**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006** 

**PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES** 

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION** 

OF

**CICERO ONLINE LIMITED (CRN 08554364)** 

(Adopted by special resolution passed on 01 July 2013) (Amended by special resolution passed on 05 September 2019)

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# PART 1

#### INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

#### Defined terms

- 1. In the articles, unless the context requires otherwise-
  - "articles" means the company's articles of association;
  - "bankruptcy" includes individual insolvency proceedings in a jurisdiction other than England and Wales or Northern Ireland which have an effect similar to that of bankruptcy,
  - "chairman" has the meaning given in article 12,
  - "chairman of the meeting" has the meaning given in article 39,
  - "Companies Acts" means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006), in so far as they apply to the company,
  - "director" means a director of the company, and includes any person occupying the position of director, by whatever name called,
  - "distribution recipient" has the meaning given in article 31,
  - "document" includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form,
  - "electronic form" has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006,
  - "fully paid" in relation to a share, means that the nominal value and any premium to be paid to the company in respect of that share have been paid to the company,
  - "group" a company, its holding company and the subsidiaries of the holding company,
  - "hard copy form" has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006,
  - "holder" in relation to shares means the person whose name is entered in the register of members as the holder of the shares.
  - "holding company" has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006,
  - "instrument" means a document in hard copy form,

"ordinary resolution" has the meaning given in section 282 of the Companies Act 2006.

"paid" means paid or credited as paid,

"participate", in relation to a directors' meeting, has the meaning given in article

"proxy notice" has the meaning given in article 45,

"shareholder" means a person who is the holder of a share,

"shares" means shares in the company,

"special resolution" has the meaning given in section 283 of the Companies Act 2006.

"subsidiary" has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006,

"transmittee" means a person entitled to a share by reason of the death or bankruptcy of a

shareholder or otherwise by operation of law,

"subsidiary" in relation to a holding company wherever incorporated, means a "subsidiary" (as defined in section 1159 of the Act) for the time being and any other company which for the time being is itself a subsidiary (as so defined) of a company which is itself a subsidiary of such holding company, and

"writing" means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise

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

# Liability of members

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

#### PART 2

#### DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS' POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Directors' general authority

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

#### Shareholders' reserve power

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

#### Directors may delegate

- 5.—(1) Subject to the articles, the directors may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under the articles—
  - (a) to such person or committee,
  - (b) by such means (including by power of attorney),
  - (c) to such an extent,
  - (d) in relation to such matters or territories, and
  - (e) on such terms and conditions,

as they think fit

- (2) If the directors so specify, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the
- directors' powers by any person to whom they are delegated
- (3) The directors may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions

# Committees

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

# **DECISION-MAKING BY DIRECTORS**

#### Directors to take decisions collectively

- 7.—(1) The general rule about decision-making by directors is that any decision of the directors must be either a majority decision at a meeting in accordance with article 7(2) or a decision taken in accordance with article 8
- (2) Each director may only cast one vote at a directors' meeting Resolutions of the board of directors of the company ("the Board") shall be passed by a simple majority of votes cast at a directors' meeting on a show of hands by those directors who are entitled to vote on the matter, unless any director (or any shareholder who nominated such director for appointment to the Board) requests that votes shall be in proportion to the percentage of the nominal value of the shares held by each director or held by any such Shareholder who nominated such director for appointment to the Board

(3) If-

- (a) the company only has one director, and
- (b) no provision of the articles requires it to have more than one director, the general rule does not apply, and the director may take decisions without regard to any of the provisions of the articles relating to directors' decision-making

#### Unanimous decisions

- 8.—(1) A decision of the directors is taken in accordance with this article when all eligible directors indicate to each other that they share a common view on a matter (2) Such a decision may take the form of a resolution in writing, copies of which have been signed by each eligible director or to which each eligible director has otherwise
- indicated agreement in writing (3) References in this article to eligible directors are to directors who would have been entitled to vote on the matter had it been proposed as a resolution at a directors' meeting
- (4) A decision may not be taken in accordance with this article if the eligible directors would not have formed a quorum at such a meeting

