

**COMPANIES ACT 2006**

**A PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**of**

**SPIRE THAMES VALLEY HOSPITAL LIMITED**

**adopted by special resolution passed on 7 May 2021**

**PRELIMINARY**

**Table A** 1. The regulations in Table A in the schedule to the Companies (Table A to F) Regulations 1985 as amended before the date of adoption of these articles (*Table A*) apply to the company except to the extent that they are excluded or modified by these articles.

**Table A  
exclusions** 2. The following parts of Table A do not apply to the company:

- (a) in regulation 1, the final paragraph and the definitions of *the articles*, *communication*, *electronic communication*, *executed* and *the seal*;
- (b) regulation 8;
- (c) regulation 24;
- (d) regulations 60 and 61;
- (e) regulation 62;
- (f) regulation 63;
- (g) regulation 64;
- (h) regulations 65, 67 and 68;
- (i) regulation 72;
- (j) regulations 76 to 79 inclusive;

- (k) regulations 85 and 86;
- (l) regulations 88, 89 and 90;
- (m) regulation 93;
- (n) regulations 94 to 98 inclusive;
- (o) regulation 101;
- (p) regulations 111, 112, 113, 115 and 116; and
- (q) regulation 118.

**Construction**

3. In these articles:

- (a) **address** includes a number or address used for the purposes of sending or receiving documents or information by electronic means;
- (b) **articles** means these articles of association incorporating Table A (as applicable to the company), as altered from time to time by special resolution;
- (c) **auditors** means the auditors of the company;
- (d) **Companies Acts** has the meaning given by section 2 of the Companies Act 2006 and includes any enactment passed after those Acts which may, by virtue of that or any other such enactment, be cited together with those Acts as the "Companies Acts" (with or without the addition of an indication of the date of any such enactment);
- (e) **director** means a director of the company and **the directors** means the directors or any of them acting as the board of directors of the company;
- (f) **dividend** means dividend or bonus;
- (g) **electronic copy, electronic form and electronic means** have the meanings given to them by section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;
- (h) **hard copy and hard copy form** have the meanings given to them by section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;
- (i) **paid** means paid or credited as paid;
- (j) **seal** means the common seal of the company and includes any official seal kept by the company by virtue of section 39 or 40 of the Companies Act 1985;
- (k) references to a document or information being sent, supplied or given to or by a person mean such document or information, or a copy of such document or information, being sent, supplied, given, delivered, issued or made available to or by, or served on or by, or deposited with or by that person by any method

authorised by these articles, and sending, supplying and giving shall be construed accordingly;

- (l) references to writing mean the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether in electronic form or otherwise, and written shall be construed accordingly;
- (m) words denoting the singular number include the plural number and vice versa, words denoting the masculine gender include the feminine gender and words denoting persons include corporations;
- (n) words or expressions contained in these articles which are not defined in these articles but are defined in the Act have the same meaning as in the Act (but excluding any modification of the Act not in force at the date of adoption of these Articles) unless inconsistent with the subject or context;
- (o) subject to paragraph (n), references to any provision of any enactment or of any subordinate legislation (as defined by section 21(1) of the Interpretation Act 1978) include any modification or re-enactment of that provision for the time being in force;
- (p) headings and marginal notes are inserted for convenience only and do not affect the construction of these articles;
- (q) powers of delegation shall not be restrictively construed but the widest interpretation shall be given to them;
- (r) the word *directors* in the context of the exercise of any power contained in these articles includes any committee consisting of one or more directors, any director holding executive office and any local or divisional directors, manager or agent of the company to which or, as the case may be, to whom the power in question has been delegated;
- (s) no power of delegation shall be limited by the existence or, except where expressly provided by the terms of delegation, the exercise of that or any other power of delegation; and
- (t) except where expressly provided by the terms of delegation, the delegation of a power shall not exclude the concurrent exercise of that power by any other body or person who is for the time being authorised to exercise it under these articles or under another delegation of the power.

**Single member**

4. If at any time and for so long as the company has a single member, all the provisions of these articles shall (in the absence of any express provision to the contrary) apply with such modification as may be necessary in relation to a company with a single member.

