

**PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**

**MERCIA REAL ESTATE LTD**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**PART I**

**INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

**Application of Articles and Defined Terms**

1. (1) No regulations set out in any Act or subordinate legislation concerning companies, including the model articles prescribed under section 19 of the Companies Act 2006, shall apply to the company, but the following shall be the articles of association of the company.

(2) In the articles, unless the context requires otherwise

"articles" means the company's articles of association;

"bankruptcy" includes individual insolvency proceedings in a jurisdiction other than England and Wales or Northern Ireland which have an effect similar to that of bankruptcy;

"certificate" means a paper certificate (other than a share warrant) evidencing a person's title to specified shares or other securities;

"chairman" has the meaning given in article 11;

"chairman of the meeting" has the meaning given in article 27;

"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;

"company's lien" has the meaning given in article 45;

"director" means a director of the company, and includes any person occupying the position of director, by whatever name called;

"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;

"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, or, in the case of a share in respect of which a share warrant has been issued (and not cancelled), the person in possession of that warrant;

"instrument" means a document in hard copy form;

"lien enforcement notice" has the meaning given in article 46;

"member" has the meaning given in section 112 of the Companies Act 2006;

"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 9;

"partly paid" in relation to a share means that part of that share's nominal value or any premium at which it was issued has not been paid to the company;

"proxy notice" has the meaning given in article 34;

"securities seal" has the meaning given in article 42;

"shares" means shares in the company;

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

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

"transmittee" means a person entitled to a share by reason of the death or bankruptcy of a shareholder or otherwise by operation of law; and

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

(3) Unless the context otherwise requires, other words or expressions contained in these articles bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act 2006, or in subordinate legislation made under that Act, 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. The directors are responsible for the management of the company's business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the company.

##### **Members' Reserve Power**

4. (1) The members 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) 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 may be taken:-  
(a) at a directors' meeting; or  
(b) in the form of a directors' written resolution.  
(2) But if:-  
(a) the company only has one director; and  
(b) no provision of the articles requires it to have more than one director, this 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.

#### **Calling a Directors' Meeting**

8. (1) Any director may call a directors' meeting.  
(2) The company secretary (if any) must call a directors' meeting if a director so requests.  
(3) A directors' meeting is called by giving notice of the meeting to the directors.  
(4) 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.  
(5) Notice of a directors' meeting must be given to each director, but need not be in writing.

(6) 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**

9. (1) Directors participate in a directors' meeting, or part of a directors' meeting, when:-

(a) the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the articles; and  
(b) they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.

(2) In determining whether directors are participating in a directors' meeting, it is irrelevant where any director is or how they communicate with each other.

(3) If all the directors participating in a meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them are.

#### **Quorum for Directors' Meetings**

10. (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 if the company has more than one director, it must never be less than two, and unless otherwise fixed it is two.

#### **Chairing Directors' Meetings**

11. (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 appoint other directors as deputy or assistant chairmen to chair directors' meetings in the chairman's absence.

(4) The directors may terminate the appointment of the chairman, deputy or assistant chairman at any time.

(5) If neither the chairman nor any director appointed generally to chair directors' meetings in the chairman's absence is participating in a meeting within ten minutes of the time at which it was to start, the participating directors must appoint one of themselves to chair it.

#### **Voting at Directors' Meetings: General Rules**

12. (1) A decision is taken at a directors' meeting by a majority of the votes of the participating directors.

(2) Each director participating in a directors' meeting has one vote.

(3) If a director has an interest in an actual or proposed transaction or arrangement with the company:-

(a) that director and that directors' alternate may not vote on any proposal relating to it; but

(b) this does not preclude the alternate from voting in relation to that transaction or arrangement on behalf of another appointor who does not have such an interest.

#### **Chairman's Casting Vote at Directors' Meetings**

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.

#### **Alternates Voting at Directors' Meetings**

14. A director who is also an alternate director has an additional vote on behalf of each appointor who is:-

(a) not participating in a directors' meeting; and

(b) would have been entitled to vote if they were participating in it.

