

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF

MONTGOMERY BELL LIMITED

Company No NI000368

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Company number: NI000368
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OF
MONTGOMERY BELL LIMITED (the "Company")
(Adopted by special resolution passed on 18th April 2023)

INTRODUCTION

1. Interpretation

1.1 The following definitions and rules of interpretation shall apply in these Articles:

Act: the Companies Act 2006.

Articles: the Company's articles of association for the time being in force.

Business Day: a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in England on which banks in London are open for business.

Conflict: a situation in which a director has, or can have, a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interests of the Company.

Controlling Shareholder: a registered holder for the time being of not less than 75% in nominal value of the equity share capital of the Company from time to time.

Eligible Director: a director who would be entitled to vote on the matter at a meeting of directors (but excluding any director whose vote is not to be counted in respect of the particular matter).

Group: the Company, any subsidiary or any holding company of the Company from time to time, and any subsidiary from time to time of a holding company and **member of the Group** shall mean any of them.

holding company: has the meaning given in Article 1.6.

Model Articles: the model articles for private companies limited by shares contained in Schedule 1 of the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 (*SI 2008/3229*), as amended prior to the date of adoption of these Articles and reference to a numbered Model Article is a reference to that article of the Model Articles.

subsidiary: has the meaning given in Article 1.6.

- 1.2 Unless expressly provided otherwise in these Articles, words and expressions which have particular meanings in the Model Articles shall have the same meanings in these Articles, subject to which and unless the context otherwise requires, words and expressions which have particular meanings in the Act shall have the same meanings in these Articles. The final paragraph of Model Article 1 shall not apply to the Company.
- 1.3 Headings in these Articles are used for convenience only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of these Articles.
- 1.4 A reference in these Articles to a numbered **Article** is a reference to the relevant article of these Articles unless expressly provided otherwise.
- 1.5 Unless expressly provided otherwise in these Articles, a reference to legislation, a legislative provision or subordinate legislation is a reference to it as it is in force from time to time, taking account of:
- (a) any subordinate legislation made under it, whether before or after the date of adoption of these Articles; and
 - (b) any amendment or re-enactment, whether before or after the date of adoption of these Articles and includes any legislation, legislative provision or subordinate legislation which it amends or re-enacts.
- This article 1.5 shall not apply to the definition of **Model Articles** in article 1.1.
- 1.6 A reference to a **holding company** or **subsidiary** means a holding company or a subsidiary (as the case may be) as defined in section 1159 of the Act.
- 1.7 Any words following the terms **including**, **include**, **in particular** or any similar expression shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words, description, definition, phrase or term preceding those terms.
- 1.8 Where the context permits, **other** and **otherwise** are illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words preceding them.
- 1.9 The Model Articles shall apply to the Company, except in so far as they are modified or excluded by, or are inconsistent with, these Articles.
- 1.10 Model Articles 8(3), 11(2) and (3), 14(1), (2), (3) and (4), 38, 52 and 53 shall not apply to the Company.
- 1.11 Model Article 7 shall be amended by:
- (a) the insertion of the words "for the time being" at the end of Model Article 7(2)(a); and

- (b) the insertion in Model Article 7(2) of the words "(for so long as they remain the sole director)" after the words "and the director may".
- 1.12 In Model Article 8(2), the words "copies of which have been signed by each eligible director" shall be deleted and replaced with the words "of which each Eligible Director has signed one or more copies".
- 1.13 Model Article 20 shall be amended by the insertion of the words "and the company secretary (if any)" before the words "properly incur".
- 1.14 In Model Article 25(2)(c), the words "evidence, indemnity and the payment of a reasonable fee" shall be deleted and replaced with the words "evidence and indemnity".
- 1.15 In Model Article 30(4), the words "the terms on which shares are issued" shall be deleted and replaced with "the rights attached to any shares".
- 1.16 In Model Article 32(a), the words "the terms on which the share was issued" shall be deleted and replaced with "the rights attached to the share".
- 1.17 Model Article 44(3) shall be amended by the insertion of the words "A demand so withdrawn shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made" as a new paragraph at the end of that Model Article.