## SHARE CAPITAL

- Shares with special rights** 5. Regulation 2 of Table A is amended by the addition at the end of the regulation of the words “or, subject to and in default of such determination, as the directors shall determine”.
- Section 80 authority** 6. [DELETED]
- Section 89 exclusion** 7. The pre-emption provisions in section 89(1) of the Companies Act 1985 and the provisions of sub-sections 90(1) to 90(6) inclusive of the Companies Act 1985 shall not apply to any allotment of the company’s equity securities.
- Allotment after expiry** 8. Before the expiry of the authority granted by article 6 the company may make an offer or agreement which would or might require relevant securities to be allotted after that expiry and the directors may allot relevant securities in pursuance of that offer or agreement as if that authority had not expired.
- Residual allotment powers** 9. Subject to the provisions of articles 6, 7 and 8, regulation 3 of Table A, the provisions of the Act and to any resolution of the company in general meeting passed pursuant to those provisions:
- (a) all unissued shares for the time being in the capital of the company (whether forming part of the original or any increased share capital) shall be at the disposal of the directors; and
  - (b) the directors may allot (with or without conferring a right of renunciation), grant options over, or otherwise dispose of them to such persons on such terms and conditions and at such times as they think fit.

## SHARE CERTIFICATES

- Execution of certificates** 10. In the second sentence of regulation 6 of Table A, the words “sealed with the seal” are deleted and replaced by the words “executed under the seal or otherwise in accordance with the Act or in such other manner as the directors may approve”.

## TRANSFER OF SHARES

- Registration of transfer** 11. The directors may, in their absolute discretion, refuse to register the transfer of a share to any person, whether or not it is fully paid or a share on which the company has a lien.
12. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the directors shall not decline to register any transfer of shares, nor may they suspend registration thereof, where such transfer:

- (a) is to any bank, institution or other person to which shares have been charged by way of security, or to any nominee of such a bank, institution or other person (or a person acting as agent or security trustee for such person) (a *Secured Institution*); or
- (b) is delivered to the company for registration by a Secured Institution or its nominee in order to perfect its security over the shares; or
- (c) is executed by a Secured Institution or its nominee pursuant to a power of sale or other power existing under such security,

and the directors shall forthwith register any such transfer of shares upon receipt and furthermore notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in these Articles no transferor of any shares in the company or proposed transferor of such shares to a Secured Institution or its nominee and no Secured Institution or its nominee shall (in either such case) be required to offer the shares which are or are to be the subject of any transfer as aforesaid to the shareholders for the time being of the company or any of them and no such shareholder shall have any right under the articles or otherwise howsoever to require such shares to be transferred to them for any valuable consideration or otherwise.

#### VOTES OF MEMBERS

Appointment of  
proxy: execution

13. The appointment of a proxy, whether in hard copy form or electronic form, shall be executed in such manner as the directors may approve. Subject thereto, the appointment of a proxy shall be executed by the appointor or his attorney or, if the appointor is a corporation, executed by a duly authorised officer, attorney or other authorised person or under its common seal.

Form of proxy

14. The appointment of a proxy shall be made in writing and shall be in any usual form or in any other form which the directors may approve. Subject thereto, the appointment of a proxy may be:

- (a) in hard copy form; or
- (b) in electronic form, if the company agrees.

The directors may, if they think fit, but subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, at the company's expense send hard copy forms of proxy for use at the meeting and issue invitations in electronic form to appoint a proxy in relation to the meeting in such form as may be approved by the directors. The appointment of a proxy shall not preclude a member from attending and voting in person at the meeting or poll concerned. A member may appoint more than one proxy to attend on the same occasion, provided that each such proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to a different share or shares held by that member.

