to a conviction, judgment or refusal of relief is a reference to once that has become final A conviction, judgment or refusal of relief becomes final:

- (a) if not appealed against, at the end of the period for bringing an appeal; or
- (b) if appealed against, at the time when the appeal (or any further appeal) is disposed of.

An appeal is disposed of:

- (i) if it is determined and the period for bringing any further appeal has ended; or
- (ii) if it is abandoned or otherwise ceases to have effect.

21.3 In Article 21, "**associated company**" has the meaning given in section 256 of the Act.

21.4 Without prejudice to Article 21.1 or to any indemnity to which a director may otherwise be entitled, and to the extent permitted by the Act and otherwise upon such terms and subject to such conditions as the board may in its absolute discretion think fit, the board shall have the power to make arrangements to provide a director with funds to meet expenditure incurred or to be incurred by him in defending any criminal or civil proceedings or in connection with an application under section 661(3) or 661(4) of the Act (acquisition of shares by innocent nominee) or section 1157 of the Act (general power to grant relief in case of honest and reasonable conduct) or in defending himself in an investigation by a regulatory

authority or against action proposed to be taken by a regulatory authority or to enable a director to avoid incurring any such expenditure.

21.5 Where at any meeting of the board or a committee of the board any arrangement falling within 21.4 above is to be considered, a director shall be entitled to vote and be counted in the quorum at such meeting unless the terms of such arrangement confers upon such director a benefit not generally available to any other director, in that event, the interest of such director in such arrangement shall be deemed to be a material interest for the purposes of Article 11.1 and he shall not be so entitled to vote or be counted in the quorum.

21.6 To the extent permitted by the Act, the board may exercise all the powers of the company to purchase and maintain insurance for the benefit of a person who is or was:

- (a) a director, alternate director, secretary or auditor of the company or of a company which is or was a subsidiary undertaking of the company or in which the company has or had an interest (whether direct or indirect); or
- (b) trustee of a retirement benefits scheme or other trust in which a person referred to in Article 21.6(b) above is or has been interested;

indemnifying him and keeping him indemnified against liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust or other liability which may lawfully be insured against by the company.

22 Insurance

22.1 The directors may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the company, for the benefit of any relevant officer in respect of any relevant loss.

22.2 In this Article:

- (a) a "**relevant officer**" means any director or other officer or former director or other officer of the company or an associated company (including any company which is a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined by section 235(6) of the Act), but excluding in each case any person engaged by the company (or associated company) as auditor (whether or not he is also a director or other officer), to the extent he acts in his capacity as auditor);
- (b) a "**relevant loss**" means any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant officer in connection with that relevant officer's duties or powers in relation to the company, any associated company or any pension fund or employees' share scheme of the company or associated company; and
- (c) companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.

23 Transfer of shares

23.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these articles, the directors of the company will register any transfer of shares and may not suspend registration of such shares where such transfer:

- (a) is to:
 - (i) a bank or financial institution or to a trust, fund or other entity which is regularly engaged in or established for the purpose of making, purchasing or

investing in loans, securities or other financial assets or to an affiliate thereof (any such entity a **"Secured Party"**) or an agent or trustee for any Secured Party where a security interest has been or is purported to be granted over those shares (each a **"Security"**) that benefits a Secured Party; and/or

(ii) a company or other entity to whom such shares are transferred at the direction of a Secured Party and/or any administrative receiver, administrator, receiver or receiver and manager or similar entity (a **"Receiver"**) pursuant to powers granted to it under the Security; and

(b) is delivered to the Company for registration to enforce, perfect or protect any Security of a Secured Party; or

(c) is executed by a Secured Party or Receiver pursuant to a power of sale or other such power under any Security.

23.2 A certificate by any officer of such Secured Party that the shares were subject to Security shall be conclusive evidence of such fact.

23.3 If there is any inconsistency between any provision of this article 23 and any provisions of any other article, the provisions of this article 23 shall apply.