

*The Companies Act 2006*

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PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

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# ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF

## BUXTON ACQUISITIONS LIMITED

Company No. 14299304

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Adopted 2nd May 2023

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**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**  
**PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**  
**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**  
**of**  
**BUXTON ACQUISITIONS LIMITED**

**PART 1**  
**INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

**1 Defined terms**

- (1) The regulations contained in the Model Articles for Private Companies Limited by Shares set out in Schedule 1 of The Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 (SI 3229/2008), shall not apply to the Company.
- (2) In the articles, unless the context requires otherwise:
- |                           |                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| "the 2006 Act"            | means the Companies Act 2006;                                                                                                                                     |
| "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 45;                                                                                                                              |
| "Class A Ordinary Share"  | means an ordinary share of £0.01 in the capital of the Company designated as an A Ordinary Share                                                                  |
| "Class B Ordinary Share"  | means an ordinary share of £0.01 in the capital of the Company designated as a B Ordinary Share                                                                   |
| "Class C Ordinary Share"  | means an ordinary share of £0.01 in the capital of the Company designated as a C Ordinary Share                                                                   |
| "Class D Ordinary Share"  | means an ordinary share of £0.01 in the capital of the Company designated as a D Ordinary Share                                                                   |
| "Class E Ordinary Share"  | means an ordinary share of £0.01 in the capital of the Company designated as an E Ordinary Share                                                                  |
| "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 37;                                                                                                                              |
| "document"                | includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;                                                                           |
| "electronic form"         | has the meaning given in section 1168 of the 2006 Act;                                                                                                            |
| "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 2006 Act;                                                                                                            |
| "holder"                  | in relation to shares means the person whose name is entered in the register of members as the holder of the shares;                                              |
| "instrument"              | means a document in hard copy form;                                                                                                                               |
| "ordinary resolution"     | has the meaning given in section 282 of the 2006 Act;                                                                                                             |
| "paid"                    | means paid or credited as paid;                                                                                                                                   |
| "participate"             | in relation to a directors' meeting, has the meaning given in article 10;                                                                                         |
| "proxy notice"            | has the meaning given in article 51;                                                                                                                              |
| "shareholder"             | means a person who is the holder of a share;                                                                                                                      |

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| "shares"             | means shares in the Company as prescribed in Article 23;                                                                                                                                             |
| "special resolution" | has the meaning given in section 283 of the 2006 Act;                                                                                                                                                |
| "subsidiary"         | has the meaning given in section 1159 of the 2006 Act;                                                                                                                                               |
| "the 2006 Act"       | means 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. |

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

## **2 Liability of shareholders**

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

## **PART 2 DIRECTORS DIRECTORS' POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **3 Directors' general authority**

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.

### **4 Shareholders' reserve power**

- (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.

### **5 Directors may delegate**

- (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.

### **6 Committees**

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. 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**

### **7 Directors to take decisions collectively**

- (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 or a decision taken in accordance with article 8.
- (2) 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 and Article 11(2) do not apply, and the director may, subject to articles 8(3) and 16 take decisions without regard to any other of the provisions of the articles relating to directors' decision-making.

## **8 Unanimous decisions**

- (1) A decision of the directors is taken in accordance with this article when all eligible directors indicate to each other by any means that they share a common view on a matter.
- (2) 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.

## **9 Calling a directors' meeting**

- (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 writing.
- (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.

## **10 Participation in directors' meetings**

- (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, 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 is.

## **11 Quorum for directors' meetings**

- (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 unless there is just a sole director in office, and unless otherwise fixed it is two.
- (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.

## **12 Chairing of directors' meetings**

- (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.

## **13 Casting vote**

The chairman or other director chairing the meeting shall not, if the numbers of votes for and against a proposal are equal, have a second or casting vote.

#### **14 Conflicts of interest**

- (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.
- (8) Where the number of non-conflicted directors is less than the quorum for the purposes of approving a resolution authorising any situation or transaction constituting a conflict as anticipated by the Companies Acts, the quorum shall be all the disinterested directors.
- (9) When all the directors of the Company are conflicted, the Company shall pass the conflict to the Company's shareholders for approval by ordinary resolution.