DIRECTORS

2. Directors' general authority

Any or all powers of the directors (or any of them) shall be restricted in such respects, to such extent and for such duration as a Controlling Shareholder may from time to time by notice in writing to the Company prescribe.

3. Quorum for directors' meetings

- 3.1 Subject to article 3.2, the quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of directors is any two Eligible Directors.
- 3.2 For the purposes of any meeting (or part of a meeting) held pursuant to article 6 to authorise a Conflict, if there is only one Eligible Director in office other than the interested director, the quorum for such meeting (or part of a meeting) shall be one Eligible Director.

4. Electronic attendance of directors' meetings

Any meeting of the directors can take place either where the directors are physically present in the same location or, where directors are not in the same location, by such electronic means that permits those directors to speak and vote on the matters being considered.

5. Transactions or other arrangements with the Company

Subject to section 177(5) and (6) and section 182(5) and (6) of the Act, and provided the director has declared the nature and extent of their interest in accordance with the requirements of the Act, a director who is in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in an existing or proposed transaction or arrangement with the Company:

- (a) may be a party to, or otherwise interested in, any transaction or arrangement with the Company or in which the Company is otherwise (directly or indirectly) interested;
- (b) shall be an Eligible Director for the purposes of any proposed decision of the directors (or committee of directors) in respect of such existing or proposed transaction or arrangement in which the director has an interest;
- (c) shall be entitled to vote at a meeting of directors (or of a committee of the directors) or participate in any unanimous decision, in respect of such existing or proposed transaction or arrangement in which the director is interested;
- (d) may act by themselves or their firm in a professional capacity for the Company (otherwise than as auditor) and they or their firm shall be entitled to remuneration for professional services as if they were not a director;
- (e) may be a director or other officer of, or employed by, or a party to a transaction or arrangement with, or otherwise interested in, any body corporate in which the Company is otherwise (directly or indirectly) interested; and
- (f) shall not, save as they may otherwise agree, be accountable to the Company for any benefit which they (or a person connected with them (as defined in section 252 of the Act)) derives from any such transaction or arrangement or from any such office or employment or from any interest in any such body corporate and no such transaction or arrangement shall be liable to be avoided on the grounds of any such interest or benefit, nor shall the receipt of any such remuneration or other benefit constitute a breach of their duty under section 176 of the Act.

6. Directors' conflicts of interest

- 6.1 Subject to paragraph 6.2 below, notwithstanding the fact that a proposed decision of the directors concerns or relates to any matter in which a director has, or may have, directly or indirectly, any kind of interest whatsoever, that director may participate in the decision-making process for both quorum and voting purposes provided that the nature and extent of such interest has been declared to the other directors.
- 6.2 If the directors propose to exercise their power under section 175(4)(b) of the Act to authorise a director's conflict of interest, the director facing the conflict is not to be counted as participating in the decision to authorise the conflict for quorum or voting purposes.

- 6.3 Subject to the provisions of the Act, as long as a director has disclosed to the directors the nature and extent of their interest, such director:
- (a) may be a party to, or otherwise interested in, any transaction or arrangement with the company or any Group company or in which the Company or any Group company is otherwise interested;
 - (b) will not be accountable to the Company for any benefit which the director derives from any such transaction or arrangement or any such office or employment or from any interest in any such body corporate or Group company and no such transaction or arrangement will be liable to be voided on the ground of any such benefit; and
 - (c) may have any other interest authorised by ordinary resolution.
- 6.4 A director, notwithstanding their office, may be a director or other officer of, employed by, or otherwise interested (including by the holding of shares) in, any member of the Group and no further authorisation under 6 shall be necessary in respect of any such interest.
- 6.5 A director is not required, by reason of being a director (or because of the fiduciary relationship established by reason of being a director), to account to the Company for any remuneration, profit or other benefit that they derive from or in connection with a relationship involving a Conflict which has been authorised by the directors in accordance with these Articles, by the Company or by these Articles (subject in each case to any terms, limits or conditions attaching to that authorisation) and no contract shall be liable to be avoided on such grounds.