#### **Voting on Conflicts of Interest**

15. (1) If a directors' meeting, or part of a directors' meeting, 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 that meeting, or part of a meeting, 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 a decision at a directors' meeting, or part of a directors' meeting, relating to it for a 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, or voting at, a directors' meeting;

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- (b) the directors' 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 the 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) Subject to paragraph (6), 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.

(6) 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.

#### **Proposing Directors' Written Resolutions**

16. (1) Any director may propose a directors' written resolution.

(2) The company secretary (if any) must propose a directors' written resolution if a director so requests.

(3) A directors' written resolution is proposed by giving notice of the proposed resolution to the directors.

(4) Notice of the proposed directors' written resolution must indicate:-

- (a) the proposed resolution; and
- (b) the time by which it is proposed that the directors should adopt it.

(5) notice of a proposed directors' written resolution must be given in writing to each director.

(6) Any decision which a person giving notice of a proposed directors' written resolution takes regarding the process of adopting that resolution must be taken reasonably in good faith.

#### **Adoption of Directors' Written Resolutions**

17. (1) A proposed directors' written resolution is adopted when all the directors who would have been entitled to vote on the resolution at a directors' meeting have signed one or more copies of it, provided that those directors would have formed a quorum at such a meeting.

(2) It is immaterial whether any director signs the resolution before or after the time by which the notice proposed that it should be adopted.

(3) Once a directors' written resolution has been adopted, it must be treated as if it had been a decision taken at a directors' meeting in accordance with the articles.

(4) The company secretary (or if the company does not have a secretary, the directors) must ensure that the company keeps a record, in writing, of all directors' written resolutions for at least ten years from the date of their adoption.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

18. (1) The directors may, subject to the quorum and voting requirements set out in this article and in article 15, authorise (subject to any conditions they may determine) any matter which would otherwise involve a director breaching his duty under the Companies Act 2006 to avoid conflicts of interest or conflicts of duty ("a Relevant Matter").

(2) Any director (including the director who is the subject of the proposal) may propose that a Relevant Matter be authorised in relation to a specified director. The directors shall reach a decision upon such proposal in accordance with the articles except that the director who is the subject of the proposal and any other director with a similar interest may not be counted in the quorum and may not vote on a resolution giving such authority and may, if the other directors so decide, be excluded from any meeting of the directors while the Relevant Matter is under consideration.

(3) Where the directors authorise a Relevant Matter they may require that the relevant director is excluded from the receipt of information, participation in discussion and/or the making of decisions concerning the Relevant Matter and may direct that where the relevant director obtains (other than in his role as a director of the company) information that is confidential to a third party, the director will not be obliged to disclose that information to the company, or to use the information relative to the company's affairs, where to do so would amount to a breach of that confidence.

(4) The directors may revoke or vary any authority given under this article but this will not affect anything done by the relevant director prior to such revocation.

(5) If he has disclosed the nature and extent of his interest in accordance with the Act, a director can do any one or more of the following:-

- (a) have any kind of interest in a contract with or involving the company or another company in which the company has an interest;

(b) hold any other office or place of profit with the company (except that of auditor) in conjunction with his office of director,  
(c) alone, or through a firm with which he is associated to do paid professional work for the company or another company in which the company has an interest (other than as auditor);  
(d) be or become a director or other officer of, or employed by or otherwise be interested in any holding company or subsidiary company of the company or any other company in which the company has an interest; and  
(e) be or become a director of any other company in which the company does not have an interest and which cannot reasonably be regarded as giving rise to a conflict of interest at the time of his appointment as a director of that other company.

(6) A director is not required to account to the company for any income or benefit he receives as a result of anything authorised under paragraph (1) or allowed under paragraph (5) nor is any type of contract authorised under paragraph (1) or allowed under paragraph (5) liable to be avoided.

(7) The directors can exercise or arrange for the exercise of the voting rights attached to any shares in another company held by the company and the voting rights which they have as directors of that company in any way that they decide. This includes voting in favour of a resolution appointing any of them as directors or officers of that company and deciding their remuneration. They can also vote and be counted in the quorum as directors of the company in connection with any of these things.

(8) The company may by ordinary resolution suspend or relax the provisions of this article to any extent or ratify any contract which has not been properly authorised in accordance with this article.