#### **15 Records of decisions to be kept**

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.

#### **16 Directors' discretion to make further rules**

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.

### **NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS**

#### **17 Methods of appointing directors**

- (1) There shall be no maximum number of directors and the minimum number of directors shall be one. Whenever the Company has two or more directors, at least one of them shall be a natural person
- (2) Any person 16 years of age or more and 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.
- (3) 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.

- (4) For the purposes of paragraph (3), 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.

**18 Termination of director's appointment**

- (1) 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 Acts 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) 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;
  - (f) he shall for more than six consecutive months have been absent without permission of the directors from meetings of directors held during that period and the directors resolve that his office be vacated.

**19 Directors' remuneration**

- (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.

**20 Directors' expenses**

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**

**21 All shares to be fully paid up**

- (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.

**22 Powers to issue different classes of share**

- (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.

## **23 Classes of Share**

- (1) The issued share capital of the company shall consist of Class A Ordinary shares, Class B Ordinary shares, Class C ordinary shares, Class D Ordinary shares and Class E Ordinary shares except as otherwise provide in these articles, shall rank in all respects *pari passu* but shall constitute separate classes of shares.
- (2) **Voting**
  - (a) As regards voting in general meeting or by written resolution, the holders of the Class A Ordinary Shares and Class B Ordinary Shares shall be entitled to receive notice of, and to attend and vote at, general meetings of the company; on a show of hands every holder of Ordinary Shares who (being an individual) is present in person or by proxy (being a corporation) is present by a duly authorised representative or by proxy shall have one vote and on a poll every holder of Ordinary Shares present shall have one vote for each Share Held by him or her.
  - (b) For the avoidance of doubt, the holders of the Class C Ordinary Shares, Class D Ordinary Shares and Class E Ordinary Shares shall not be entitled to receive notice of, and to attend and vote at, general meetings of the company.
- (3) **Dividends**

The Class C Ordinary Shares, Class D Ordinary Shares and Class E Ordinary Shares shall not be entitled to receive any dividends. Other share classes shall be entitled to varying rates of dividend as determined by the directors and as declared by the Company from time to time in accordance with Article 36
- (4) **Capital**

On a return of capital whether on liquidation or capital reduction or otherwise (other than a purchase of shares made in accordance with these Articles) the surplus assets of the Company remaining after the payment of its liabilities shall be applied in paying the following order of priority:

  - (a) first, in paying to each holder of A Ordinary shares and B Ordinary shares the value of assets of the company, (*pari passu* as if the same constituted one class of Shares), valued at the date of adoption of these articles, according to the amount paid up or credited as paid up on each such Share;
  - (b) Next, the balance of such assets over and above of the value of assets at the date of adoption of these articles (if any) shall be distributed amongst the holders of the Class C Ordinary Shares, Class D Ordinary Shares and Class E Ordinary Shares (*pari passu* as if the same constituted one class of Shares) according to the amount paid up or credited as paid up on each such Share.
  - (c) For the avoidance of doubt, the A Ordinary Shares and B Ordinary Shares shall not confer the right to any further or any other participation in the assets of the Company

## **24 Further Issues of Shares: Authority**

- (1) Save to the extent authorised by these Articles, or authorised from time to time by an ordinary resolution of the shareholders, the directors shall not exercise any power to allot shares or to grant rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, any shares in the company.
- (2) Subject to the remaining provisions of this Article 24 and to Article 25, the directors are generally and unconditionally authorised, for the purposes of section 551 of the Act and generally, to exercise any power of the Company to:
  - (a) offer or allot;
  - (b) grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into;
  - (c) otherwise deal in, or dispose of,any Class of Ordinary shares each in the company to any person, at any time and subject to any terms and conditions as the directors think proper.
- (3) The authority referred to in Article 24(2):
  - (a) shall be limited to a maximum nominal amount of £2,000.
  - (b) shall only apply insofar as the company has not renewed, waived or revoked it by ordinary resolution; and
  - (c) may only be exercised for a period of five years commencing on the date on which these Articles are adopted, save that the directors may make an offer or agreement which would, or might, require Shares to be allotted after the expiry of such authority and the directors may allot Ordinary Shares in pursuance of an offer or agreement as if such authority had not expired).

