

# **Memorandum and Articles**

## **of Association**

of

### **BEFRIENDERS WORLDWIDE**

As amended by Special Resolution dated 17 November 2023

COMPANY NUMBER **07964782** LIMITED  
BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A  
SHARE CAPITAL

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

## **PART A. INTRODUCTION**

### **1 INTERPRETATION**

#### **1.1 In these Articles:**

"the Acts"	means the Companies Acts (as defined in Section 2 of the Companies Act 2006) insofar as they apply to the Charity and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force
"the Articles"	means these Articles of Association of the Charity
"the Board"	means the board of Trustees of the Charity and (where appropriate) includes a Committee and the Trustees acting by written resolution
"Board Meeting"	means a meeting of the Board
"Business Day"	means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday, bank holiday or public holiday
"Chair"	means (subject to the context) either the person elected as chair of the Charity under Article 27 or where the chair of the Charity is not present or has not taken the chair at a meeting means the person who is chairing a Board Meeting or General Meeting at the time
"Charity Commission"	means the Charity Commission for England and Wales
"Clear Days"	in relation to a period of notice means the period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect

"Committee"	means a committee of the Board exercising powers delegated to it by the Board
"Companies House"	means the office of the Registrar of Companies
"the Charity"	means the company intended to be regulated by the Articles
"Charity Member"	means a member for the time being of the Charity who is admitted under Article 6
"General Meeting"	means a meeting of Charity Members
"including"	means "including without limitation" and "include" and "includes" are to be construed accordingly
"the Memorandum"	means the Memorandum of Association of the Charity
"the Objects"	means the objects of the Charity set out in Article 3
"Observers"	means those persons (other than Trustees) present under Article 29 at a Board Meeting
"Regional Co-ordinators"	means those persons appointed to the position of regional coordinator for one of the Regions
"Regions"	means areas throughout the world, defined from time to time by the Board as "regions", in which the Charity operates
"Registered Office"	means the registered office of the Charity
"Secretary"	means the company secretary of the Charity including a joint, assistant or deputy company secretary
"Task Force"	means a body established by the Board to make recommendations to the Board but without decision-making powers
"Treasurer"	means the Trustee of the Charity appointed as the treasurer in accordance with these Articles
"Trustee"	means any director of the Charity who is appointed under Article 19
"Vice-Chair"	means a person elected as a Vice-Chair of the Charity under Article 27

## 1.2 In the Articles:

- 1.2.1 terms defined in the Act are to have the same meaning;
- 1.2.2 references to the singular include the plural and vice-versa and to the masculine include the feminine and neuter and vice-versa;
- 1.2.3 references to "organisations" or "persons" include corporate bodies, public bodies, unincorporated associations and partnerships;

- 1.2.4 references to legislation, regulations, determinations and directions include all amendments, replacements or re-enactments and references to legislation (where appropriate) include all regulations, determinations and directions made or given under it;
- 1.2.5 references to articles are to those within the Articles; and
- 1.2.6 headings are not to affect the interpretation of the Articles.
- 1.3 For the avoidance of doubt the system of law governing the Memorandum and the Articles is the law of England and Wales.
- 1.4 None of the model articles in the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 applies to the Charity.
- 1.5 Throughout the Articles "charitable" means charitable in accordance with the law of England and Wales provided that it will not include any purpose that is not charitable in accordance with Section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

## **2 NAME**

The name of the Charity is Befrienders Worldwide.

## **3 OBJECTS**

The Charity's Object for the public benefit is to improve the emotional and mental health of people who are experiencing feelings of distress and despair and to reduce the incidence of suicide by, but not limited to:-

- 3.1 encouraging worldwide the establishment and development of centres specialising in this work; and
- 3.2 identifying best practices and supporting and promoting the application of these practices by the centres.

## **4 POWERS**

The Charity may do anything that a natural or corporate person can lawfully do which is not expressly prohibited by the Articles in order to further the Objects (but not otherwise) and in particular it has powers:

### **Staff and Volunteers**

- 4.1 to employ staff or engage consultants and advisers on such terms as the Board thinks fit and to provide pensions to staff, their relatives and dependants;
- 4.2 to recruit or assist in recruiting and managing voluntary workers, including paying their reasonable expenses;

### **Property**

- 4.3 to purchase, lease, exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property rights or privileges (including shared or contingent interests);
- 4.4 to construct, alter, improve, convert, maintain, equip, furnish and/or demolish any buildings, structures or property;
- 4.5 to sell, lease, license, exchange, dispose of or otherwise deal with property (subject to the restrictions in the Charities Act 1993);
- 4.6 to provide accommodation for any other charitable organisation on such terms as the Board decides (including rent-free or at nominal or non-commercial rents) subject to the restrictions in the Charities Act 1993)

## Borrowing

- 4.7 to borrow and give security for loans;

## Grants and Loans

- 4.8 to make grants, donations or loans, to give guarantees and to give security for those guarantees (subject to the restrictions in the Charities Act 1993);

## Fund Raising

- 4.9 to raise funds, to invite and receive contributions;

## Trading

- 4.10 to trade in the course of carrying out the Objects and to charge for services;

## Publicity

- 4.11 to hold, conduct or promote meetings, conferences, lectures, exhibitions or training courses and to disseminate information to publicise the work of the Charity and other organisations operating in similar fields;

- 4.12 to promote or carry out research and publish the results of it;

## Contracts

- 4.13 to co-operate with and enter into contracts with any person;

## Bank or building society accounts

- 4.14 to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills, cheques and other instruments and to operate bank or building society accounts in the name of the Charity;

## Investments

- 4.15 to:-

4.15.1 deposit or invest funds;

4.15.2 employ a professional fund-manager; and

4.15.3 arrange for the investments or other property of the Charity to be held in the name of a nominee in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000.