#### **Directors' Discretion to Make Further Rules**

19. 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**

#### **Manner of Appointment and Number of Directors**

20. (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) Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, the number of directors (other than alternate directors) shall not be subject to any maximum. If and for so long as there is a sole director, he may exercise all the powers and authorities vested in the directors by these Articles.

#### **Termination of Director's Appointment**

21. 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 incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
- (e) notification is received by the company from the director that the director is resigning from office as director, and such resignation has taken effect in accordance with its terms.

#### **Directors' Remuneration**

22. (1) Directors may undertake any services for the company that the directors decide.

(2) Directors are entitled to such remuneration as the directors determine:-

- (a) for their services to the company as directors; and
- (b) for any other service which they undertake for the company.

(3) A directors' remuneration may:-

- (a) take any form; and
- (b) include any arrangements in connection with the payment of a pension, allowance or gratuity, or any death, sickness or disability benefits, to or in respect of that director.

(4) Unless the directors decide otherwise, directors' remuneration accrues from day to day.

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

#### **Directors' Expenses**

23. The company may pay any reasonable expenses which the directors properly incur in connection with their attendance at:-

- (a) meetings of directors or committees of directors;
- (b) general meetings; or

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(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**

#### **DECISION-MAKING BY MEMBERS ORGANISATION OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

##### **Members Can Call General Meeting if not Enough Directors**

**24. If:-**

- (a) the company has fewer than two directors, and
- (b) the director (if any) is unable or unwilling to appoint sufficient directors to make up a quorum or to call a general meeting to do so, then two or more members may call a general meeting (or instruct the company secretary, if any, to do so) for the purpose of appointing one or more directors

##### **Attendance and Speaking at General Meetings**

**25. (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**

**26.** 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**

**27. (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 present), the meeting must appoint a director or member 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-Members**

**28.** Directors may attend and speak at general meetings, whether or not they are members.

**(2)** The chairman of the meeting may permit other persons who are not:-

- (a) members of the company, or
- (b) otherwise entitled to exercise the rights of members in relation to general meetings, to attend and speak at a general meeting.

##### **Adjournment**

**29. (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

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(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**

30. 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**

31. (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.

### **Demanding a Poll**

32. (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 members having the right to vote on the resolution.

(3) A demand for a poll may be withdrawn if:-

(a) the poll has not yet been taken; and

(b) the chairman of the meeting consents to the withdrawal.

### **Procedure on a Poll**

33. (1) Polls at general meetings must be taken when, where and in such manner as the chairman of the meeting directs.

(2) The chairman of the meeting may appoint scrutineers (who need not be members) and decide how and when the result of the poll is to be declared.

(3) The result of a poll shall be the decision of the meeting in respect of the resolution on which the poll was demanded.

(4) A poll on:-

(a) the election of the chairman of the meeting; or

(b) a question of adjournment, must be taken immediately.

(5) Other polls must be taken within 30 days of their being demanded.

(6) A demand for a poll does not prevent a general meeting from continuing, except as regards the question on which the poll was demanded.

(7) No notice need be given of a poll not taken immediately if the time and place at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting at which it is demanded.

(8) In any other case, at least 7 days' notice must be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken.

### **Content of Proxy Notices**

34. (1) Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a "proxy notice") which:-

(a) states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;

(b) identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;

(c) is signed by or on behalf of the member 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**

35. (1) Any notice of a general meeting must specify the address or addresses ("proxy notification address") at which the company or its agents will receive proxy notices relating to that meeting, or any adjournment of it, delivered in hard copy or electronic form.

(2) 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.

(3) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a proxy notice must be delivered to a proxy notification address not less than 48 hours before the general meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.

(4) In the case of a poll taken more than 48 hours after it is demanded, the notice must be delivered to a proxy notification address not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll.

(5) In the case of a poll not taken during the meeting but taken not more than 48 hours after it was demanded, the proxy notice must be delivered:-

- (a) in accordance with paragraph (3); or
- (b) at the meeting at which the poll was demanded to the chairman, secretary (if any) or any director.

(6) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given to a proxy notification address.