## **25 Further Issues of Shares: Pre-Emption Rights**

- (1) In accordance with section 567(1) of the Act, sections 561 and 562 of the Act shall not apply to an allotment of equity securities (as defined in section 560(1) of the Act) made by the company.
- (2) Unless otherwise agreed by special resolution, if the company proposes to allot any equity securities (other than any equity securities to be held under an employees' share scheme), those equity

securities shall not be allotted to any person unless the company has first offered them to all shareholders on the date of the offer on the same terms, and at the same price, as those equity securities are being offered to other persons on a pari passu and pro rata basis to the number of shares held by those holders (as nearly as possible without involving fractions). The offer:

(a) shall be in writing, shall be open for acceptance for a period of 15 business days from the date of the offer and shall give details of the number and subscription price of the relevant equity securities; and

(b) may stipulate that any shareholder who wishes to subscribe for a number of equity securities in excess of the proportion to which he is entitled shall, in his acceptance, state the number of excess equity securities (Excess Securities) for which he wishes to subscribe.

(3) Any equity securities not accepted by shareholders pursuant to the offer made to them in accordance with Article 25(2) shall be used for satisfying any requests for Excess Securities made pursuant to Article 25(2). If there are insufficient Excess Securities to satisfy such requests, the Excess Securities shall be allotted to the applicants pro rata to the [number of shares] held by the applicants immediately before the offer was made to shareholders in accordance with Article 25.2 (as nearly as possible without involving fractions or increasing the number of Excess Securities allotted to any shareholder beyond that applied for by him). After that allotment, any Excess Securities remaining shall be offered to any other person as the directors may determine, at the same price and on the same terms as the offer to the shareholders.

(4) Subject to Articles 25(2) and 25(3) and to section 551 of the Act, any equity securities shall be at the disposal of the directors who may allot, grant options over or otherwise dispose of them to any persons at those times and generally on the terms and conditions they think proper.

(5) No shares shall be allotted to any employee, director, prospective employee or director unless such person has entered into a joint election with the company under section 431 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003.

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

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.

## **27 Share certificates**

(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.

## **28 Replacement share certificates**

(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.

## **29 Transfer of shares- general**

- (1) In these Articles, a reference to the transfer of or transferring shares shall include any transfer, assignment, disposition or proposed or purported transfer, assignment or disposition:
  - (a) of any share or shares of the Company; or
  - (b) of any interest of any kind in any share or shares of the Company; or
  - (c) of any right to receive or subscribe for any share or shares of the Company.
- (2) The directors shall not register the transfer of any share or any interest in any share unless the transfer is made in accordance with Article 30, and, in any such case, is not prohibited under Article 31 (Prohibited Transfers).
- (3) If the directors refuse to register a transfer of a share they shall, as soon as practicable and in any event within two months after the date on which the transfer was lodged with the Company, send to the transferee notice of, and the reasons for, the refusal.
- (4) An obligation to transfer a share under these Articles shall be deemed to be an obligation to transfer the entire legal and beneficial interest in such share free from any lien, charge or other encumbrance.
- (5) 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 the transferor and (if any of the shares is partly paid) the transferee.
- (6) No fee may be charged for registering any instrument of transfer or other document relating to or affecting the title to any share.
- (7) The Company may retain any instrument of transfer which is registered.
- (8) The transferor remains the holder of a share until the transferee's name is entered in the register of members as holder of it.