Delivery/receipt  
of proxy  
appointment

15. The appointment of a proxy shall:

- (a) if in hard copy form, be delivered by hand or by post to the registered office or such other place within the United Kingdom as may be specified by or on behalf of the company for that purpose:

- (i) in the notice convening the meeting, or
  - (ii) in any form of proxy sent by or on behalf of the company in relation to the meeting,

before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote; or

- (b) if in electronic form, be received at any address to which the appointment of a proxy may be sent by electronic means pursuant to a provision of the Companies Acts or to any other address specified by or on behalf of the company for the purpose of receiving the appointment of a proxy in electronic form:

- (i) in the notice convening the meeting, or
  - (ii) in any form of proxy sent by or on behalf of the company in relation to the meeting, or
  - (iii) in any invitation to appoint a proxy issued by or on behalf of the company in relation to the meeting,

before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote; or

- (c) in either case, where a poll is taken more than 48 hours after it is demanded, be delivered or received as aforesaid after the poll has been demanded and before the time appointed for the taking of the poll; or
- (d) if in hard copy form, where the poll is not taken forthwith but is taken not more than 48 hours after it was demanded, be delivered at the meeting at which the poll was demanded to the chairman or to the secretary or to any director;

and any proxy appointment which is not delivered or received in a manner so permitted shall be invalid.

**Receipt of  
authority**

16. Where the appointment of a proxy is expressed to have been or purports to have been made, sent or supplied by a person on behalf of the holder of a share:

- (a) the company may treat the appointment as sufficient evidence of the authority of that person to make, send or supply the appointment on behalf of that holder;
- (b) that holder shall, if requested by or on behalf of the company at any time, send or procure the sending of any written authority under which the appointment has been made, sent or supplied or a copy of such authority certified notari- ally

or in some other way approved by the directors, to such address and by such time as may be specified in the request and, if the request is not complied with in any respect, the appointment may be treated as invalid; and

- (c) whether or not a request under article 16(b) has been made or complied with, the company may determine that it has insufficient evidence of the authority of that person to make, send or supply the appointment on behalf of that holder and may treat the appointment as invalid.

**Revocation of  
authority**

17. A vote given or poll demanded by proxy or by the duly authorised representative of a corporation shall be valid notwithstanding the previous determination of the authority of the person voting or demanding the poll unless notice of the determination was delivered or received as mentioned in the following sentence before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote is given or the poll demanded or (in the case of a poll taken otherwise than on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting) the time appointed for taking the poll. Such notice of determination shall be either in hard copy form delivered to the office or such other place within the United Kingdom as may be specified by or on behalf of the company in accordance with article 15(a) or in electronic form received at the address (if any) specified by the company in accordance with article 15(b), regardless of whether any relevant proxy appointment was effected in hard copy form or in electronic form.

**Rights of proxy**

18. A proxy appointment shall be deemed to entitle the proxy to exercise all or any of the appointing member's rights to attend and to speak and vote at a meeting of the company. The proxy appointment shall, unless it provides to the contrary, be valid for any adjournment of the meeting as well as for the meeting to which it relates.

**NUMBER OF DIRECTORS**

**Number of  
directors**

19. Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, the number of directors (other than alternate directors) shall be not less than one but shall not be subject to any maximum in number. A sole director may exercise all the powers and discretions expressed by these articles to be vested in the directors generally.

**ALTERNATE DIRECTORS**

**Power to  
appoint  
alternates**

20. A director (other than an alternate director) may appoint any person willing to act, whether or not he is a director of the company, to be an alternate director and may remove from office an alternate director so appointed by him.

**Alternates  
entitled to  
receive notice**

21. Regulation 66 of Table A shall be amended by the deletion of the last sentence.

**Alternates  
representing  
more than one  
director**

22. A director or any other person may act as alternate director to represent more than one director, and an alternate director shall be entitled at meetings of the directors or any committee of the directors to one vote for every director whom he represents (and who is not present) in addition to his own vote (if any) as a director, but he shall count as only one for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present.

**Expenses and remuneration of alternates**

23. An alternate director may be repaid by the company such expenses as might properly have been repaid to him if he had been a director but shall not be entitled to receive any remuneration from the company in respect of his services as an alternate director except such part (if any) of the remuneration otherwise payable to his appointor as such appointor may by notice in writing to the company from time to time direct. An alternate director shall be entitled to be indemnified by the company to the same extent as if he were a director.