(7) A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before:-

- (a) the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates; or
- (b) (in the case of a poll not taken on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting) the time appointed for taking the poll to which it relates.

(8) If a proxy notice is not signed 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**

36. (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.

### **RESTRICTIONS ON MEMBERS' RIGHTS**

#### **No Voting of Shares on Which Money Owed to Company**

37. No voting rights attached to a share may be exercised at any general meeting, and any adjournment of it, or on any poll called at or in relation to it, unless all amounts payable to the company in respect of that share have been paid.

### **APPLICATION OF RULES TO CLASS MEETINGS**

#### **Class Meetings**

38. The provisions of the articles relating to general meetings apply, with any necessary modifications, to meetings of the holders of any class of shares.

## **PART 4**

### **SHARES AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

#### **Issue of Shares**

39. (1) The company is a private company. Accordingly, no offer or invitation shall be made to the public (whether for cash or otherwise) to subscribe for shares in or debentures of the company and the company shall not allot or agree to allot (whether for cash or otherwise) shares in or debentures of the company with a view to all or any of them being offered for sale to the public.



(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) Subject to the Companies Act 2006, all shares shall be under the control of the directors and the directors may allot, grant options over, or otherwise deal with or dispose of the same to such persons and generally on such terms and in such manner as they think fit.

(5) If, and for so long as, the company has in issue only one class of shares, the directors shall, in accordance with section 569 of the Companies Act 2006, be empowered to exercise the powers given to them in paragraph (4) of this article as if section 561 of that Act did not apply to any allotment of equity securities (as defined in section 560 of that Act) made under those powers.

## **INTERESTS IN SHARES**

### ***Company not Bound by Less Than Absolute Interests***

40. 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**

### **Certificates to be Issued Except in Certain Cases**

41. (1) The company must issue each member with one or more certificates in respect of the shares which that member holds.

(2) This article does not apply to:-

- (a) shares in respect of which a share warrant has been issued; or
- (b) shares in respect of which the Companies Acts permit the company not to issue a certificate.

(3) Except as otherwise specified in the articles, all certificates must be issued free of charge.

(4) No certificate may be issued in respect of shares of more than one class.

(5) If more than one person holds a share, only one certificate may be issued in respect of it.

### **Contents and Execution of Share Certificates**

42. (1) Every certificate may specify:-

- (a) in respect of how many shares, of what class, it is issued;
- (b) the nominal value of those shares;
- (c) the amount paid up on them; and
- (d) any distinguishing numbers assigned to them.

(2) Certificates must:-

- (a) have affixed to them the company's common seal or an official seal which is a facsimile of the company's common seal with the addition on its face of the word "Securities" (a "securities seal"); or
- (b) be otherwise executed in accordance with the Companies Acts.

### **Consolidated Share Certificates**

43. (1) When a member's holding of shares of a particular class increases, the company may issue that member with:-

- (a) a single, consolidated certificate in respect of all the shares of a particular class which that member holds; or
- (b) a separate certificate in respect of only those shares by which that member's holding has increased.

(2) When a member's holding of shares of a particular class is reduced, the company must ensure that the member is issued with one or more certificates in respect of the number of shares held by the member after that reduction. But the company need not (in the absence of a request from the member) issue any new certificate if:-

- (a) all the shares which the member no longer holds as a result of the reduction; and
- (b) none of the shares which the member retains following the reduction, were, immediately before the reduction, represented by the same certificate.

(3) A member may request the company, in writing, to replace:-

- (a) the member's separate certificates with a consolidated certificate; or
- (b) the member's consolidated certificate with two or more separate certificates representing such proportion of the shares as the member may specify.

(4) When the company complies with such a request it may charge such reasonable fee as the directors may decide for doing so.

(5) A consolidated certificate must not be issued unless any certificates which it is to replace have first been returned to the company for cancellation.

### **Replacement Share Certificates**

44. (1) If a certificate issued in respect of a member's shares is:-

- (a) damaged or defaced; or
  - (b) said to be lost, stolen or destroyed, that member is entitled to be issued with a replacement certificate in respect of the same shares.
- (2) A member 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.