## Insurance

- 4.16 to insure the assets of the Charity to such amount and on such terms as the Board decides, to pay premiums out of income or capital and to use any insurance proceeds as the Board decides (without necessarily having to restore the asset);

- 4.17 to insure, and to indemnify the Charity's employees and voluntary workers from and against all risks incurred in the proper performance of their duties;

- 4.18 to take out insurance to protect the Charity and those who use premises owned by or let or hired to the Charity;

- 4.19 to provide indemnity insurance for the Trustees in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 73F of the Charities Act 1993;

## Other Organisations

- 4.20 to establish, promote, assist or support (financially or otherwise) any trusts, companies, industrial and provident societies, associations or institutions which have purposes which include the Objects or to carry on any other relevant charitable purposes;
- 4.21 to co-operate or join with any charity, voluntary body or public or statutory authority or any other organisation in any location whatsoever in furthering the Objects or allied charitable purposes, to exchange information and advice and to undertake joint activities with them;
- 4.22 to amalgamate with any charity which has objects similar to the Objects;
- 4.23 to undertake and execute any charitable trusts;
- 4.24 to affiliate, register, subscribe to or join any organisation;
- 4.25 to act as agent or trustee for any organisation;

## Reserves

- 4.26 to accumulate income in order to set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure;

## Formation expenses

- 4.27 to pay the costs of forming the Charity and of complying with all relevant registration requirements; and

## General

- 4.28 to do anything else within the law which is incidental and conducive to the Objects.

# 5 APPLICATION OF FUNDS

## 5.1 General

The income and property of the Charity must be applied solely towards promoting the Objects and (except to the extent authorised by this Article 5):

- 5.1.1 no part may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by dividend bonus or profit to a Charity Member; and
- 5.1.2 a Trustee may not directly or indirectly receive any payment of money or benefit from the Charity.

## 5.2 Benefits to Members

Notwithstanding Article 5.1, the Charity may make the following payments or grant the following benefits to Charity Members:-

### Interest and Rent

- 5.2.1 reasonable and proper interest on money lent by any Charity Member to the Charity;
- 5.2.2 reasonable rent, service charges or other payments properly payable under the provisions of any lease, agreement for lease or licence in respect of premises let by any Charity Member to the Charity or a reasonable hiring fee for premises hired by any Charity Member to the Charity;

## Supply of Goods or Services

- 5.2.3 reasonable payments to a Charity Member in return for goods and/or services supplied to the Charity pursuant to a contract;

## Out of Pocket Expenses

- 5.2.4 reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses to Charity Members who are engaged by the Charity as volunteers in the work of the Charity and which are actually incurred by them in carrying out their work as volunteers; and

## Benefits to Charity Members

- 5.2.5 the grant of a benefit to a Charity Member who is a beneficiary of the Charity in the furtherance of the Objects.

## 5.3 Benefits to Trustees

Notwithstanding Article 5.1, the Charity may make the following payments or grant the following benefits to Trustees:-

### Out of pocket expenses

- 5.3.1 the reimbursement of reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses (including travel and dependants' care costs) actually incurred in enabling them to carry out their duties as Trustees;
- 5.3.2 reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses to those Trustees who are engaged by the Charity as volunteers in the work of the Charity and which are actually incurred by them in carrying out their work as volunteers;

### Indemnity

- 5.3.3 an indemnity in respect of any liabilities properly incurred in running the Charity (including the costs of a successful defence to criminal proceedings);
- 5.3.4 the benefit of indemnity insurance under Article 4.19;

### Fees to companies in which Trustees have negligible interests

- 5.3.5 a payment to a company in which a Trustee has no more than a 1% shareholding;

### Interest and Rent

- 5.3.6 reasonable and proper interest on money lent by any Trustee to the Charity;
- 5.3.7 reasonable rent, service charges or other payments properly payable under the provisions of any lease, agreement for lease or licence in respect of premises let by any Trustee to the Charity or a reasonable hiring fee for premises hired by any Trustee to the Charity;

### Beneficiaries

- 5.3.8 benefits provided in furtherance of the Objects to Trustees who are beneficiaries of the Charity where those benefits are the same as or similar to benefits provided to other beneficiaries.

### Employment/Supply of Goods and Services

- 5.3.9 payments to a Trustee who is employed by the Charity or who enters into a contract for the supply of goods or services to the Charity (other than for acting as a Trustee) provided that:-

- 5.3.9.1 the remuneration or other sums paid to the Trustee do not exceed an amount that is reasonable in all the circumstances;
- 5.3.9.2 the Trustee is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is a discussion of his employment or remuneration or any matter concerning the contract, his performance in the employment or his performance of the contract, any proposal to enter into any other contract or arrangement with him or to confer any benefit upon him and/or any other matter relating to payment or the conferring any benefit to him;
- 5.3.9.3 the Trustee does not vote on any such matter and is not counted when calculating whether a quorum of Trustees is present at the meeting;
- 5.3.9.4 the other Trustees are satisfied that it is in the interests of the Charity to employ or to contract with the Trustee rather than with someone who is not a Trustee. In reaching that decision the Trustees must balance the advantage of employing or contracting with a Trustee against the disadvantages of doing so (especially the loss of the Trustee's services as a result of dealing with the Trustee's conflict of interest);
- 5.3.9.5 the reason for the Trustees' decision is recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting; and
- 5.3.9.6 at no time shall a majority of the Trustees receive payment pursuant to this Article 5.3.9.