#### Calling a directors' meeting

- 9.—(1) Any director may call a directors' meeting by giving notice of the meeting to the directors or by authorising the company secretary (if any) to give such notice (2) Notice of any directors' meeting must indicate-
- - (a) its proposed date and time.
  - (b) where it is to take place, and
  - (c) if it is anticipated that directors participating in the meeting will not be in the same place, how it is proposed that they should communicate with each other during the meeting
- (3) Notice of a directors' meeting must be given to each director, but need not be in wnune
- (4) Notice of a directors' meeting need not be given to directors who waive their entitlement to notice of that meeting, by giving notice to that effect to the company not more than 7 days after the date on which the meeting is held. Where such notice is given after the meeting has been held, that does not affect the validity of the meeting. or of any business conducted at it

# Participation in directors' meetings

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

# Quorum for directors' meetings

- 11.—(1) At a directors' meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting
- (2) The quorum for directors' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the directors, but it must never be less than two, and unless otherwise fixed it is
- (3) If the total number of directors for the time being is less than the quorum required, the directors must not take any decision other than a decision—
  - (a) to appoint further directors, or
  - (b) to call a general meeting so as to enable the shareholders to appoint further directors

### Chairing of directors' meetings

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

#### Casting vote

13.—(1) If the numbers of votes for and against a proposal are equal, the chairman or other director chairing the meeting shall not have a casting vote

(2) But this does not apply if, in accordance with the articles, the chairman or other director is not to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum or voting purposes

### Conflicts of interest

14.—(1) If a proposed decision of the directors is concerned with an actual or proposed

transaction or arrangement with the company in which a director is interested, that director is not to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum or voting purposes

- (2) But if paragraph (3) applies, a director who is interested in an actual or proposed transaction or arrangement with the company is to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum and voting purposes
- (3) This paragraph applies when-
  - (a) the company by ordinary resolution disapplies the provision of the articles which would otherwise prevent a director from being counted as participating in the decision-making process,
  - (b) the director's interest cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest, or
  - (c) the director's conflict of interest arises from a permitted cause
- (4) For the purposes of this article, the following are permitted causes—
  - (a) a guarantee given, or to be given, by or to a director in respect of an obligation incurred by or on behalf of the company or any of its subsidiaries,

- (b) subscription, or an agreement to subscribe, for shares or other securities of the company or any of its subsidiaries, or to underwrite, sub-underwrite, or guarantee subscription for any such shares or securities, and
- (c) arrangements pursuant to which benefits are made available to employees and directors or former employees and directors of the company or any of its subsidiaries which do not provide special benefits for directors or former directors.
- (5) For the purposes of this article, references to proposed decisions and decision-making
- processes include any directors' meeting or part of a directors' meeting
  (6) Subject to paragraph (7), if a question arises at a meeting of directors or of a
  committee of directors as to the right of a director to participate in the meeting (or part
  of the meeting) for voting or quorum purposes, the question may, before the
  conclusion of the meeting, be referred to the chairman whose ruling in relation to any
- director other than the chairman is to be final and conclusive
  (7) If any question as to the right to participate in the meeting (or part of the meeting) should arise in respect of the chairman, the question is to be decided by a decision of the directors at that meeting, for which purpose the chairman is not to be counted as participating in the meeting (or that part of the meeting) for voting or quorum purposes

#### Records of decisions to be kept

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

#### Directors' discretion to make further rules

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

#### APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

# Methods of appointing directors

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

### Termination of director's appointment

- 18. A person ceases to be a director as soon as-
  - (a) that person ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Act 2006 or is prohibited from being a director by law,
  - (b) a bankruptcy order is made against that person,
  - (c) a composition is made with that person's creditors generally in satisfaction of that person's debts,
  - (d) a registered medical practitioner who is treating that person gives a written opinion to the company stating that that person has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months.
  - (e) [paragraph omitted pursuant to The Mental Health (Discrimination) Act 2013]
  - (f) notification is received by the company from the director that the director is resigning from office, and such resignation has taken effect in accordance with its terms.

