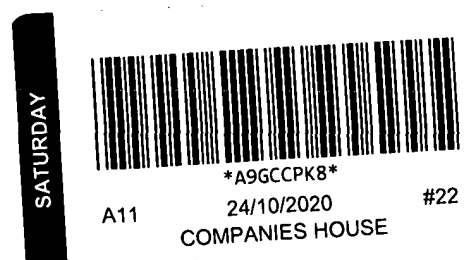




**Articles of association
of Now Housing Limited
May 2020**



Company number: 12014626

Private company limited by shares

Articles of association

of

Now Housing Limited

1 Model articles not to apply

The model articles of association for private companies limited by shares contained in Schedule 1 to the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008, as amended prior to the date of adoption of these Articles shall not apply to the company. References to **the articles** shall be to the following articles of association as amended from time.

2 Defined terms

In the articles, unless the context requires otherwise:

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;

board means the board of directors of the company from time to time;

chairman has the meaning given in article 14;

chairman of the meeting has the meaning given in article 47;

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;

council means Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council or any successor body thereto;

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 39;

document includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;

electronic form has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;

fully paid in relation to a share, means that the nominal value and any premium to be paid to the company in respect of that share have been paid to the company;

hard copy form has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;

holder in relation to shares means the person whose name is entered in the register of members as the holder of the shares;

instrument means a document in hard copy form;

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

paid means paid or credited as paid;

Parent means the council;

participate, in relation to a directors' meeting, has the meaning given in article 12;

proxy notice has the meaning given in article 53;

shareholder means a person who is the holder of a share;

shares means shares in the company;

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

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

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

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

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

3 **Liability of members**

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

4 **Objects clause**

The objectives of the company are:

- Provide good quality, well managed, mixed tenure homes which local people can afford to live in and which complement the council's existing and planned housing provision including specialist housing where required;

- Support the growing demand for a mix of housing tenures for residents in the borough of Welwyn Hatfield by providing intermediate, low cost home ownership or open market homes and letting sub-market and market rented homes;
- Be a financially robust company, generating a profit to be used for the purpose of providing more affordable housing and delivering financial returns to the shareholder;
- Stimulate local housing regeneration and partnership working

5 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.

6 Shareholders' reserve power

6.1 The shareholders may, by special resolution, direct the directors to take, or refrain from taking, specified action. The role and powers of the shareholders are set out in the Shareholders Agreement.

6.2 No such special resolution invalidates anything which the directors have done before the passing of the resolution.

7 Directors may delegate

7.1 Subject to the articles, the directors may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under the articles:

- 7.1.1 to such person or committee;
- 7.1.2 by such means (including by power of attorney);
- 7.1.3 to such an extent;
- 7.1.4 in relation to such matters or territories; and
- 7.1.5 on such terms and conditions;

as they think fit.

7.2 If the directors so specify, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the directors' powers by any person to whom they are delegated.

7.3 The directors may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions.

8 Committees

8.1 Committees to which the directors delegate any of their powers must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of the articles which govern the taking of decisions by directors.

- 8.2 The directors may make rules of procedure for all or any committees, which prevail over rules derived from the articles if they are not consistent with them.

9 Directors to take decisions collectively

- 9.1 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 10.

- 9.2 If:

9.2.1 the company only has one director; and

9.2.2 no provision of the articles requires it to have more than one director,

the general rule does not apply, and the director may take decisions without regard to any of the provisions of the articles relating to directors' decision-making.

10 Unanimous decisions

- 10.1 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.

- 10.2 Such a decision may take the form of a resolution in writing, which may consist of several copies each signed by one or more eligible directors or to which the eligible directors have otherwise indicated agreement in writing.

- 10.3 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.

- 10.4 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.

11 Calling a directors' meeting

- 11.1 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.

- 11.2 Notice of any directors' meeting must indicate:

11.2.1 its proposed date and time;

11.2.2 where it is to take place; and

11.2.3 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.

- 11.3 Notice of a directors' meeting must be given to each director, but need not be in writing.

- 11.4 Notice of a directors' meeting need not be given to directors who waive their entitlement to notice of that meeting. A director may waive the requirement that notice of a meeting of the directors or of a committee of the directors be given to him at any time before or after the date on which the meeting is held by notifying the company to that effect. Where a director gives

such notice after the meeting has been held, that does not affect the validity of the meeting, or of any business conducted at it.

12 Participation in directors' meetings

12.1 Subject to the articles, directors participate in a directors' meeting, or part of a directors' meeting, when:

12.1.1 the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the articles, and

12.1.2 they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.