## **PARTLY PAID SHARES**

### **Company's Lien Over Partly Paid Shares**

45. (1) The company has a lien ("the company's lien") over every share which is partly paid for any part of:-

- (a) that share's nominal value; and
- (b) any premium at which it was issued, which has not been paid to the company, and which is payable immediately or at some time in the future, whether or not a call notice has been sent in respect of it.

(2) The company's lien over a share:-

- (a) takes priority over any third party's interest in that share; and
- (b) extends to any dividend or other money payable by the company in respect of that share and (if the lien is enforced and the share is sold by the company) the proceeds of sale of that share.

(3) The directors may at any time decide that a share which is or would otherwise be subject to the company's lien shall not be subject to it, either wholly or in part.

### **Enforcement of the Company's Lien**

46. (1) Subject to the provisions of this article, if:-

- (a) a lien enforcement notice has been given in respect of a share; and
- (b) the person to whom the notice was given has failed to comply with it, the company may sell that share in such manner as the directors decide.

(2) A lien enforcement notice:-

- (a) may only be given in respect of a share which is subject to the company's lien, in respect of which a sum is payable and the due date for payment of that sum has passed;
- (b) must specify the share concerned;
- (c) must require payment of the sum payable within 14 days of the notice;
- (d) must be addressed either to the holder of the share or to a person entitled to it by reason of the holder's death, bankruptcy or otherwise; and
- (e) must state the company's intention to sell the share if the notice is not complied with.

(3) Where shares are sold under this article:-

- (a) the directors may authorise any person to execute an instrument of transfer of the shares to the purchaser or a person nominated by the purchaser; and
- (b) the transferee is not bound to see to the application of the consideration, and the transferee's title is not affected by any irregularity in or invalidity of the process leading to the sale.

(4) The net proceeds of any such sale (after payment of the costs of sale and any other costs of enforcing the lien) must be applied:-

- (a) first, in payment of so much of the sum for which the lien exists as was payable at the date of the lien enforcement notice;
- (b) second, to the person entitled to the shares at the date of the sale, but only after the certificate for the shares sold has been surrendered to the company for cancellation or a suitable indemnity has been given for any lost certificates, and subject to a lien equivalent to the company's lien over the shares before the sale for any money payable in respect of the shares after the date of the lien enforcement notice.

(5) A statutory declaration by a director or the company secretary (if any) that the declarant is a director or the company secretary (if any) and that a share has been sold to satisfy the company's lien on a specified date:-

- (a) is conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it as against all persons claiming to be entitled to the share; and
- (b) subject to compliance with any other formalities of transfer required by the articles or by law, constitutes a good title to the share.

### **Surrender of Shares**

47. (1) A member may surrender any share:-

- (a) in respect of which the directors may issue a notice of intended forfeiture;
- (b) which the directors may forfeit; or
- (c) which has been forfeited.

(2) The directors may accept the surrender of any such share.

(3) The effect of surrender on a share is the same as the effect of forfeiture on that share.

(4) A share which has been surrendered may be dealt with in the same way as a share which has been forfeited.

## **TRANSFER AND TRANSMISSION OF SHARES**

### **Transfer of Shares**

**48.** (1) Shares may be transferred by means of an instrument of transfer in any usual form or any other form approved by the directors, which is executed by or on behalf of:-

- (a) the transferor; and
- (b) (if any of the shares is partly paid) the transferee.

(2) No fee may be charged for registering any instrument of transfer or other document relating to or affecting the title to any share.

(3) The company may retain any instrument of transfer which is registered.

(4) The transferor remains the holder of a share until the transferee's name is entered in the register of members as holder of it.

(5) The directors may, in their absolute discretion decline to register any transfer of any share, whether or not it is a fully paid share. Without prejudice to the generality of this power, they may refuse to register a transfer if:-

- (a) the transfer is not lodged at the company's registered office or such other place as the directors have appointed;
- (b) the transfer is not accompanied by the certificate for the shares to which it relates, or such other evidence as the directors may reasonably require to show the transferor's right to make the transfer, or evidence of the right of someone other than the transferor to make the transfer on the transferor's behalf;
- (c) the transfer is in respect of more than one class of share; or
- (d) the transfer is in favour of more than four transferees.