The employment or remuneration of a Trustee pursuant to this Article includes the engagement or remuneration of any firm or company in which the Trustee is a partner, an employee, a consultant, a director or a shareholder, unless the shares of the company are listed on a recognised stock exchange and the Trustee holds less than 1% of the issued capital.

#### Exceptional Circumstances

- 5.3.10 other payments or benefits (approved in writing in advance by the Charity Commission) in exceptional cases.
- 5.4 The provisions in this Article 5 on the making of payments and the granting of benefits by the Charity to Trustees shall also extend to payments made to Trustees by any other company in which the Charity
  - 5.4.1 holds more than 50% of the shares; or
  - 5.4.2 controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
  - 5.4.3 has the right to appoint one or more directors to its board.
- 5.5 For the purposes of Article 5.3 a payment to or a benefit granted to a dependant relative or the spouse of the Trustee or any person living with the Trustee as his partner shall be deemed to be a payment to the Trustee and shall be permitted to the same extent that payments to or benefits granted to Trustees are permitted.
- 5.6 Amendments

This Article may not be amended without the prior written consent of the Charity Commission.

# **PART B CHARITY MEMBERSHIP**

## **6 CHARITY MEMBERS**

6.1 The Charity Members are:-

6.1.1 the subscribers to the Memorandum; and

6.1.2 others admitted to membership of the Charity by the Board under the Articles.

## **7 ADMISSION OF CHARITY MEMBERS**

7.1 A person may not be admitted by the Board as a Charity Member:-

7.1.1 unless he has signed a written application to become a Charity Member in such form as the Board requires;

7.1.2 unless he is aged 18 or over;

7.1.3 if he would immediately cease to be a Charity Member under the Articles; or

7.1.4 unless he is a Trustee.

7.2 Charity membership is personal and not transferable.

## **8 TERMINATION OF CHARITY MEMBERSHIP**

A person will cease to be a Charity Member if he ceases to be a Trustee.

## **9 LIABILITY OF CHARITY MEMBERS**

9.1 The liability of the Charity Members is limited.

9.2 Every Charity Member promises, if the Charity is wound up whilst he is a Charity Member or within one year after ceasing to be a Charity Member, to contribute such amount as is required up to a maximum of £1 towards:

9.2.1 winding up the Charity;

9.2.2 the payment of the debts and the payment of the costs, charges and expenses of liabilities incurred whilst the contributor was a Charity Member; and

9.2.3 the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.



## **PART C. GENERAL MEETINGS**

### **10 GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 10.1 The Board may call a General Meeting at any time, to be held at such time and place as the Board decides subject to Article 11.
- 10.2 On receiving a requisition from the percentage of Charity Members required under the Act the Board must promptly convene a General Meeting.

### **11 NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 11.1 Every General Meeting must be called by at least 14 Clear Days' notice.
- 11.2 A General Meeting may be called by shorter notice if this is agreed by a majority in number of the Charity Members who may attend and vote and who together hold 90% or more of the total voting rights of all of the Charity Members at the General Meeting.
- 11.3 The notice must specify:-
  - 11.3.1 the time, date and place of the General Meeting;
  - 11.3.2 the general nature of the business to be transacted; and
  - 11.3.3 if a special resolution is proposed, the fact that the proposed resolution is a special resolution and the wording of the resolution.
- 11.4 Subject to the Act no business may be transacted at a General Meeting except that specified in the notice convening the meeting.
- 11.5 Notice of a General Meeting must be given to all of the Charity Members, the Trustees and the Charity's auditors (if any).
- 11.6 The accidental omission to give notice of a General Meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a General Meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice will not invalidate the proceedings at that General Meeting.

### **12 QUORUM**

- 12.1 No business may be transacted at a General Meeting unless a quorum is present.
- 12.2 The quorum for General Meetings is 3 of the Charity Members for the time being present in person or by proxy.
- 12.3 A Charity Member may be part of the quorum at a General Meeting if he can hear, comment and vote on the proceedings through telephone, video conferencing or other communication equipment.
- 12.4 If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes from the time of the General Meeting or a quorum ceases to be present during a General Meeting it must be adjourned to such time and place as the Board decides.
- 12.5 If at the adjourned meeting there are again insufficient Charity Members present within 15 minutes from the time of the adjourned General Meeting to constitute a quorum then the meeting shall be dissolved.

- 12.6 Reasonable notice of an adjournment of a General Meeting because of a lack of quorum and the time and place of the adjourned General Meeting must be given to all CharityMembers.

### **13 CHAIR AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 13.1 The Chair is to chair GeneralMeetings.
- 13.2 If the Chair is not present within 15 minutes from the time of the General Meeting or is unwilling to act then the Vice-Chair, if any, must chair the General Meeting.
- 13.3 If neither the Chair nor the Vice-Chair, if any, is present and willing to act within 15 minutes from the time of the General Meeting, the Charity Members present must choose one of their number to chair the General Meeting.