### **30 Transfers: pre-emption rights**

- (1) If any member wishes to transfer any shares (Seller) to a third party, such shares must first be offered to the other members of the Company in the manner set out in this Article 30 before the Seller is able to transfer or agree to transfer such shares to a third party.
- (2) A Seller must first serve notice in writing (Transfer Notice) on the Company of his wish to make a transfer of his shares and must set out in the Transfer Notice:
  - (a) the number and class of shares (Sale Shares and each one a Sale Share) which he wishes to transfer;
  - (b) if there is a specific proposed transferee to whom the Seller wishes to transfer the Sale Shares, the identity of such third party;
  - (c) the price per share at which the Seller wishes to transfer the Sale Shares (Proposed Sale Price); and
  - (d) whether the Transfer Notice is conditional upon all (and not some) of the Sale Shares being sold pursuant to the following provisions of this Article 30 (Total Transfer Condition).
- (3) Each Transfer Notice shall:
  - (a) relate to one class of shares only;
  - (b) constitute the Company as the agent of the Seller for the sale of the Sale Shares on the terms of this Article 30;
 and
  - (c) save as provided in Article 30(8), be irrevocable.
- (4) After the Transfer Notice is served on the Company by the Seller, the Sale Shares shall be offered for purchase in accordance with this Article 30 at a price per Sale Share (Sale Price) agreed between the Seller and the directors or, if there is no such agreement by the end of the 15th working day after the date of service of the Transfer Notice:
  - (a) if the directors so elect during that fifteen working day period, the Sale Price shall be the price per Sale Share reported on by the Valuers as their written opinion of the open market value of each Sale Share (Market Value) as at the date of service of the Transfer Notice (in which case for the purposes of these Articles the Sale Price shall be deemed to have been determined on the date of the receipt by the Company of the Valuer's report); or
  - (b) otherwise the Sale Price shall be the Proposed Sale Price (in which case for the purpose of these Articles the Sale Price shall be deemed to have been agreed at the end of that 15th working day).
- (5) If instructed to report on their opinion of Market Value under Article 30(4), the Valuers shall:
  - (a) act as expert and not as arbitrator and their written determination shall be final and binding on the members;
 and
  - (b) proceed on the basis that:

- (i) the open market value of each Sale Share shall be the sum which a willing buyer would agree with a willing seller to be the purchase price for all the class of shares of which the Sale Shares form part, divided by the number of issued shares then comprised in that class;
  - (ii) there shall be no addition of any premium or subtraction of any discount by reference to the size of the holding the subject of the Transfer Notice or in relation to any restrictions on the transferability of the Sale Shares; and
  - (iii) any difficulty in applying either of the foregoing bases shall be resolved by the Valuers as they think fit in their absolute discretion.
- (6) The Company will use its reasonable endeavours to procure that the Valuers deliver their written opinion of the Market Value to the directors and the Seller within twenty-eight days of being requested to do so.
- (7) The Valuers' fees for reporting on their opinion of the Market Value shall be borne as the Valuers shall specify in their valuation having regard to the conduct of the parties and the merit of their arguments in respect of the matters in dispute or otherwise (in the absence of any such specification by the Valuers) as to one half by the Seller and as to the other half by the Company unless the Seller revokes the Transfer Notice pursuant to Article 30(8), in which case the Seller shall pay all the Valuers' fees.
- (8) If the Market Value is reported on by the Valuers under Article 30(4) to be less than the Proposed Sale Price, the Seller may revoke any Transfer Notice which was not stated to be, or is not deemed by these Articles to be, irrevocable by giving written notice to the directors within the period of five working days after the date the Seller is provided the Valuers' written opinion of the Market Value.
- (9) The directors shall at least ten working days after and no more than twenty working days after the Sale Price has been agreed or determined give an Offer Notice to all members to whom the Sale Shares are to be offered in accordance with these Articles.
- (10) An Offer Notice shall:
  - (a) specify the Sale Price;
  - (b) contain the other details included in the Transfer Notice; and
  - (c) invite each of the members (other than the Seller) to apply in writing within twenty working days after service of such Offer Notice setting out the number of Sale Shares he wishes to acquire and, if he so desires, that he would be willing to purchase a particular proportionate entitlement of such Sale Shares as set out in Article 30(11)(a),
 and shall expire twenty working days after its service.
- (11) After the expiry date of the Offer Notice, the directors shall allocate the Sale Shares in accordance with the applications received save that:
  - (a) if there are applications from members for more than the number of Sale Shares available, they shall be allocated to those applicants in proportion (as nearly as possible but without allocating to any member more Sale Shares than the maximum number applied for by him) to the number of shares then held by them respectively; however, if any members indicate that they would be willing to purchase a particular proportionate entitlement (Excess Shares), in which case, applications for Excess Shares shall be allocated in accordance with such applications, or in the event of competition among those members applying for Excess Shares in such proportions as equal (as nearly as may be) to the proportions of all the shares held by such members;
  - (b) if it is not possible to allocate any of the Sale Shares without involving fractions, they shall be allocated amongst them in such manner as the Board shall think fit; and
  - (c) if the Transfer Notice contained a valid Total Transfer Condition, no allocation of Sale Shares shall be made unless all the Sale Shares are allocated.
- (12) The directors shall, within five working days of the expiry date of the Offer Notice, give notice in writing (Allocation Notice) to the Seller and to each person to whom Sale Shares have been allocated (each a Buyer) setting out:
  - (a) the name and address of each Buyer;
  - (b) the number and class of Sale Shares agreed to be purchased by each Buyer;
  - (c) the aggregate price payable for them; and
  - (d) the date and time when each Buyer must pay the Seller in respect of the Sale Shares allocated to such Buyer and the Seller must deliver the relative share certificate(s) to that Buyer.
- (13) Completion of a sale and purchase of Sale Shares pursuant to an Allocation Notice shall take place at the registered office of the Company at the date and time specified in the Allocation Notice when the Seller shall, upon payment to him by a Buyer of the Sale Price in respect of the Sale Shares