**Termination of appointment**

24. An alternate director shall cease to be an alternate director:

- (a) if his appointor ceases to be a director; or
- (b) if his appointor revokes his appointment pursuant to article 20; or
- (c) on the happening of any event which, if he were a director, would cause him to vacate his office as director; or
- (d) if he resigns his office by notice to the company.

**Method of appointment and revocation**

25. Any appointment or removal of an alternate director shall be by notice to the company by the director making or revoking the appointment and shall take effect in accordance with the terms of the notice on receipt of such notice by the company which shall be in hard copy form or in electronic form sent to such address (if any) for the time being specified by or on behalf of the company for that purpose, or, in default of such specification, to the office.

**POWERS OF DIRECTORS**

**Exercise by company of voting rights**

26. The directors may exercise the voting power conferred by the shares in any body corporate held or owned by the company in such manner in all respects as they think fit (including without limitation the exercise of that power in favour of any resolution appointing its members or any of them directors of such body corporate, or voting or providing for the payment of remuneration to the directors of such body corporate).

**DELEGATION OF DIRECTORS' POWERS**

**Committees of the directors**

27. The directors may delegate any of their powers to any committee consisting of one or more directors. The directors may also delegate to any director holding any executive office such of their powers as the directors consider desirable to be exercised by him. Any such delegation shall, in the absence of express provision to the contrary in the terms of delegation, be deemed to include authority to sub-delegate all or any of the powers delegated to one or more directors (whether or not acting as a committee) or to any employee or agent of the company. Any such delegation may be made subject to such conditions as the directors may specify, and may be revoked or altered. The directors may co-opt persons other than directors on to any such committee. Such co-opted persons may enjoy voting rights in the committee. The co-opted members shall be less than one-half of the total membership of the committee and a resolution of any committee shall be effective only if a majority of the members present are directors. Subject to any conditions imposed by the directors,



the proceedings of a committee with two or more members shall be governed by these articles regulating the proceedings of directors so far as they are capable of applying.

Offices  
including the  
title "director"

28. The directors may appoint any person to any office or employment having a designation or title including the word "director" or attach such a designation or title to any existing office or employment with the company and may terminate any such appointment or the use of any such designation or title. The inclusion of the word "director" in the designation or title of any such office or employment shall not imply that the holder is a director of the company, and the holder shall not thereby be empowered in any respect to act as, or be deemed to be, a director of the company for any of the purposes of these articles.

#### APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS

Appointment  
and removal by  
majority  
shareholder(s)

29. The holder or holders of more than half in nominal value of the shares giving the right to attend and vote at a general meeting of the company (the *appointor* or, if more than one, *appointors*) may at any time and from time to time appoint any person who is willing to act to be a director, either to fill a vacancy or as an additional director, and remove any director from office. Any appointment or removal of a director under this article shall be by notice to the company executed by or on behalf of the appointor/each of the appointors and shall take effect in accordance with the terms of the notice on receipt of such notice by the company which shall be in hard copy form or in electronic form sent to such address (if any) for the time being specified by or on behalf of the company for that purpose, or, in default of such specification, to the office.

The notice may consist of several hard copies or several electronic copies, each executed by or on behalf of one or more of the appointors, or a combination of both.

Appointment by  
the directors

30. The directors shall also have power to appoint any person who is willing to act to be a director, either to fill a vacancy or as an addition to the existing directors, subject to any maximum for the time being in force, and any director so appointed shall hold office until he is removed in accordance with article 29 or under regulation 81 of Table A (as amended by these articles).

Retirement by  
rotation

31. The directors shall not be subject to retirement by rotation and all references in Table A to retirement by rotation are modified accordingly.