# Directors' remuneration

- 19.—(1) Directors may undertake any services for the company that the directors decide
- (2) Directors are entitled to such remuneration as the directors determine—
  - (a) for their services to the company as directors, and
  - (b) for any other service which they undertake for the company
- (3) Subject to the articles, a director's remuneration may-
  - (a) take any form, and
  - (b) include any arrangements in connection with the payment of a pension, allowance or gratuity, or any death, sickness or disability benefits, to or in respect of that director
- (4) Unless the directors decide otherwise, directors' remuneration accrues from day to day
- (5) Unless the directors decide otherwise, directors are not accountable to the company for any remuneration which they receive as directors or other officers or employees of the company's subsidiaries or of any other body corporate in which the company is interested

# Directors' expenses

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

### PART 3

#### SHARES AND DISTRIBUTIONS

#### **SHARES**

#### All shares to be fully paid up

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

#### Powers to issue different classes of share

- 22.—(1) Subject to the articles, but without prejudice to the rights attached to any existing share, the company may issue shares with such rights or restrictions as may be determined by ordinary resolution
- (2) The company may issue shares which are to be redeemed, or are liable to be redeemed at the option of the company or the holder, and the directors may determine the terms, conditions and manner of redemption of any such shares
- (3) The Company may establish any profit-sharing, share option, bonus or other incentive scheme of any nature for directors or employees and the directors may determine the terms and conditions of any such scheme

#### Company not bound by less than absolute interests

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

#### Share certificates

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

#### Replacement share certificates

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

#### Share transfers

- 26.—(1) The instrument of transfer of any share shall be executed by or on behalf of the transferor and the transferor shall be deemed to remain holder of the share until the name of the transferee is entered in the register of members in respect thereof. In the case of a nil paid or partly-paid share, the instrument of transfer must also be executed by or on behalf of the transferee.
- (2) The following transfers are "permitted transfers" for the purposes of article 26(4)
  - (a) a transfer by a corporate shareholder to another company that is in the same Group as the shareholder provided that, if the transferor company and the transferee company cease to have the relationship, the transferee company shall be deemed to have given a transfer notice immediately prior to the change occurring in respect of all the shares transferred to it, unless it retransfers the shares to the transferor company,
  - (b) a transfer of shares to and from trustees and the beneficial owner thereof and a transfer on changes of trustee, or
  - (c) a transfer by a shareholder (or the personal representatives of a deceased shareholder) to another person who is the shareholder's (or the deceased shareholder's) husband, wife or partner who has resided continuously with the shareholder for more than 2 years, child of majority age or parent, provided that, if the transferor and the transferee cease to have the relationship by virtue of which the transfer has been permitted (other than by reason of death) the transferee shall be deemed to have given a transfer notice immediately prior to the change occurring in respect of all the shares transferred to it, unless the shares are or have been re-transferred to the transferor
- (3) (a) Within 21 days of an agreement for the transfer of a share or shares, the transferor and transferee shall notify the Board in writing of the consideration for which the agreement for the transfer was made, failing which the Board may refuse to register the transfer
  - (b) Upon receipt of such a notice, the Board shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, notify all the shareholders in writing of the information as to the consideration paid, or to be paid, for the transfer of the shares contained therein

- (4) Except in relation to a permitted transfer of the type described in article 26(2) paragraphs (a) to (d) above the directors may in their absolute discretion and without assigning any reason therefor decline to register any transfer of any share whether or not it is a fully paid share. No instrument of transfer may be registered unless it is duly stamped.
- (5) To give effect to any sale of shares held by untraced shareholders of the company, or where required to do so execute and deliver transfers in respect of shares held by shareholders, the board of directors of the company may authorise some person to transfer the shares in question and to do or procure to do all such acts and things on behalf of the company as the board shall determine as necessary or desirable to effect the transfer of shares and may enter the name of the transferee in respect of the transferred shares in the company's register of members even if no share certificate has been lodged for such shares and the company may issue a new share certificate to the transferee. An instrument of transfer and related share transfer documentation executed by that person shall be as effective as if it had been executed by the holder of, or the person entitled by transmission to, the shares.