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

12.3 If all the directors participating in a meeting are not in the same place, the meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled or, if there is no such group, where the chairman of the meeting is.

13 Quorum for directors' meetings

13.1 At a directors' meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting.

13.2 The quorum for the transaction of business of the directors shall be three.

13.3 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 to request that the Parent appoints such number of further directors as are required to make up the board under article 21.

14 Chairing of directors' meetings

14.1 The board shall appoint a director to chair the directors' meetings.

14.2 The person so appointed for the time being is known as the chairman.

14.3 The Parent may require the directors to terminate the chairman's appointment at any time upon giving written notice to the company.

14.4 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.

15 Casting vote

15.1 If the numbers of votes for and against a proposal are equal, the chairman or other director chairing the meeting has a casting vote.

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

16 Conflicts of interest

- 16.1 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, then provided that the director has disclosed his interest in such actual or proposed transaction or arrangement with the company in accordance with the Companies Acts or the provisions of these articles and the process set out in Article 17 has been followed and the conflict situation has been duly authorised in accordance with Article 17, he may nevertheless be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum and voting purposes in respect of any such matter in which the director is in any way interested, and shall not, save as otherwise agreed, be accountable to the company for any benefit which he derives under or in consequence of any such transaction or arrangement.
- 16.2 For the purposes of this article, references to proposed decisions and decision-making processes include any directors' meeting or part of a directors' meeting.
- 16.3 Subject to article 16.4, 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.
- 16.4 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.
- 17 Authorisation of directors' conflicts of interest**
- 17.1 For the purposes of section 175 of the Companies Act 2006, as amended, consolidated or re-enacted from time to time (the **2006 Act**), the directors shall have the power to authorise any relationship, situation or other matter which would or might otherwise constitute or give rise to a breach by a director of the duty to avoid conflicts of interest set out in that section of the 2006 Act (a **Conflict Situation**). Any reference in these articles to a conflict of interest includes a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties.
- 17.2 For the purposes of sections 175 and 180(4) of the 2006 Act and for all other purposes, it is acknowledged that a director may be or become subject to a Conflict Situation or Conflict Situations as a result of his also being or having been (or being party to an agreement or arrangement or understanding or circumstances under which he may become) an employee, director, trustee, member, partner, officer or representative of, or a consultant to, or a direct or indirect investor in and/or otherwise involved with or interested in, any of the council, the company, its subsidiaries, any of its holding companies or any subsidiary of any of its holding companies (as such terms are defined in section 1159 of the 2006 Act) or any of its shareholders.
- 17.3 No director shall be in breach of the duty to avoid conflicts of interest in section 175 of the Act as a result of, and no authorisation is required in respect of, any Conflict Situation envisaged by article 17.2 having arisen or existing in relation to him.
- 17.4 Authorisation of a matter under this article 17 shall be effective only if:

- 17.4.1 the matter in question shall have been proposed in writing for consideration by the directors, or in such other manner as the directors may determine;
 - 17.4.2 any requirement as to the quorum at the meeting of the directors at which the matter is considered is met without counting the director in question and any other interested director (together, the **interested directors**); and
 - 17.4.3 the matter was agreed to without the interested directors voting or would have been agreed to if the votes of the interested directors had not been counted.
- 17.5 Unless otherwise determined by the directors (excluding the interested directors), any authorisation of a matter under this article 17 shall extend to any actual or potential conflict of interest which may reasonably be expected to arise out of the matter so authorised.
- 17.6 Any authorisation of a matter under this article 17 shall be on such terms and/or conditions as the directors (excluding the interested directors) may determine, whether at the time such authorisation is given or subsequently and may be varied or terminated by the directors (excluding the interested directors) at any time. Such terms or conditions may include (without limitation) terms and conditions as to the duration, renewal and/or revocation of the authorisation, and/or the exclusion of the interested directors from all information and discussion of the matter in question. A director shall comply with any obligations imposed on him by the directors (excluding the interested directors) pursuant to any such authorisation.
- 17.7 If a director receives or has received any information otherwise than by virtue of his position as a director of the company and in respect of which he owes a duty of confidentiality to another person, the director is under no obligation to:
- 17.7.1 disclose any such information to the company, the directors or any other director or employee of the company; or
 - 17.7.2 use or apply any such information in connection with the performance of his duties as a director;
- provided that to the extent that such duty of confidentiality arises out of a situation or relationship which would or might otherwise constitute or give rise to a breach by the director of the duty to avoid conflicts of interest set out in section 175 of the 2006 Act, this article 17.7 shall apply only if such situation or relationship has been authorised by the directors under this article 17.
- 17.8 A director shall not, save as otherwise agreed by him, be accountable to the company for any benefit which he (or a person connected with him) derives from any matter authorised by the directors under this article and any contract, transaction or arrangement relating thereto shall not be liable to be avoided on the grounds of any such benefit.
- 18 **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.
- 19 **Directors' discretion to make further rules**

Subject to the articles and with the consent of the Shareholder, 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.