- allocated to that Buyer, transfer those Sale Shares and deliver the relative share certificate(s) to that Buyer.
- (14) The Seller may, during the period of thirty working days immediately following the expiry date of the Offer Notice, sell all or any of these Sale Shares, for which an Allocation Notice has not been given, by way of bona fide sale to the proposed transferee named in the Transfer Notice or, if none was so named, to any transferee, in either case at any price per Sale Share which is not less than the Sale Price, without any deduction, rebate or allowance to the proposed transferee, provided that:
- (a) the Seller may not transfer such share and the directors shall not register any transfer to a transferee who is not at that date a member unless such transferee is first approved in writing by the directors; and
  - (b) if the Transfer Notice contained a Total Transfer Condition, the Seller shall not be entitled, save with the written consent of the directors, to sell only some of the Sale Shares under this Article 30(14).
- (15) If a Seller fails for any reason (including death) to transfer any Sale Shares when required pursuant to this Article 30 the directors may authorise any director of the Company (who shall be deemed to be irrevocably appointed as the attorney of the Seller for the purpose) to execute each necessary transfer of such Sale Shares and deliver it on the Seller's behalf. The Company may receive the purchase money for such Sale Shares from the Buyer and shall upon receipt (subject, if necessary, to the transfer being duly stamped) register the Buyer as the holder of such Sale Shares. The Company shall hold such purchase money in a separate bank account on trust for the Seller but shall not be bound to earn or pay interest on any money so held. The Company's receipt for such purchase money shall be a good discharge to the Buyer who shall not be bound to see to the application of it, and after the name of the Buyer has been entered in the register of members in purported exercise of the power conferred by this Article 30(15) the validity of the proceedings shall not be questioned by any person.
- 31 Prohibited Transfers**  
Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, no transfer of any Share shall be registered if it is to any undischarged bankrupt, trustee in bankruptcy or person of unsound mind.
- 32 Transmission of shares**
- (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) A transmittee who produces such evidence of entitlement to shares as the directors may properly require:
    - (a) may, subject to the articles, choose either to become the holder of those shares or to have them transferred to another person, and
    - (b) subject to the articles, and pending any transfer of the shares to another person, has the same rights as the holder had.
  - (3) But transmittees do not have the right to attend or vote at a general meeting, or agree to a proposed written resolution, 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.
- 33 Exercise of transmittees' rights**
- (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 the 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.
- 34 Transmittees bound by prior notices**  
If a notice is given to a shareholder 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 shareholder before the transmittee's name has been entered in the register of members.
- 35 Purchase of own shares**  
Subject to the Act but without prejudice to any other provision of these Articles, the Company may purchase its own shares in accordance with Chapter 4 of Part 18 of the Act, including (without limitation) out of capital up to any amount in a financial year not exceeding the lower of:

- (a) £15,000; or
- (b) the value of 5% of the Company's share capital.

## **DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS**

### **36 Procedure for declaring dividends**

- (1) As regards dividends, any profits available for distribution and resolved to be distributed shall be distributed at the discretion of the Board and, for the avoidance of doubt, the Board may, at their absolute discretion, decide to distribute dividends on an interim basis and/or distribute different amounts of dividends amongst the different classes of shares. Any Such dividends must not exceed the amount recommended by the directors and no dividend may be declared or paid unless it is in accordance with shareholders' respective rights.
- (2) Unless:
  - (a) the shareholders' resolution to declare; or
  - (b) directors' decision to pay a dividend; or
  - (c) 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.
- (3) The board have the authority to declare interim distributions as follows:
  - (a) The board have absolute discretion as to how any interim distribution shall be distributed across the different classes of shares (which, for the avoidance of doubt, shall NOT necessarily be distributed amongst the holders of the A Ordinary Shares and B Ordinary Shares *pari passu* and in proportion to the percentage of shares held by them in the Company).
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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.

### **37 Payment of dividends and other distributions**

- (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 in writing; or
  - (b) sending a cheque, payable to the distribution recipient, by post to the distribution recipient at his 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; or
  - (c) 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.

### **38 No interest on distributions**

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

### **39 Unclaimed distributions**

- (1) All dividends or other sums which are payable in respect of shares and 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 and 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.

#### **40 Non-cash distributions**

- (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.

#### **41 Waiver of distributions**

- (1) 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**

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

- (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 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) above 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 4**  
**DECISION-MAKING BY SHAREHOLDERS**  
**ORGANISATION OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

**43 Attendance and speaking at general meetings**

- (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 all 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 shareholders 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.

**44 Quorum for general meetings**

The quorum for a general meeting shall be determined according to section 318 of the 2006 Act and 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.

**45 Chairing general meetings**

- (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".

**46 Attendance and speaking by directors and non-shareholders**

- (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.

**47 Adjournment**

- (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, or if at any time during a quorate general meeting the meeting directs him to do so, the chairman of the meeting must adjourn it and he 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.
- (2) 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.

- (3) 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.
- (4) 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 and if, at an adjourned general meeting, a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, the shareholders present shall be a quorum.

## **VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

### **48 Voting: general**

A resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is duly demanded and acted upon in accordance with these articles and sections 321 and 322 of the 2006 Act.

### **49 Errors and disputes**

- (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.

### **50 Poll votes**

- (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 chairman of the meeting consents to the withdrawal.
- (4) Polls must be taken immediately and in such manner as the chairman of the meeting directs.

### **51 Content of proxy notices**

- (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.

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

- (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.

### **53 Amendments to resolutions**

- (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**

### **54 Means of communication to be used**

- (1) Anything sent or supplied by or to the Company under the articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the 2006 Act 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) Every notice convening a general meeting shall comply with the provisions of section 307 and 325 of the 2006 Act as to the length of notice required for the meeting and the giving of information to shareholders in regard to their right to appoint proxies; and notices of and other communications relating to any general meeting which any shareholder is entitled to receive shall be sent to the directors and to the auditor for the time being of the Company.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.

### **55 Company seals**

- (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.

### **56 No right to inspect accounts and other records**

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.

**57 Provision for employees on cessation of business**

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**

**58 Indemnity**

(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 2006 Act);
- (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.

**59 Insurance**

(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 liability 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
- (c) companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.