#### Drag-along rights

27.—(1) If shareholders holding not less than 75 per cent in nominal value of the issued Shares (for the purpose of this article 27 "the Sellers") intend to sell all of their shares or any interest in such shares (the shares to be sold by the Sellers being referred to as the "Sale Shares") to a proposed purchaser ("the Proposed Purchaser") who has indicated a bona fide intention to make an offer on arm's length terms for the entire issued share capital of the company, the Sellers shall have the right to give to the company not less than 14 days' advance notice before selling the Sale Shares. That notice ("the Sale Notice") will include details of the Sale Shares and the proposed price for each Sale Share to be paid by the Proposed Purchaser, details of the Proposed Purchaser, and the place, date and time of completion of the proposed purchase being a date not less than 28 days from the date of the Sale. Notice ("Completion")

- (2) Immediately upon receipt of the Sale Notice, the company shall give notice in writing ("a Compulsory Sale Notice") to each of the members (other than the Sellers) ("the Other Members") giving the details contained in the Sale Notice, requiring each of them to sell to the Proposed Purchaser at Completion all of their holdings of Shares on the same terms as those contained in the Sale Notice
- (3) Each member who is given a Compulsory Sale Notice shall sell all of his Shares referred to in the Compulsory Sale Notice at a price per Sale Share to be sold to the Proposed Purchaser on Completion by the Seller and on the terms set out in the Sale Notice Provided that the Sellers sell the Sale Shares on the same terms (mutatis mutandis) to the Proposed Purchaser at Completion.
- If any of the members ("the Defaulting Member") fails to comply with the terms of a Compulsory Sale Notice given to him, the company shall be constituted the agent of the each Defaulting Member for the sale of his Shares in accordance with the Compulsory Sale Notice (together with all rights then attached thereto) and the directors may authorise some person to execute and deliver in behalf of each Defaulting Member the necessary transfer(s) and the company may receive the purchase money in trust for each of the Defaulting Members and cause the Proposed Purchaser to be registered as the holder of such Shares. The receipt of the company for the purchase money, pursuant to such transfers, shall constitute a good and valid discharge to the Proposed Purchaser (who shall not be bound to see the application thereof) and after the Proposed Purchaser has been registered in purported exercise of the aforesaid powers the validity of the proceedings shall not be questioned by any person The company shall not pay the purchase money due to the Defaulting Member(s) until he shall, in respect of the shares being the subject of the Compulsory Sale Notice, have delivered is share certificates or a suitable indemnity and the necessary transfers to the company No member shall be required to comply with a Compulsory Sale Notice unless the Sellers shall sell the Sale Shares to the Proposed Purchaser on Completion, subject at all times to the Sellers being able to withdraw the Sale Notice at any time prior to Completion by giving notice to the company to that effect, whereupon each Compulsory Sale Nouce Shall cease to have effect