### **14 ADJOURNMENT OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 14.1 The Chair may, with the consent of a General Meeting at which a quorum is present (and must if so directed by the General Meeting), adjourn it to a time and place agreed by the General Meeting.
- 14.2 The Chair may also adjourn a General Meeting if it appears to the Chair that for any other reason an adjournment is necessary for the business of the meeting to be properly conducted.
- 14.3 The only business that may be transacted at an adjourned General Meeting is that left unfinished from the General Meeting that was adjourned.
- 14.4 It is not necessary to give notice of a General Meeting which is adjourned under Article 14.1 or 14.2 unless it is adjourned for 30 days or more in which case 7 Clear Days' notice must be given.
- 14.5 Resolutions passed at an adjourned General Meeting are to be treated as having been passed on the date on which they were actually passed.

### **15 VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 15.1 Resolutions are to be decided on a show of hands unless a ballot is properly demanded.
- 15.2 Each Charity Member present in person or by proxy has one vote both on a show of hands and a ballot.
- 15.3 A Charity Member which is an organisation may, by resolution of its governing body (or a committee or officer of that organisation acting under powers delegated by its governing body), authorise such person as it thinks fit to act as its representative at General Meetings.
- 15.4 A person authorised under Article 15.3 may exercise the same powers on behalf of the organisation as the organisation could exercise if it were an individual Charity Member.
- 15.5 If there is an equality of votes on a show of hands or a ballot the Chair is not entitled to a second or casting vote and resolutions which fail to achieve the required majority will be lost.
- 15.6 An objection to the qualification of any voter may only be raised at the General Meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered. Every vote not disallowed at the General Meeting is valid. An objection made in time must be referred to the Chair whose decision is final.

- 15.7 A declaration by the Chair that a resolution has been carried (or not carried) unanimously, or by a particular majority, which is entered into the minutes of the meeting is conclusive evidence of the fact unless a ballot is demanded.

## **16 BALLOTS**

- 16.1 A ballot may be demanded by the Chair or by any two Charity Members before or on the declaration of the result of a show of hands.
- 16.2 A demand for a ballot may be withdrawn before the ballot is taken. If the demand for a ballot is withdrawn the result of the show of hands will stand.
- 16.3 The demand for a ballot will not prevent the General Meeting continuing to transact business other than in relation to the question on which the ballot is demanded.
- 16.4 A ballot is to be taken as the Chair directs. The Chair may appoint scrutineers (who need not be Charity Members) and set a time and place to declare the result. The result will be the resolution of the General Meeting at which the ballot was demanded but will be treated as passed when the result is declared.
- 16.5 A ballot on the election of a chair or an adjournment must be taken immediately. A ballot on any other question may be taken either immediately or at such time and place as the Chair directs.
- 16.6 At least 7 Clear Days' notice must be given of the time and place at which the ballot is to be taken unless the time and place are announced at the General Meeting at which it is demanded.

## **17 PROXIES**

- 17.1 A Charity Member may validly appoint a proxy by notice in writing which
- 17.1.1 states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
  - 17.1.2 identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the General Meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
  - 17.1.3 is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing, the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the Trustees may determine; and
  - 17.1.4 is delivered to the Charity in accordance with the articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the General Meeting to which they relate.
- 17.2 A proxy need not be a Charity Member. The Board may from time to time prescribe a form to appoint a proxy by standing orders made under Article 38. A proxy may not appoint another proxy.
- 17.3 The document appointing a proxy may instruct the proxy which way to vote on particular resolutions.
- 17.4 A proxy will only be valid if the document appointing a proxy (and any power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed) or a properly certified copy is deposited at the Registered Office at least 24 hours before the starting time for the General Meeting or adjourned General Meeting at which the proxy proposes to vote.
- 17.5 No document appointing a proxy will be valid for more than 12 months.

17.6 A vote given or ballot demanded by proxy is to be valid despite:-

17.61 the revocation of the proxy; or

17.62 the death or insanity of the principal

unless written notice of the death, insanity or revocation is received at the Registered Office before the start of the General Meeting or adjourned General Meeting at which the proxy is used.

17.7 A proxy form will not be valid for any part of a General Meeting at which the Charity Member who appointed the proxy is present.

## **18 CHARITY MEMBERS' WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS**

18.1 A written resolution approved by a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution by a majority of not less than 75%) of eligible Charity Members (provided that those Charity Members would constitute a quorum at a General Meeting) is as valid as if it had been passed at a General Meeting provided that:

18.1.1 a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to every eligible Charity Member;

18.1.2 a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution a majority of not less than 75%) of Charity Members have signified their agreement to the resolution; and

18.1.3 such agreement is contained in an authenticated document that has been received at the Registered Office within the period of 28 days beginning with the circulation date.

18.2 A resolution under Article 18.1 may consist of several documents in similar form each approved by one or more Charity Members.