7. Records of decisions to be kept

Where decisions of the directors are taken by electronic means, such decisions shall be recorded by the directors in a form that enables the directors to retain a copy of such decisions.

8. No Chairman's Casting Vote

If the number of votes for and against a proposal are equal at a directors' meeting, the chairman or other director chairing the meeting shall not have a casting vote.

9. Number of directors

The number of directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less than one.

10. Appointment and removal of directors

- 10.1 A Controlling Shareholder may at any time and from time to time by notice in writing to the Company appoint one or more persons to be a director or directors of the Company and to remove any director or directors from office (whether or not appointed pursuant to this Aarticle 10).

10.2 Model Article 18 shall be amended by the inclusion of the words "notification of the director's removal is received by the Company from a Controlling Shareholder pursuant to Article 8.1" as a new paragraph (g) at the end of that Model Article.

10.3 Any removal of a director pursuant to Aarticle 10.1 shall be without prejudice to any claim for breach of contract under any employment agreement between the Company and the director so removed.

11. Secretary

The directors may appoint any person who is willing to act as the secretary for such term, at such remuneration and on such conditions as they may think fit and from time to time remove such person and, if the directors so decide, appoint a replacement, in each case by a decision of the directors.

12. Appointment and removal of alternate directors

12.1 Any director (**appointor**) may appoint as an alternate any other director, or any other person approved by resolution of the directors, to:

- (a) exercise that director's powers; and
- (b) carry out that director's responsibilities,

in relation to the taking of decisions by the directors, in the absence of the alternate's appointor.

12.2 Any appointment or removal of an alternate must be effected by notice in writing to the company signed by the appointor, or in any other manner approved by the directors.

12.3 The notice must:

- (a) identify the proposed alternate; and
- (b) in the case of a notice of appointment, contain a statement signed by the proposed alternate that the proposed alternate is willing to act as the alternate of the director giving the notice.

13. Rights and responsibilities of alternate directors

13.1 An alternate director may act as alternate director to more than one director and has the same rights in relation to any decision of the directors as the alternate's appointor.

13.2 Except as the Articles specify otherwise, alternate directors:

- (a) are deemed for all purposes to be directors;
- (b) are liable for their own acts and omissions;

- (c) are subject to the same restrictions as their appointors; and
- (d) are not deemed to be agents of or for their appointors

and, in particular (without limitation), each alternate director shall be entitled to receive notice of all meetings of directors and of all meetings of committees of directors of which his or her appointor is a member.

13.3 A person who is an alternate director but not a director:

- (a) may be counted as participating for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present (but only if that person's appointor is not participating);
- (b) may participate in a unanimous decision of the directors (but only if his or her appointor is an eligible director in relation to that decision, but does not participate); and
- (c) shall not be counted as more than one director for the purposes of Aarticle 13.3(a) and Aarticle 13.3(b).

13.4 A director who is also an alternate director is entitled, in the absence of his or her appointor, to a separate vote on behalf of his or her appointor, in addition to his or her own vote on any decision of the directors (provided that his or her appointor is an eligible director in relation to that decision), but shall not count as more than one director for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present.

13.5 An alternate director may be paid expenses and may be indemnified by the company to the same extent as his appointor but shall not be entitled to receive any remuneration from the company for serving as an alternate director except such part of the alternate's appointor's remuneration as the appointor may direct by notice in writing made to the company.