#### DISQUALIFICATION OF DIRECTORS

Disqualification  
as a director

32. Regulation 81 of Table A is amended by adding before the final full stop the following words:

“ ; or

(f) he is removed in accordance with article 29; or

(g) he is requested to resign in writing by not less than three quarters of the other directors. In calculating the number of directors who are required to make such a request to the director, (i) an alternate director

appointed by him acting in his capacity as such shall be excluded; and  
(ii) a director and any alternate director appointed by him and acting in his capacity as such shall constitute a single director for this purpose, so that the signature of either shall be sufficient”

#### **DIRECTORS' APPOINTMENTS AND INTERESTS**

Authorisation  
under s175 of  
the Companies  
Act 2006

33. For the purposes of section 175 of the Companies Act 2006, the directors may authorise any matter proposed to them in accordance with these articles which would, if not so authorised, involve a breach of duty by a director under that section, including, without limitation, any matter which relates to a situation in which a director has, or can have, an interest which conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interests of the company. Any such authorisation will be effective only if:

- (a) any requirement as to quorum at the meeting at which the matter is considered is met without counting the director in question or any other interested director; and
- (b) the matter was agreed to without their voting or would have been agreed to if their votes had not been counted.

The directors may (whether at the time of the giving of the authorisation or subsequently) make any such authorisation subject to any limits or conditions they expressly impose but such authorisation is otherwise given to the fullest extent permitted. The directors may vary or terminate any such authorisation at any time.

For the purposes of the articles, a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties, and interest includes both direct and indirect interests.

Director may  
contract with  
the company  
and hold other  
offices etc

34. Provided that he has disclosed to the directors the nature and extent of his interest (unless the circumstances referred to in section 177(5) or section 177(6) of the Companies Act 2006 apply, in which case no such disclosure is required) 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 (directly or indirectly) interested;
- (b) may act by himself or his firm in a professional capacity for the company (otherwise than as auditor) and he or his firm shall be entitled to remuneration for professional services as if he were not a director; and
- (c) may be a director or other officer of, or employed by, or a party to a transaction or arrangement with, or otherwise interested in, any body corporate:
  - (i) in which the company is (directly or indirectly) interested as shareholder or otherwise; or

- (ii) which is the parent undertaking of the company or a subsidiary undertaking of any parent undertaking of the company; or
- (iii) with which he has such a relationship at the request or direction of the company or any parent undertaking of the company or a subsidiary undertaking of any parent undertaking of the company.

**Remuneration, benefits etc.**

35. 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 approved by the directors pursuant to article 33 (subject, in any such case, to any limits or conditions to which such approval was subject); or
- (b) which he is permitted to hold or enter into by virtue of paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of article 34;

nor shall the receipt of any such remuneration or other benefit constitute a breach of his duty under section 176 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Notification of interests**

36. Any disclosure required by article 34 may be made at a meeting of the directors, by notice in writing or by general notice or otherwise in accordance with section 177 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Duty of confidentiality to another person**

37. 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. 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 applies only if the existence of that relationship has been approved by the directors pursuant to article 33. 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 or apply any such information in performing his duties as a director of the company.

**Consequences of authorisation**

38. Where the existence of a director's relationship with another person has been approved by the directors pursuant to article 33 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 Companies Act 2006 because he:

- (a) absents himself from meetings of the directors 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.

Without  
prejudice to  
equitable  
principles or  
rule of law

39. The provisions of articles 37 and 38 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 article 38, in circumstances where such attendance or receiving such documents and information would otherwise be required under these articles.

#### **BENEFITS AND INSURANCE**

Insurance

40. Without prejudice to the provisions of article 65, the directors may exercise all the powers of the company to purchase and maintain insurance for or for the benefit of any person who is or was:

- (a) a director, other officer, employee or auditor of the company, or any body which is or was the holding company or subsidiary undertaking of the company, or in which the company or such holding company or subsidiary undertaking has or had any interest (whether direct or indirect) or with which the company or such holding company or subsidiary undertaking is or was in any way allied or associated; or
- (b) a trustee of any pension fund in which employees of the company or any other body referred to in article 40(a) is or has been interested,

including without limitation insurance against any liability incurred by such person in respect of any act or omission in the actual or purported execution or discharge of his duties or in the exercise or purported exercise of his powers or otherwise in relation to his duties, powers or offices in relation to the relevant body or fund.