18.3 In the case of a Charity Member that is an organisation, its authorised representative may signify its agreement.

## **PART D. TRUSTEES**

### **19 APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES**

- 19.1 Unless the Board decides otherwise:-
  - 19.1.1 the minimum number of Trustees is 5; and
  - 19.1.2 there is no maximum number of Trustees.
- 19.2 Subject to Articles 19.4, the Trustees shall be entitled to appoint as Trustees such persons as they may think fit.
- 19.3 The term of office of a Trustee shall be 3 years. At the conclusion of their term a Trustee who is willing to continue in office may, if the Trustees think fit, be re-appointed for a further term. No Trustee may serve for more than 3 terms unless, upon recommendation of the Chair, a majority of Trustees decide that the specific skills and/or experience offered by that Trustee in a defined role (normally with a job title) are of material importance to the Charity and cannot readily be fulfilled by another Trustee or a new appointment.
- 19.4 When appointing Trustees the Board must ensure that:-
  - 19.4.1 a minimum of two Trustees are or have been actively involved as volunteers in one or more of the centres that belong to the network run by the Charity; and
  - 19.4.2 no Trustee is less than 18 years of age; and
- 19.5 The appointment of a Trustee is not to take effect until he has signed the prescribed Companies House form. The appointment of any person as a Trustee who has not done so within one month of appointment is to lapse unless the Board resolves that there is good cause for the delay.

### **20 OBLIGATIONS OF TRUSTEES**

- 20.1 The Board must set out in writing the principal obligations of every Trustee to the Board and to the Charity. The statement of Trustees' obligations is not intended to be exhaustive and the Board may review and amend it from time to time.
- 20.2 The statement of the obligations of the Trustees to the Charity must include:-
  - 20.2.1 a commitment to its values and objectives including equal opportunities;
  - 20.2.2 an obligation to contribute to and share responsibility for the Board's decisions;
  - 20.2.3 an obligation to read Board papers and to attend meetings, training sessions and other relevant events;
  - 20.2.4 an obligation to declare relevant interests;
  - 20.2.5 an obligation (subject to any overriding legally binding requirement to the contrary) to keep confidential the affairs of the Board;

20.2.6 an obligation to comply with statutory and fiduciary duties, including:-

- I. to act in the best interests of the Charity including but not limited to, not being associated with a third party or entering into (whether directly or indirectly) any transaction or arrangement with a third party that brings the Charity into disrepute;
- II. to declare any interests a Trustee may have in matters to be discussed at Board meetings and not put himself in a position where his personal interest or a duty owed to another conflicts with the duties owed to the Charity;
- III. to secure the proper and effective use of the Charity's property;
- IV. to act personally;
- V. to act within the scope of any authority given;
- VI. to use the proper degree of skill and care when making decisions particularly when investing funds; and
- VII. to act in accordance with the Articles; and

20.2.7 a reference to obligations under the general law.

20. A Trustee must sign and deliver to the Board a statement confirming he will meet his obligations to the Board and to the Charity within one month of his appointment.

## **21 RETIREMENT AND REMOVAL OF TRUSTEES**

**A Trustee will cease to hold office if:-**

- 21.1 his term of office comes to an end;
- 21.2 he dies;
- 21.3 he ceases to be a Trustee under the Act or is prohibited by law from being a Trustee or is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee under the Charities Act 1993;
- 21.4 he becomes incapable of managing and administering his own affairs because of mental disorder illness or injury;
- 21.5 he is declared bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors;
- 21.6 he is in the opinion of the Board guilty of conduct detrimental to the interests of the Charity and the Board resolves, at a properly convened Board Meeting, by a 75% majority of all the Trustees eligible to vote, that he should be removed provided that the Trustee concerned has first been given an opportunity to put his case and to justify why he should not be removed as a Trustee;
- 21.7 he resigns by written notice to the Charity at the Registered Office;
- 21.8 he is absent without good reason from three consecutive Board Meetings held no more frequently than once per month and the Board resolves (by a 75% majority of the Trustees present and voting at a properly convened Board Meeting) that he should cease to be a Trustee; or
- 21.9 he fails to sign a statement of his obligations under Article 20 within one month of his appointment and the Board resolves that he be removed.

## 22 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

### 22.1 Declaration of interests

- 22.1.1 If a Trustee is in any way, directly or indirectly, interested in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Charity, he must declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other Trustees.
- 22.1.2 In accordance with the Act, the declaration may be made at a Board Meeting or by written notice.
- 22.1.3 If a declaration of interest proves to be or becomes inaccurate or incomplete a further declaration must be made.
- 22.1.4 Any required declaration of interest must be made before the Charity enters into the transaction or arrangement.
- 22.1.5 A declaration is not required in relation to an interest of which the Trustee is not aware or where the Trustee is not aware of the transaction or arrangement in question. For this purpose a Trustee is treated as being aware of matters of which he ought reasonably to be aware.
- 22.1.6 A Trustee need not declare an interest:-
  - 22.1.6.1 if it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interests; or
  - 22.1.6.2 if, and to the extent that, the either Trustees are already aware of it (and for this purpose the other Trustees are treated as being aware of anything of which they ought reasonably to be aware).

### 22.2 Authorisation of direct conflicts of interests

- A Trustee may enter into a transaction or arrangement with the Charity only if and to the extent that such an arrangement is authorised by Article 5.