20 The board

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution, the number of directors is not subject to any maximum and the minimum number is three.

21 Appointment and Removal of Directors

21.1 Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the holder or holders of a majority in nominal value of the issued ordinary shares in the capital of the company may at any time and from time to time:

21.1.1 appoint any person to be a director (provided that any such appointment does not cause the number of directors to exceed a number fixed by or in accordance with these articles as the maximum number of directors); or

21.1.2 remove any director from office.

21.2 Every such appointment or removal shall be effected by notice in writing to the company and shall take effect immediately (or on such later date, if any, specified in the notice). Any such notice of appointment or removal may consist of several documents in similar form, each signed by or on behalf of one or more holders.

22 In any case where, as a result of bankruptcy, the company has no shareholders and no directors, the trustee in bankruptcy or other transmittee(s) of the last shareholder to have a bankruptcy order made against him has the right, by notice in writing, to appoint a natural person (including himself) who is willing to act and is permitted to do so to be a director.

23 Termination of director's appointment

A person shall be ineligible for appointment to the board and if already appointed ceases to be a director as soon as:

23.1 that person ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Act 2006 or is prohibited from being a director by law;

23.2 that person has for more than six consecutive months been absent without permission of the directors from meetings of directors held during that period and the directors resolve that person's office be vacated;

23.3 a bankruptcy order is made against that person;

23.4 a composition is made with that person's creditors generally in satisfaction of that person's debts;

23.5 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;

- 23.6 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;
- 23.7 that person is an employee of any shareholder in the company and ceases to be employed as such for any reason;
- 23.8 that person is removed by the Parent by a notice in writing to the company; and
- 23.9 that person is or becomes a person disqualified from elected membership of a local authority.

24 Directors' remuneration

Directors may undertake any services for the company that the directors decide. Any sums paid in remuneration must be agreed with the Shareholder and provided for within the Shareholders Agreement.

25 Directors' expenses

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

- 25.1 meetings of directors or committees of directors;
- 25.2 general meetings; or
- 25.3 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 secretary

26 Company Secretary

- 26.1 The directors may appoint a company secretary for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they think fit. Any company secretary may be removed or replaced by the directors.

27 Nil- or partly-paid shares permitted

If the company at any time has nil or partly-paid shares in issue, articles 52 to 62 (inclusive) of the model articles of association for public companies contained in Schedule 3 to the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008, as amended prior to the date of adoption of these articles, shall apply to the company and form part of these articles as if the text of such provisions was set out in full in these articles.

28 Allotment of shares

- 28.1 Save as 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.
- 28.2 Sections 561 and 562 of the Companies Act 2006 shall not apply to any allotment of equity securities (as defined in section 560 of the Companies Act 2006) by the company.

29 Powers to issue different classes of share

29.1 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.

29.2 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.

30 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.

31 Share certificates

31.1 The company must issue each shareholder, free of charge, with one or more certificates in respect of the shares which that shareholder holds.

31.2 Every certificate must specify:

31.2.1 in respect of how many shares, of what class, it is issued;

31.2.2 the nominal value of those shares;

31.2.3 the amount paid up on the shares to which it relates; and

31.2.4 any distinguishing numbers assigned to them.

31.3 No certificate may be issued in respect of shares of more than one class.

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

31.5 Certificates must:

31.5.1 have affixed to them the company's common seal, or

31.5.2 be otherwise executed in accordance with the Companies Acts.

32 Replacement share certificates

32.1 If a certificate issued in respect of a shareholder's shares is:

32.1.1 damaged or defaced; or

32.1.2 said to be lost, stolen or destroyed,

that shareholder is entitled to be issued with a replacement certificate in respect of the same shares.

- 32.2 A shareholder exercising the right to be issued with such a replacement certificate:
- 32.2.1 may at the same time exercise the right to be issued with a single certificate or separate certificates;
 - 32.2.2 must return the certificate which is to be replaced to the company if it is damaged or defaced; and
 - 32.2.3 must comply with such conditions as to evidence, indemnity and the payment of a reasonable fee as the directors decide.