Directors not  
liable to account

41. Without prejudice to the generality of article 35, no director or former director shall be accountable to the company or the members for any benefit provided pursuant to regulation 87 of Table A or article 40. The receipt of any such benefit shall not disqualify any person from being or becoming a director of the company.

Section 719 of  
the Companies  
Act 1985

42. Pursuant to section 719 of the Companies Act 1985, the directors are hereby authorised to make such provision as may seem appropriate for the benefit of any persons employed or formerly employed by the company or any of its subsidiary undertakings in connection with the cessation or the transfer of the whole or part of

the undertaking of the company or any subsidiary undertaking. Any such provision shall be made by a resolution of the directors in accordance with section 719.

### PROCEEDINGS OF DIRECTORS

#### Convening meetings

43. Subject to the provisions of these articles, the directors may regulate their proceedings as they think fit. A director may, and the secretary at the request of a director shall, call a meeting of the directors by giving notice of the meeting to each director. Notice of a meeting of the directors shall be deemed to be properly sent to a director if it is sent to him personally or by word of mouth, or sent in hard copy form to him at his last known address or such other address (if any) as may for the time being be specified by him or on his behalf to the company for that purpose, or sent in electronic form to such address (if any) as may for the time being be specified by him or on his behalf to the company for that purpose. A director absent or intending to be absent from the United Kingdom may request the directors that notices of directors' meetings shall during his absence be sent in hard copy form to him at such address (if any) as may for the time being be specified by him or on his behalf to the company for that purpose, or sent in electronic form to such address (if any) as may for the time being be specified by him or on his behalf to the company for that purpose, but such notices need not be sent any earlier than notices sent to directors not so absent and, if no such request is made to the directors, it shall not be necessary to give notice of a directors' meeting to any director who is for the time being absent from the United Kingdom. No account is to be taken of directors absent from the United Kingdom when considering the adequacy of the period of notice of the meeting. Any director may waive notice of a meeting and any such waiver may be retrospective. Any notice pursuant to this article need not be in writing if the directors so determine.

#### Voting

44. Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

#### Quorum

45. The quorum for the transaction of the business of the directors may be fixed by the directors and unless so fixed at any other number shall be two, except when there is only one director. If there is only one director, he may exercise all the powers and discretions conferred on directors by these articles. A person who holds office only as an alternate director shall, if his appointor is not present, be counted in the quorum. Any director who ceases to be a director at a directors' meeting may continue to be present and to act as a director and be counted in the quorum until the termination of the directors' meeting if no director objects.

#### Meetings by telephone, etc.

46. Without prejudice to the first sentence of article 43, a person entitled to be present at a meeting of the directors or of a committee of the directors shall be deemed to be present for all purposes if he is able (directly or by telephonic communication) to speak to and be heard by all those present or deemed to be present simultaneously. A director so deemed to be present shall be entitled to vote and be counted in a quorum accordingly. Such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where it is convened to be held or (if no director is present in that place) where the largest group of those participating is assembled, or, if there is no such group, where the chairman of the meeting is. The word *meeting* in these articles shall be construed accordingly.

**Resolutions in writing**

47. A resolution in writing agreed to by all the directors entitled to vote at a meeting of the directors or of a committee of the directors (not being less than the number of directors required to form a quorum) shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the directors or (as the case may be) a committee of the directors duly convened and held. For this purpose:

- (a) a director signifies his agreement to a proposed written resolution when the company receives from him a document indicating his agreement to the resolution authenticated in the manner permitted by the Companies Acts for a document in the relevant form;
- (b) the director may send the document in hard copy form or in electronic form to such address (if any) for the time being specified by the company for that purpose, or in default of such specification to the office;
- (c) if an alternate director signifies his agreement to the proposed written resolution, his appointor need not also signify his agreement; and
- (d) if a director signifies his agreement to the proposed written resolution, an alternate director appointed by him need not also signify his agreement in that capacity.