### 22.3 Authorisation of indirect conflicts of interest

- 22.3.1 Where, for whatever reason, a Trustee has any form of indirect interest in relation to a transaction or arrangement with the Charity (which shall include a conflict of duty) and the transaction or arrangement is not authorised by virtue of any other provision in the Articles then it may be authorised by those Trustees not having a conflict provided that:-
  - 223.1.1 the Trustee with the conflict (and any other interested Trustee) is not counted when considering whether or not there is a valid quorum for that part of the meeting and does not vote in relation to the matter giving rise to the conflict; and
  - 223.1.2 the Trustees who do not have a conflict in relation to the matter in question consider it is in the best interests of the Charity to authorise the transaction.
- 22.3.2 The Trustees who do not have a conflict in relation to the matter in question may, in their absolute discretion, determine that the Trustee with the conflict and/or any other interested Trustee should absent himself from the part of the meeting at which there is discussion concerning the transaction or arrangement giving rise to the conflict.

## **PART E. BOARD MEETINGS**

### **23 FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD**

The Board must direct the Charity's affairs in such a way as to promote the Objects. Its functions include:-

- 23.1 defining and ensuring compliance with the values and objectives of the Charity;
- 23.2 establishing policies and plans to achieve those objectives;
- 23.3 approving each year's budget and accounts before publication;
- 23.4 establishing and overseeing a framework of delegation of its powers to Committees and Task Forces (under Article 28) and employees with proper systems of control;
- 23.5 monitoring the Charity's performance in relation to its plans budget controls and decisions;
- 23.6 appointing (and if necessary removing) employees;
- 23.7 satisfying itself that the Charity's affairs are conducted in accordance with generally accepted standards of performance and propriety; and
- 23.8 ensuring that appropriate advice is taken on the items listed in Articles 23.1 to 23.7 and in particular on matters of legal compliance and financial viability.

### **24 POWERS OF THE BOARD**

- 24.1 Subject to the Act and the Articles, the business of the Charity is to be managed by the Board who may exercise all of the powers of the Charity.
- 24.2 An alteration to the Articles does not invalidate earlier acts of the Board which would have been valid without the alteration.

### **25 BOARD MEETINGS**

- 25.1 There must be a minimum of 3 Board meetings each year at least one of which must be face to face and not by the electronic means authorised under Article 26.2.
- 25.2 Subject to the Articles, the Board may regulate Board Meetings as it wishes.
- 25.3 Board Meetings may be called by any Trustee or the Secretary (if appointed).
- 25.4 7 days' notice of Board Meetings must be given to each of the Trustees and to any Regional Coordinator appointed by the Board as an Observer in accordance with Article 25.8 and Article 29.
- 25.5 A Board Meeting which is called on shorter notice than required under Article 25.4 is deemed to have been duly called if at least two Trustees certify in writing that because of special circumstances it ought to be called as a matter of urgency.
- 25.6 Matters arising at a Board Meeting are to be decided by a simple majority of votes and each Trustee is to have one vote.
- 25.7 A technical defect in the appointment of a Trustee or in the delegation of powers to a Committee of which the Board is unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken in good faith.



- 25.8 The Board may appoint one of the Regional Coordinators to be an Observer under Article 29. This appointment will be for 1 year and he may be reappointed for a second year. The Regional Coordinator so appointed will have the right to attend Board Meetings (unless he is excluded in accordance with Articles 29.3 or 29.4) and will have the right to take part in discussions. He will not have the right to vote.

## **26 QUORUM FOR BOARD MEETINGS**

- 26.1 The quorum for Board Meetings is 51% of the Trustees at any time.
- 26.2 A Trustee may be part of the quorum at a Board Meeting if he can hear comment and vote on the proceedings through telephone, video conferencing or other communications equipment.
- 26.3 The Board may act despite vacancies in its number but if the number of Trustees is less than 3 then the Board may act only to admit Charity Members under Article 6 or Trustees under Article 19.
- 26.4 At a Board Meeting which remains inquorate for 15 minutes after its starting time or one which becomes inquorate for more than 15 minutes the Trustees present may act only to:-
- 26.4.1 adjourn it to such other time and place as they decide;
  - 26.4.2 call a General Meeting;
  - 26.4.3 admit Charity Members under Article 6; or
  - 26.4.4 admit Trustees under Article 19.
- 26.5 If at the adjourned meeting there are again insufficient Trustees present within 15 minutes from the time of the adjourned Board Meeting to constitute a quorum then no business may be conducted and the meeting will be dissolved.

## **27 CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND TREASURER**

- 27.1 The Charity must have a Chair, may have a Vice-Chair and must have a Treasurer. The Chair, the Vice-Chair, if any, and the Treasurer are to be elected by the Board from amongst the Trustees. They are each to hold office for a term determined by the Board being no more than two years. The Chair, the Vice-Chair, if any, and the Treasurer may be re-elected by the Board. If any Trustee who is Chair, Vice-Chair or Treasurer ceases to be a trustee their term of office as Chair, Vice Chair or Treasurer, as the case maybe, will automatically terminate
- 27.2 The Chair, the Vice-Chair, if any, and the Treasurer may resign from their positions at any time (without necessarily resigning as Trustees at the same time).
- 27.3 Where there is no Chair the first item of business at a Board Meeting must be to elect a Chair in accordance with Article 27.1.
- 27.4 The Chair, the Vice-Chair, if any and the Treasurer may be removed only at a Board Meeting called for the purpose at which a resolution with a majority in favour is passed. The Chair, the Vice-Chair or the Treasurer (as the case may be) must be given an opportunity to say why he should not be removed.
- 27.5 The Chair is to chair all Board Meetings and General Meetings at which he is present unless he does not wish or is not able to do so.