#### Tag-along rights

- 28.—(1) No sale or transfer of any shares ("the Specified Shares") which would result if made and registered in a person or persons (and any person or Persons Acting in Concert with him or them) who was not or were not a member or members of the company on the date this article was adopted as an article of Association of the company obtaining Control of the company shall be made or registered unless, before the transfer is lodged for registration, the proposed transferee or transferees or his or their nominees has or have made a written offer to all the holders of the shares in the capital of the company (which such offer shall be stipulated to be open for acceptance in England for a period of not less than 28 days and with adequate security as to the performance of its obligation) to purchase all such shares at the Specified Price as hereinafter defined
- (2) For the purpose of this article 28
  - (a) the expression "Control" shall mean the holding of Shares conferring in the aggregate more than 75% of the total voting rights conferred by all the shares in the capital of the company for the time being in issue and conferring the right to vote at all general meetings
  - (b) the expression "Persons Acting in Concert" shall mean any person or persons who pursuant to an agreement or understanding (whether formal or informal) actively co-operate with each other through the acquisition by any of them of shares to obtain control of the company and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, persons shall for the purposes of this article be deemed to be Persons Acting in concert with a transferee namely
    - (i) if the transferee is a body corporate, any director of or shareholder in the transferee or any person who in relation to such director or shareholder is a connected person,
    - (11) any person who in relation to the transferee is a connected person, and
    - (iii) if the transferee is a body corporate, any body corporate which in relation to the transferee is a subsidiary a holding company a subsidiary of a holding company or an Associated company and the expression "Acting in Concert" shall be construed accordingly,
  - (c) the expression "Associated Company" means a body corporate in which a transferee or any subsidiary of a transferee holds shares conferring the right to 10 per cent or more of the votes which could be cast on a poll at a general meeting of such body corporate and which is not subsidiary,
  - (d) the expressions "transfer", "transferor" and "transferee" shall include respectively the renunciation of a renounceable letter of allotment, the original allottee and the renouncee under any such letter of allotment, and
  - (e) the expression "the Specified Price" shall mean a price per Share at least equal to the aggregate of
    - (1) the price per share offered or paid or payable by the proposed transferee or transferees of his and their nominees for the Specified Shares or for any Shares in the company acquired by the same transferee or transferees (and any person or persons acting in concert with him or them) in that or any related transaction (whichever is the higher)

(ii) an amount of equal to the relevant proportion of any consideration (in case or otherwise) received or receivable by the holder(s) of the Specified Shares (or any such shares as aforesaid) which having regard to the substance of the transaction as a whole can reasonably be regarded as an addition to the price paid or payable for the Specified Shares (or any such shares as aforesaid) and in the event of disagreement the calculation of the Specified Price shall be referred to a chartered accountant (acting as expert and not as arbitrator) nominated by and acting at the joint expense of the parties concerned (or, in the event of disagreement as to nomination, appointed by the President for the time being or the Institute of Charted Accountants in England and Wales) whose decision shall be final and binding

#### DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS

#### Procedure for declaring dividends

#### 29. Not used

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

# Payment of dividends and other distributions

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

- (c) sending a cheque made payable to such person by post to such person at such address as the distribution recipient has specified either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide, or
- (d) any other means of payment as the directors agree with the distribution recipient either in writing or by such other means as the directors decide
- (2) In the articles, "the distribution recipient" means, in respect of a share in respect of which a dividend or other sum is payable—
  - (a) the holder of the share, or
  - (b) if the share has two or more joint holders, whichever of them is named first in the register of members, or
  - (c) if the holder is no longer entitled to the share by reason of death or bankruptcy, or otherwise by operation of law, the transmittee

#### No interest on distributions

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

#### **Unclaimed distributions**

- 33.—(1) All dividends or other sums which are—
  - (a) payable in respect of shares, and
  - (b) unclaimed after having been declared or become payable, may be invested or otherwise made use of by the directors for the benefit of the company until claimed
- (2) The payment of any such dividend or other sum into a separate account does not make the company a trustee in respect of it
- (3) If—
  - (a) twelve years have passed from the date on which a dividend or other sum became due for payment, and
  - (b) the distribution recipient has not claimed it.

the distribution recipient is no longer entitled to that dividend or other sum and it ceases to remain owing by the company

# Non-cash distributions

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

(c) vesting any assets in trustees

#### Waiver of distributions

35. Distribution recipients may waive their entitlement to a dividend or other distribution

payable in respect of a share by giving the company notice in writing to that effect, but if—

- (a) the share has more than one holder, or
- (b) more than one person is entitled to the share, whether by reason of the death or

bankruptcy of one or more joint holders, or otherwise,

the notice is not effective unless it is expressed to be given, and signed, by all the holders or persons otherwise entitled to the share