14. Termination of alternate directorship

An alternate director's appointment as an alternate terminates:

- (a) when the alternate's appointor revokes the appointment by notice to the company in writing specifying when it is to terminate;
- (b) on the occurrence, in relation to the alternate, of any event which, if it occurred in relation to the alternate's appointor, would result in the termination of the appointor's appointment as a director;
- (c) on the death of the alternate's appointor; or
- (d) when the alternate's appointor's appointment as a director terminates.

SHARES AND SHAREHOLDERS

15. Further issues of shares: authority

- 15.1 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.
- 15.2 Subject to the remaining provisions of this Article 15 and to Article 16, the directors are generally and unconditionally authorised, for the purposes of section 551 of the 2006 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 ordinary or unclassified shares in the company (**Ordinary Shares**) to any person, at any time and subject to any terms and conditions as the directors think proper.

- 15.3 The authority referred to in Article 15.2:
- (a) shall be limited to a maximum nominal amount of £133,576.00;
 - (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 Ordinary 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).

16. Further issues of shares: pre-emption rights

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.

17. Limited Restrictions on Share Transfers

- 17.1 Notwithstanding anything contained in these Articles or otherwise any pre-emption rights conferred on existing members or any other person by these Articles or otherwise and any other restrictions on or conditions applicable to the transfer of shares contained in these Articles or otherwise shall not apply to, and the directors shall not refuse to register, nor suspend registration of, any transfer of shares where such transfer is:
- (a) in favour of any bank, lender, financial institution or other person (or any affiliate of, or nominee or other entity acting on behalf of, such a bank, lender, financial institution or other person) (**Financial Institution**) to which or whom such shares are being

transferred by way of security or in favour of a purchaser of such shares (**Purchaser**) pursuant to the enforcement of such security (whether such Financial Institution or Purchaser is acting as agent, trustee or otherwise);

- (b) duly executed by a Financial Institution or Purchaser to which or whom such shares (including any further shares in the company acquired by reason of its holding of such shares) are to be transferred as aforesaid pursuant to a power of sale or other power under any security document which creates any security interest over such shares;
- (c) delivered to the company for registration by a Financial Institution in order to perfect its security over such shares or by a Purchaser of shares which are to be transferred as aforesaid; and/or
- (d) duly executed by a receiver appointed by a Financial Institution pursuant to any security document which creates any security interest over such shares.

17.2 Any present or future lien on shares howsoever arising which the company has shall not apply in respect of any shares which have been charged by way of security to, or otherwise secured in favour of, a Financial Institution or which are transferred in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

17.3 A certificate executed by, in the case of Articles 17.1(a), 17.1(c) and 17.2 above, the Financial Institution to which or whom such security interest has been or is being granted, or an official of such Financial Institution, certifying that the aforementioned shares are or are to be subject to such security, shall be conclusive evidence of such a fact.

17.4 A certificate executed by, in the case of Article 17.1(b) above, the Financial Institution to which or whom such security interest has been or is being granted, or an official of such Financial Institution, and in the case of Article 17.1(d) above the receiver appointed as above, certifying that such transfer has been executed in accordance with the provisions of this Article, shall be conclusive evidence of such fact.

17.5 For the purposes of this Article, "person" includes any person, individual, firm, company, corporation, government, state or agency of a state or any undertaking (within the meaning of section 1161(1) of the Act) or other association (whether or not having separate legal personality) or any two or more of the foregoing.

18. Quorum for general meetings

18.1 No business other than the appointment of the chair of the meeting is to be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum is present at the commencement of the meeting and also when that business is voted on.

18.2 Where the Company has only one shareholder for the time being, one qualifying person (as defined in section 318 of the Act) present at the meeting shall be a quorum. In any other case, the quorum shall be:

- (a) a Controlling Shareholder present in person, by proxy or by authorised representative; or
- (b) if the Company does not have a Controlling Shareholder for the time being, any two shareholders present in person, by proxy or by authorised representative.