**Directors' power to vote on contracts in which they are interested**

48. Subject to the Act and without prejudice to his obligations of disclosure under the Act and these articles, a director may vote at any meeting of the directors or of a committee of the directors on, and be counted in the quorum present at a meeting in relation to, any resolution concerning a transaction or arrangement with the company or in which the company is interested, or concerning any other matter in which the company is interested, notwithstanding that he is interested in that transaction, arrangement or matter or has in relation to it a duty which conflicts or may conflict with the interests of the company.

**SECRETARY**

49. Regulation 99 of Table A is amended by inserting after the words "Subject to the provisions of the Act," the words "the directors may decide from time to time whether the company should have a secretary and, if they so decide,". In these articles references to the secretary shall be construed accordingly.

**THE SEAL, DEEDS AND CERTIFICATION**

**Authority required for execution of deed**

50. The seal shall only be used by the authority of a resolution of the directors. The directors may determine who shall sign any instrument executed under the seal. If they do not, it shall be signed by at least one director and the secretary or by at least two directors. Any document may be executed under the seal by impressing the seal by mechanical means or by printing the seal or a facsimile of it on the document or by applying the seal or a facsimile of it by any other means to the document. A document signed, with the authority of a resolution of the directors, in accordance with section 44(2) of the Companies Act 2006 and expressed (in whatever form of words) to be executed by the company has the same effect as if executed under the seal.

Official seal for  
use abroad

51. The company may exercise the powers conferred by section 39 of the Companies Act 1985 with regard to having an official seal for use abroad.

Certified copies

52. Any director or the secretary or any person appointed by the directors for the purpose shall have power to authenticate and certify as true copies of and extracts from:

- (a) any document comprising or affecting the constitution of the company, whether in hard copy form or in electronic form;
- (b) any resolution passed by the company, the holders of any class of shares in the capital of the company, the directors or any committee of the directors, whether in hard copy form or in electronic form; and
- (c) any book, record and document relating to the business of the company, whether in hard copy form or in electronic form (including, without limitation, the accounts).

If certified in this way, a document purporting to be a copy of a resolution, or the minutes of or an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the company, the holders of any class of shares in the capital of the company, the directors or a committee of the directors, whether in hard copy form or in electronic form, shall be conclusive evidence in favour of all persons dealing with the company in reliance on it or them that the resolution was duly passed or that the minutes are, or the extract from the minutes is, a true and accurate record of proceedings at a duly constituted meeting.

#### RECORD DATES

Record dates for  
dividends, etc.

53. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the company or the directors may fix any date as the record date for any dividend, distribution, allotment or issue, which may be on or at any time before or after any date on which the dividend, distribution, allotment or issue is declared, paid or made.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Form of notice

54. Any notice to be sent to or by any person pursuant to these articles (other than a notice calling a meeting of the directors) shall be in writing.

Method of  
giving notice to  
member

55. Subject to article 54 and unless otherwise provided by these articles, the company shall send or supply a document or information that is required or authorised to be sent or supplied to a member or any other person by the company by a provision of the Companies Acts or pursuant to these articles or to any other rules or regulations to which the company may be subject in such form and by such means as it may in its absolute discretion determine provided that the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 which apply to sending or supplying a document or information required or authorised to be sent or supplied by the Companies Acts shall, the necessary changes having been made, also apply to sending or supplying any document or information required or authorised to be sent by these articles or any other rules or regulations to which the company may be subject.

Methods of  
member etc  
sending  
document or  
information

56. Subject to article 54 and unless otherwise provided by these articles, a member or a person entitled by transmission to a share shall send a document or information pursuant to these articles to the company in such form and by such means as it may in its absolute discretion determine provided that:

- (a) the determined form and means are permitted by the Companies Acts for the purpose of sending or supplying a document or information of that type to a company pursuant to a provision of the Companies Acts; and
- (b) unless the directors otherwise permit, any applicable condition or limitation specified in the Companies Acts, including without limitation as to the address to which the document or information may be sent, is satisfied.

Unless otherwise provided by these articles or required by the directors, such document or information shall be authenticated in the manner specified by the Companies Acts for authentication of a document or information sent in the relevant form.