(6) If the directors refuse to register the transfer of a share, the instrument of transfer must be returned to the transferee with the notice of refusal unless they suspect that the proposed transfer may be fraudulent.

### **Transmission of Shares**

**49.** (1) If title to a share passes to a transmittee, the company may only recognise the transmittee as having any title to that share.

(2) Nothing in these articles releases the estate of a deceased member from any liability in respect of a share solely or jointly held by that member.

### **Transmittees' Rights**

**50.** (1) A transmittee who produces such evidence of entitlement to shares as the directors may properly require:-

- (a) may choose either to become the holder of those shares or to have them transferred to another person; and
- (b) pending any transfer of the shares to another person, has the same rights as the holder had.

(2) But transmittees do not have the right to attend or vote at a general meeting in respect of shares to which they are entitled, by reason of the holder's death or bankruptcy or otherwise, unless they become the holders of those shares.

### **Exercise of Transmittees' Rights**

**51.** (1) Transmittees who wish to become the holders of shares to which they have become entitled must notify the company in writing of that wish.

(2) If a transmittee wishes to have a share transferred to another person, the transmittee must execute an instrument of transfer in respect of it.

(3) Any transfer made or executed under this article is to be treated as if it were made or executed by the person from whom the transmittee has derived rights in respect of the share, and as if the event which gave rise to the transmission had not occurred.

### **Transmittees Bound by Prior Notices**

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

## **DISTRIBUTIONS**

### **Procedure for Declaring Dividends**

**53.** (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 members' respective rights.

(4) Unless the members' 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 member'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.

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(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.

#### **Calculation of Dividends**

**54.** (1) Except as otherwise provided by the articles or the rights attached to shares, all dividends must be:-

(a) declared and paid according to the amounts paid up on the shares on which the dividend is paid; and  
(b) apportioned and paid proportionately to the amounts paid up on the shares during any portion or portions of the period in respect of which the dividend is paid.

(2) If any share is issued on terms providing that it ranks for dividend as from a particular date, that share ranks for dividend accordingly.

(3) For the purposes of calculating dividends, no account is to be taken of any amount which has been paid up on a share in advance of the due date for payment of that amount.

#### **No Interest on Distributions**

**55.** 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**

**56.** (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**

**57.** (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**

**58.** 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**

**59.** (1) 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:-

- (a) in or towards paying up any amounts unpaid on existing shares held by the persons entitled; or
- (b) 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) 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.

## **PART 5**

### **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **Means of Communication to be Used**

60. (1) 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 or their being sent, and for the specified time to be less than 48 hours.

(4) The provisions of section 1147(5) of the Companies Act 2006 (concerning any day that is not a working day) shall not be applicable to any documents or information supplied by the company to its members.

##### **Failure to Notify Contact Details**

61. (1) If:-

- (a) the company sends two consecutive documents to a member over a period of at least 12 months; and
- (b) each of those documents is returned undelivered, or the company receives notification that it has not been delivered, that member ceases to be entitled to receive notices from the company.

(2) A member who has ceased to be entitled to receive notices from the company becomes entitled to receive such notices again by sending the company:-

- (a) a new address to be recorded in the register of members; or
- (b) if the member has agreed that the company should use a means of communication other than sending things to such an address, the information that the company needs to use that means of communication effectively.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

##### **Company Seals**

62. (1) The company need not have a common seal but 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 or securities 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.

(5) If the company has an official seal for use abroad, it may only be affixed to a document if its use on that document, or documents of a class to which it belongs, has been authorised by a decision of the directors.

(6) If the company has a securities seal, it may only be affixed to securities by the company secretary (if any) or a person authorised to apply it to securities by the directors.

(7) For the purposes of the articles, references to the securities seal being affixed to any document include the reproduction of the image of that seal on or in a document by any mechanical or electronic means which has been approved by the directors in relation to that document or documents of a class to which it belongs.

##### **Destruction of Documents**

63. (1) The company is entitled to destroy:-

- (a) all instruments of transfer of shares which have been registered, and all other documents on the basis of which any entries made in the register of members, from six years after the date of registration;