33 Share transfers

- 33.1 Shares may be transferred by means of an instrument of transfer in any usual form or any other form approved by the directors, which is executed by or on behalf of the transferor.
- 33.2 The instrument of transfer of any share taken on formation of the company by a subscriber to the company's memorandum of association need not be executed by or on behalf of the transferee even where the share is not fully paid.
- 33.3 No fee may be charged for registering any instrument of transfer or other document relating to or affecting the title to any share.
- 33.4 *The company may retain any instrument of transfer which is registered.*
- 33.5 The transferor remains the holder of a share until the transferee's name is entered in the register of members as holder of it.
- 33.6 The directors may refuse to register the transfer of a share, and if they do so, the instrument of transfer must be returned to the transferee with the notice of refusal unless they suspect that the proposed transfer may be fraudulent.

34 Transmission of shares

- 34.1 If title to a share passes to a transmittee, the company may only recognise the transmittee as having any title to that share.
- 34.2 A transmittee who produces such evidence of entitlement to shares as the directors may properly require:
- 34.2.1 may, subject to the articles, choose either to become the holder of those shares or to have them transferred to another person; and
 - 34.2.2 subject to the articles, and pending any transfer of the shares to another person, has the same rights as the holder had.
- 34.3 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.

35 Exercise of transmittees' rights

35.1 Transmittes who wish to become the holders of shares to which they have become entitled must notify the company in writing of that wish.

35.2 If the transmittes wishes to have a share transferred to another person, the transmittes must execute an instrument of transfer in respect of it.

35.3 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 transmittes has derived rights in respect of the share, and as if the event which gave rise to the transmission had not occurred.

36 Transmittes bound by prior notices

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

37 Procedure for declaring dividends

37.1 The company may by ordinary resolution declare dividends, and the directors may decide to pay interim dividends.

37.2 A dividend must not be declared unless the directors have made a recommendation as to its amount. Such a dividend must not exceed the amount recommended by the directors.

37.3 No dividend may be declared or paid unless it is in accordance with shareholders' respective rights.

37.4 Unless the shareholders' resolution to declare or directors' decision to pay a dividend, or the terms on which shares are issued, specify otherwise, it must be paid by reference to each shareholder's holding of shares on the date of the resolution or decision to declare or pay it.

37.5 If the company's share capital is divided into different classes, no interim dividend may be paid on shares carrying deferred or non-preferred rights if, at the time of payment, any preferential dividend is in arrears.

37.6 The directors may pay at intervals any dividend payable at a fixed rate if it appears to them that the profits available for distribution justify the payment.

37.7 If the directors act in good faith, they do not incur any liability to the holders of shares conferring preferred rights for any loss they may suffer by the lawful payment of an interim dividend on shares with deferred or non-preferred rights.

38 Calculation of dividends

Except as otherwise provided by these articles or the rights attached to shares, all dividends must be:

38.1 declared and paid according to the amounts paid up on the shares on which the dividend is paid; and

38.2 apportioned and paid proportionately to the amounts paid up on the shares during any portion or portions of the period in respect of which the dividend is paid.

If any share is issued on terms providing that it ranks for dividend as from a particular date, that share ranks for dividend accordingly. For the purposes of calculating dividends, no account is to be taken of any amount which has been paid up on a share in advance of the due date for payment of that amount.

39 Payment of dividends and other distributions

39.1 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:

39.1.1 transfer to a bank or building society account specified by the distribution recipient either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide;

39.1.2 sending a cheque made payable to the distribution recipient by post to the distribution recipient at the distribution recipient's registered address (if the distribution recipient is a holder of the share), or (in any other case) to an address specified by the distribution recipient either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide;

39.1.3 sending a cheque made payable to such person by post to such person at such address as the distribution recipient has specified either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide; or

39.1.4 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.

39.2 In these articles, the **distribution recipient** means, in respect of a share in respect of which a dividend or other sum is payable:

39.2.1 the holder of the share; or

39.2.2 if the share has two or more joint holders, whichever of them is named first in the register of members; or

39.2.3 if the holder is no longer entitled to the share by reason of death or bankruptcy, or otherwise by operation of law, the transmittee.

40 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:

40.1 the terms on which the share was issued, or

40.2 the provisions of another agreement between the holder of that share and the company.