- 27.6 If the Chair is not present within 5 minutes after the starting time of a Board Meeting or is unwilling or unable to chair a Board Meeting, then the Vice-Chair, if any, must chair the Board Meeting unless he is unwilling or unable to do so.
- 27.7 If both the Chair and the Vice-Chair, if any, are not present within 5 minutes after the starting time of a Board Meeting or both are unwilling or unable to chair the meeting then the Board must elect one of the Trustees who is present to chair the Board Meeting.
- 27.8 The functions of the Chair are:-
- 27.8.1 to act as an ambassador for the Charity and to represent the views of the Board to the general public and other organisations;
  - 27.8.2 to ensure that Board Meetings and General Meetings are conducted efficiently;
  - 27.8.3 to give all Trustees an opportunity to express their views;
  - 27.8.4 to establish a constructive working relationship with and to provide support for the employees;
  - 27.8.5 where necessary (and in conjunction with the other Trustees) to ensure that, where the post of any employee is or is due to become vacant, a replacement is found in a timely and orderly fashion;
  - 27.8.6 to encourage the Board to delegate sufficient authority to its Committees to enable the business of the Charity to be carried on effectively between Board Meetings;
  - 27.8.7 to ensure that the Board monitors the use of delegated powers; and
  - 27.8.8 to encourage the Board to take professional advice when it is needed and particularly before considering the dismissal of an employee.
- 27.9 The role of the Vice-Chair, if any, is to deputise for the Chair during any period of his absence and, for that period, his functions shall be the same as those of the Chair.
- 27.10 The role of the Treasurer will be decided from time to time by the Board.

## **28 COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**

- 28.1 The Board may:-
- 28.1.1 establish Committees consisting of those persons whom the Board decide;
  - 28.1.2 delegate to a Committee any of its powers; and
  - 28.1.3 revoke a delegation at any time.
- 28.2 The Board may establish Task Forces consisting of those persons whom the Board decide provided that at least one Regional Coordinator is a member of each Task Force. A Task Force may not take decisions on behalf of the Board but may consider issues in depth with a view to making recommendations to the Board.
- 28.3 The members of a Committee or a Task Force are to be appointed by the Board but the Board may give a Committee or a Task Force the right to co-opt individuals to its membership. The Board is to determine the chair of each Committee or Task Force.

- 28.4 Each member of a Committee or Task Force (including the chair) is to hold office from the date of his appointment until the term of office for which he has been appointed expires or until he resigns or is removed by the Board from the Committee or Task Force.
- 28.5 The Board must determine the quorum for each Committee and Task Force it establishes.
- 28.6 The Board must specify the financial limits within which any Committee may function. A Task Force can have no authority to incur expenditure.
- 28.7 Every Committee or Task Force must report its proceedings and decisions to the Board as the Board determines.

## **29 OBSERVERS**

- 29.1 Subject to Article 29.4, the Board may allow individuals who are not Trustees to attend Board Meetings as Observers on whatever terms the Board decides.
- 29.2 Observers may not vote but may take part in discussions with the prior consent of the Chair.
- 29.3 The Board may exclude Observers from any part of a Board Meeting where the Board considers the business is private.
- 29.4 The Board must exclude an Observer from any Board Meeting at which a possible personal benefit to him is being considered.

## **30 TRUSTEES' WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS**

- 30.1 A written resolution approved by all of the Trustees entitled to receive notice of a Board Meeting (provided they would constitute a quorum at a Board Meeting) is as valid as if it had been passed at a Board Meeting.
- 30.2 A written resolution approved by a simple majority of the members of a Committee (provided they would constitute a quorum of that Committee) is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of that Committee.
- 30.3 A resolution under Articles 30.1 or 30.2 may consist of several documents in similar form each approved by one or more of the Trustees or Committee Members.

## **PART F. OFFICERS**

### **31 THE SECRETARY**

- 31.1 Unless the Board decides otherwise the Charity must have a Secretary. The Secretary is to be elected by the Board from amongst the Trustees for a term deemed by the Board being a maximum of two years. The Secretary may be re-elected by the Board. If any Trustee who is the Secretary ceases to be a Trustee he will automatically cease to be the Secretary.
- 31.2 The Secretary may resign from his position at any time (without necessarily resigning as Trustees at the same time).
- 31.3 The Secretary may be removed by the Board at any time.
- 31.4 A Trustee may not receive any remuneration for acting as the Secretary.

### **32 INDEMNITIES FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

- 32.1 The Charity may indemnify any officer or employee (other than a Trustee) against any liability incurred by him in his capacity as such except when that liability is due to his own dishonesty or gross negligence.
- 32.2 Subject to the Act (in particular sections 232-238 or any section of any other statute amending or replacing sections 232-238) and Article 32.3, the Charity may indemnify any Trustee against any liability incurred by him in his capacity as such.
- 32.3 The indemnity provided to a Trustee in accordance with Article 32.2 may not include any indemnity against liability:-
  - 32.3.1 to the Charity or a company associated with it;
  - 32.3.2 for fines or penalties; or
  - 32.3.3 incurred as a result of his unsuccessful defence of criminal or *civil* proceedings.
- 32.4 The indemnity provided to a Trustee in accordance with Article 32.2 may include the provision of funds to cover his legal costs as they fall due on terms that the Trustee in question will repay the funds if he is unsuccessful in his defence of the criminal or civil proceedings to which these costs relate
- 32.5 In respect to its auditor the Charity may:-
  - 32.5.1 purchase and maintain insurance for his benefit against any liability incurred by him in his capacity as such; and
  - 32.5.2 indemnify him against any liability incurred in defending any proceedings (whether civil or criminal) in which judgment is given in his favour or he is acquitted or in connection with any application under Section 1157 of the Act or any section of any other statute amending or replacing Section 1157 in which relief is granted to him by the Court.