19. Proxies

19.1 Model Article 45(1)(d) shall be deleted and replaced with the words "is delivered to the Company in accordance with the Articles not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the right to vote is to be exercised and in accordance with any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting (or adjourned meeting) to which they relate".

19.2 Model Article 45(1) shall be amended by the insertion of the words "and a proxy notice which is not delivered in such manner shall be invalid, unless the directors, in their discretion, accept the notice at any time before the meeting" as a new paragraph at the end of that Model Article.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

20. Change of company name

The name of the Company may be changed by:

- (a) a decision of the directors; or
- (b) a special resolution of the shareholders,

or otherwise in accordance with the Act.

21. Means of communication to be used

21.1 Subject to Article 21.2, any notice, document or other information shall be deemed served on, or delivered to, the intended recipient:

- (a) if delivered by hand, on signature of a delivery receipt or at the time the notice, document or other information is left at the address; or
- (b) if sent by pre-paid United Kingdom first class post, recorded delivery or special delivery to an address in the United Kingdom, at 9.00 am on the second Business Day after posting; or
- (c) if sent by pre-paid airmail to an address outside the country from which it is sent, at 9.00 am on the fifth Business Day after posting; or

- (d) if sent by reputable international overnight courier to an address outside the country from which it is sent, on signature of a delivery receipt or at the time the notice, document or other information is left at the address; or
- (e) if sent or supplied by e-mail, one hour after the notice, document or information was sent or supplied; or
- (f) if sent or supplied by means of a website, when the material is first made available on the website or (if later) when the recipient receives (or is deemed to have received) notice of the fact that the material is available on the website; and
- (g) if deemed receipt under the previous paragraphs of this article 21.1 would occur outside business hours (meaning 9.00 am to 5.30 pm Monday to Friday on a day that is not a public holiday in the place of deemed receipt), at 9.00 am on the day when business next starts in the place of deemed receipt. For the purposes of this article, all references to time are to local time in the place of deemed receipt.

21.2 To prove service, it is sufficient to prove that:

- (a) if delivered by hand or by reputable international overnight courier, the notice was delivered to the correct address; or
- (b) if sent by post or by airmail, the envelope containing the notice was properly addressed, paid for and posted; or
- (c) if sent by e-mail, the notice was properly addressed and sent to the e-mail address of the recipient.

22. Indemnity and insurance

22.1 Subject to Aarticle 22.2, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a relevant officer is otherwise entitled:

- (a) each relevant officer shall be indemnified out of the Company's assets against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by them as a relevant officer in the actual or purported execution and/or discharge of their duties, or in relation to them including (in each case) any liability incurred by them in defending any civil or criminal proceedings, or regulatory investigation or action, in which judgment is given in their favour or in which they are acquitted or the proceedings are, or the investigation or action is, otherwise disposed of without any finding or admission of any material breach of duty on their part or in connection with any application in which the court grants them, in their capacity as a relevant officer, relief from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the Company's (or any associated company's) affairs; and
- (b) the Company may provide any relevant officer with funds to meet expenditure incurred or to be incurred by them in connection with any proceedings, investigation, action or

application referred to in Aarticle 22.1(a) and otherwise may take any action to enable any such relevant officer to avoid incurring such expenditure.

- 22.2 This Aarticle 22 does not authorise any indemnity to the extent that such indemnity would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Companies Acts or by any other provision of law and any such indemnity is limited accordingly.
- 22.3 The directors may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the Company, for the benefit of any relevant officer in respect of any relevant loss.
- 22.4 In this Aarticle 22:
- (a) **associated company** means any member of the Group and **associated companies** shall be construed accordingly;
 - (b) a **relevant loss** means any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant officer in connection with that relevant officer'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) a **relevant officer** means any director or other officer of the Company or an associated company (including any company which is a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined by section 235(6) of the Act), but excluding in each case any person engaged by the Company (or associated company) as auditor (whether or not that person is also a director or other officer), to the extent they act in their capacity as auditor).