Deemed receipt  
of notice

57. A member present, either in person or by proxy, at any meeting of the company or of the holders of any class of shares in the capital of the company shall be deemed to have been sent notice of the meeting and, where requisite, of the purposes for which it was called.

Terms and  
conditions for  
electronic means

58. The directors may from time to time issue, endorse or adopt terms and conditions relating to the use of electronic means for the sending of notices, other documents and proxy appointments by the company to members or persons entitled to a share in consequence of the death or bankruptcy of a member or otherwise by operation of law and by members or such persons entitled by transmission to the company.

Notice to joint  
holders

59. In the case of joint holders of a share, all documents and information shall be sent to the joint holder whose name stands first in the register in respect of the joint holding. Any document or information so sent shall be deemed for all purposes sent to all the joint holders.

Registered  
address outside  
UK

60. A member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the company an address within the United Kingdom at which a document or information may be sent to him in hard copy form or an address to which a document or information may be sent to him in electronic form shall (provided that, in the case of electronic copy, the company so agrees) be entitled to have documents or information sent to him at that address but otherwise:

- (a) no such member shall be entitled to receive any document or information from the company; and
- (b) without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, any notice of a general meeting of the company which is in fact sent or purports to be sent to such member shall be ignored for the purpose of determining the validity of the proceedings at such general meeting.



Proof of  
sending/when  
notices etc.  
deemed sent  
by post

61. Proof that a document or information sent in hard copy form was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the document or information was sent. A document or information sent by the company to a member by post shall be deemed to have been received:

- (a) if sent by first class post or special delivery post from an address in the United Kingdom to another address in the United Kingdom, or by a postal service similar to first class post or special delivery post from an address in another country to another address in that other country, on the day following that on which the document or information was posted;
- (b) if sent by airmail from an address in the United Kingdom to an address outside the United Kingdom, or from an address in another country to an address outside that country (including without limitation an address in the United Kingdom), on the third day following that on which the document or information was posted;
- (c) in any other case, on the second day following that on which the document or information was posted.

When notices  
etc. deemed sent  
by electronic  
means

62. Proof that a document or information sent or supplied by electronic means was properly addressed shall be conclusive evidence that the document or information was sent or supplied. A document or information sent or supplied by the company to a member by electronic means shall be deemed to have been received by the member on the day following that on which the document or information was sent to the member. Such document or information shall be deemed received by the member on that day notwithstanding that the company becomes aware that the member has failed to receive the relevant document or information for any reason and notwithstanding that the company subsequently sends a hard copy of such document or information by post to the member.

63. A document or information sent or supplied by the company to a member by means of a website shall be deemed to have been received by the member:

- (a) when the document or information was first made available on the website; or
- (b) if later, when the member is deemed by article 61 or 62 to have received notice of the fact that the document or information was available on the website. Such a document or information shall be deemed received by the member on that day notwithstanding that the company becomes aware that the member has failed to receive the relevant document or information for any reason and notwithstanding that the company subsequently sends a hard copy of such document or information by post to the member.

Notice to  
persons entitled  
by transmission

64. A document or information may be sent by the company to the person or persons entitled to a share in consequence of the death or bankruptcy of a member or by sending it in any manner the company may choose authorised by these articles for the sending of a document or information to a member, addressed to them by name, or by the title of representative of the deceased, or trustee of the bankrupt or by any similar description at the address (if any) within the United Kingdom as may be

supplied for that purpose by or on behalf of the person or persons claiming to be so entitled. Until such an address has been supplied, a document or information may be sent in any manner in which it might have been sent if the death or bankruptcy had not occurred.

#### **INDEMNITY**

**Indemnity to  
directors and  
officers**

65. Subject to the provisions of the Act, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which the person concerned may otherwise be entitled, every director or other officer of the company (other than any person (whether an officer or not) engaged by the company as auditor) shall be indemnified out of the assets of the company against any liability incurred by him for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the company, provided that this article shall be deemed not to provide for, or entitle any such person to, indemnification to the extent that it would cause this article, or any element of it, to be treated as void under the Act.