#### CAPITALISATION OF PROFITS

#### Authority to capitalise and appropriation of capitalised sums

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

# DECISION-MAKING BY SHAREHOLDERS

#### ORGANISATION OF GENERAL MEETINGS

#### Attendance and speaking at general meetings

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

# Quorum for general meetings

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

#### Chairing general meetings

- 39.—(1) If the directors have appointed a chairman, the chairman shall chair general meetings if present and willing to do so
- (2) If the directors have not appointed a chairman, or if the chairman is unwilling to chair the meeting or is not present within ten minutes of the time at which a meeting was due to start—
  - (a) the directors present, or
- (b) (if no directors are present), the meeting,

must appoint a director or shareholder to chair the meeting, and the appointment of the chairman of the meeting must be the first business of the meeting

(3) The person chairing a meeting in accordance with this article is referred to as "the chairman of the meeting"

#### Attendance and speaking by directors and non-shareholders

- 40.—(1) Directors may attend and speak at general meetings, whether or not they are shareholders
- (2) The chairman of the meeting may permit other persons who are not-
  - (a) shareholders of the company, or

(b) otherwise entitled to exercise the rights of shareholders in relation to general meetings,

to attend and speak at a general meeting

#### Adjournment

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

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

# Voting: general

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

# Errors and disputes

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

#### Poll votes

44.—(1) A poll on a resolution may be demanded—

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

#### Content of proxy notices

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

#### **Delivery of proxy notices**

- 46.—(1) A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the company by or on behalf of that person
- (2) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the company a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given
- (3) A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates
- (4) If a proxy notice is not executed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf

#### Amendments to resolutions

- 47.—(1) An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if—
  - (a) notice of the proposed amendment is given to the company in writing by a person entitled to vote at the general meeting at which it is to be proposed not less than 48 hours before the meeting is to take place (or such later time as the chairman of the meeting may determine), and
  - (b) the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the chairman of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution
- (2) A special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if—
  - (a) the chairman of the meeting proposes the amendment at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed, and
  - (b) the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution
- (3) If the chairman of the meeting, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chairman's error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution

#### PART 5

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

#### Means of communication to be used

- 48.—(1) Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the company under the articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the company
- (2) Subject to the articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being
- (3) A director may agree with the company that notices or documents sent to that director in a particular way are to be deemed to have been received within a specified time of their being sent, and for the specified time to be less than 48 hours

# Company seals

- 49.—(1) Any common seal may only be used by the authority of the directors
- (2) The directors may decide by what means and in what form any common seal is to be used
- (3) Unless otherwise decided by the directors, if the company has a common seal and it is affixed to a document, the document must also be signed by at least one authorised person in the presence of a witness who attests the signature
- (4) For the purposes of this article, an authorised person is-
  - (a) any director of the company,
  - (b) the company secretary (if any), or

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

# No right to inspect accounts and other records

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

# Provision for employees on cessation of business

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

#### **DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE**

#### Indemnity

- 52.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a relevant director of the company or an associated company may be indemnified out of the company's assets against—
  - (a) any liability incurred by that director in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the company or an associated company,
  - (b) any liability incurred by that director in connection with the activities of the company or an associated company in its capacity as a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Companies Act 2006),
  - (c) any other liability incurred by that director as an officer of the company or an associated company
- (2) This article does not authorise any indemnity which would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Companies Acts or by any other provision of law
- (3) In this article—
  - (a) companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate, and
  - (b) a "relevant director" means any director or former director of the company or an associated company

#### Insurance

- 53.—(1) The directors may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the company, for the benefit of any relevant director in respect of any relevant loss (2) In this article—
  - (a) a "relevant director" means any director or former director of the company or an associated company,
  - (b) a "relevant loss" means any loss or hability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant director in connection with that director's duties or powers in relation to the company, any associated company or any pension fund or employees' share scheme of the company or associated company, and