## **PART G. STATUTORY AND MISCELLANEOUS**

### **33 MINUTES**

- 33.1 The Board must arrange for minutes to be kept of all General Meetings and Board Meetings. The names of the Trustees present must be included in the minutes.
- 33.2 Copies of the draft minutes of Board Meetings must be distributed to the Trustees as soon as reasonably possible after the meeting and in any case seven days before the next Board Meeting (unless the next Board Meeting is an urgent Board Meeting).
- 33.3 Minutes must be approved as a correct record at the next General Meeting (as regards minutes of General Meetings) or Board Meeting (as regards minutes of Board Meetings). Once approved they must be signed by the person chairing the meeting at which they are approved.
- 33.4 The Board must keep minutes of all of the appointments made by the Board.

### **34 ACCOUNTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL RETURN**

- 34.1 The Charity must comply with the Act and the Trustees must comply with their obligations as charity trustees under the Charities Act 1993 in:-
  - 34.1.1 preparing and filing an annual Trustees' report and annual accounts and sending them to the Charity Commission; and
  - 34.1.2 making an annual return to the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission.
- 34.2 The Charity must comply with the Act in relation to the audit or examination of accounts (to the extent that the law requires).
- 34.3 The annual Trustees' report and accounts must contain:-
  - 34.3.1 revenue accounts and balance sheet for the last accounting period;
  - 34.3.2 the auditor's report on those accounts (if applicable); and
  - 34.3.3 the Board's report on the affairs of the Charity.
- 34.4 The accounting records of the Charity must always be open to inspection by a Trustee.

### **35 BANK AND BUILDING SOCIETY ACCOUNTS**

- 35.1 All bank and building society accounts must be controlled by the Board and must include the name of the Charity,.
- 35.2 A cheque or order for the payment of money must be signed in accordance with the Board's instructions.

### **36 EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS**

- 36.1 Unless the Board decides otherwise, documents which are executed as deeds must be signed by:
  - 36.1.1 two Trustees;

36.1.2 one Trustee and the Secretary (where appointed); or

36.1.3 one Trustee in the presence of a witness who attests the Trustee's signature.

## **37 NOTICES**

- 37.1 Notices under the Articles must be in writing (which shall include facsimile transmission or email) except notices calling Board Meetings.
- 37.2 A Charity Member present in person at a General Meeting is deemed to have received notice of the General Meeting and (where necessary) of the purposes for which it was called.
- 37.3 The Charity may give a notice to a Charity Member, Trustee or auditor either:
- 37.3.1 personally;
  - 37.3.2 by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope;
  - 37.3.3 by facsimile transmission;
  - 37.3.4 by leaving it at his address; or
  - 37.3.5 by email.
- 37.4 Notices under Article 37.3.2 to 37.3.5 may be sent:-
- 37.4.1 to an address which that person has given the Charity;
  - 37.4.2 to the last known home or business address of the person to be served; or
  - 37.4.3 to that person's address in the Charity's register of members.
- 37.5 Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed prepaid and posted is conclusive evidence that the notice was given 48 hours after it was posted.
- 37.6 Proof that a facsimile transmission was made is conclusive evidence that the notice was given at the time stated on the transmission report.
- 37.7 A copy of the notification from the system used by the Charity to send emails, that the email has been sent to the particular person, will be conclusive evidence that the notice was sent and such notice will be deemed to have been delivered 24 hours after it was sent.
- 37.8 A notice may be served to the Charity by delivering it or sending it to the Registered Office.
- 37.9 The Board may make standing orders to define other acceptable methods of delivering notices.

## **38 STANDING ORDERS**

- 38.1 Subject to Article 38.4.
- 38.1.1 the Board may from time to time make, alter, add to or repeal standing orders for the proper conduct and management of the Charity; and
  - 38.1.2 the Charity in General Meeting may alter, add to or repeal the standing orders.
- 38.2 The Board must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the standing orders to the notice of Charity Members.

- 38.3 Standing orders are binding on all Charity Members and Trustees.
- 38.4 No standing order may be inconsistent with or may affect or repeal anything in the Articles.

## **39 WINDING UP**

- 39.1 The Charity Members may at any time before, and in expectation of, its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the Charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision has been made for them, shall on or before the dissolution of the Charity be applied or transferred in any of the following ways:
  - 39.1.1 directly for the Objects; or
  - 39.1.2 by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or
  - 39.1.3 to any charity for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.
- 39.2 Subject to any such resolution of the Charity Members, the Trustees may at any time before and in expectation of its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the Charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision made for them, shall on dissolution of the Charity be applied or transferred:
  - 39.2.1 directly for the Objects; or
  - 39.2.2 by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or
  - 39.2.3 to any charity or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.
- 39.3 In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Charity be paid to or distributed among the Charity Members (except to a Charity Member that is itself a charity) and if no resolution is passed by the Charity Members or the Trustees the net assets of the Charity shall be applied for charitable purposes as directed by the court or the Charity Commission.