41 Unclaimed distributions

41.1 All dividends or other sums which are:

41.1.1 payable in respect of shares; and

41.1.2 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.

41.2 The payment of any such dividend or other sum into a separate account does not make the company a trustee in respect of it.

41.3 If:

41.3.1 twelve years have passed from the date on which a dividend or other sum became due for payment; and

41.3.2 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.

42 **Non-cash distributions**

42.1 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).

42.2 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:

42.2.1 fixing the value of any assets;

42.2.2 paying cash to any distribution recipient on the basis of that value in order to adjust the rights of recipients; and

42.2.3 vesting any assets in trustees.

43 **Waiver of distributions**

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:

43.1 the share has more than one holder; or

43.2 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.

44 **Authority to capitalise and appropriation of capitalised sums**

44.1 Subject to the articles, the directors may, if they are so authorised by an ordinary resolution by the Shareholder:

- 44.1.1 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
 - 44.1.2 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.
- 44.2 Capitalised sums must be applied:
 - 44.2.1 on behalf of the persons entitled; and
 - 44.2.2 in the same proportions as a dividend would have been distributed to them.
- 44.3 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.
- 44.4 A capitalised sum which was appropriated from profits available for distribution may be applied in or towards:
 - 44.4.1 paying up new debentures of the company which are then allotted credited as fully paid to the persons entitled or as they may direct;
 - 44.4.2 paying up any amounts unpaid on existing shares held by the persons entitled.
- 44.5 Subject to the articles the directors may:
 - 44.5.1 apply capitalised sums in accordance with paragraphs 44.3 and 44.4 partly in one way and partly in another;
 - 44.5.2 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
 - 44.5.3 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.
- 45 **Attendance and speaking at general meetings**
 - 45.1 A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when that person is
 - 45.1.1 a director of the Company
 - 45.1.2 an authorised representative of the Shareholder or
 - 45.1.3 is otherwise invited to speak by the directors.
 - 45.2 The directors may make whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to enable those attending a general meeting to exercise their rights to speak at it.

Classification: Restricted

46 Quorum for general meetings .

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. The presence of a duly authorised representative of the Shareholder shall be a quorum.

47 Chairing general meetings

47.1 If the directors have appointed a chairman, the chairman shall chair general meetings if present and willing to do so.

47.2 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:

47.2.1 the directors present; or

47.2.2 (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.

47.3 The person chairing a meeting in accordance with this article is referred to as **the chairman of the meeting**.

48 Attendance and speaking by directors and non-shareholders

48.1 Directors may attend and speak at general meetings, whether or not they are shareholders.

48.2 The chairman of the meeting may permit other persons who are not:

48.2.1 shareholders of the company; or

48.2.2 otherwise entitled to exercise the rights of shareholders in relation to general meetings,

to attend and speak at a general meeting.

49 Adjournment

49.1 If the persons attending a general meeting within half an hour of the time at which the meeting was due to start do not constitute a quorum, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the chairman of the meeting must adjourn it.

49.2 The chairman of the meeting may adjourn a general meeting at which a quorum is present if:

49.2.1 the meeting consents to an adjournment; or

49.2.2 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.

49.3 The chairman of the meeting must adjourn a general meeting if directed to do so by the meeting.

49.4 When adjourning a general meeting, the chairman of the meeting must:

49.4.1 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

49.4.2 have regard to any directions as to the time and place of any adjournment which have been given by the meeting.

49.5 If a general meeting is adjourned, then notice of the time and place to which it is adjourned shall be given:

49.5.1 to the same persons to whom notice of the company's general meetings is required to be given; and

49.5.2 containing the same information which such notice is required to contain.

49.6 No business may be transacted at an adjourned general meeting which could not properly have been transacted at the meeting if the adjournment had not taken place.

50 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 in accordance with the articles.

51 Errors and disputes

51.1 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.

51.2 Any such objection must be referred to the chairman of the meeting, whose decision is final.

52 Poll votes

52.1 A poll on a resolution may be demanded:

52.1.1 in advance of the general meeting where it is to be put to the vote, or

- 52.1.2 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.
- 52.2 A poll may be demanded by:
 - 52.2.1 the chairman of the meeting;
 - 52.2.2 the directors;
 - 52.2.3 any member (present in person or by proxy) having the right to attend and vote at the meeting or by a duly authorised representative of a corporation.
 - 52.2.4 A demand for a poll may, before the poll is taken, be withdrawn. A demand so withdrawn shall not invalidate the result of a vote on a show of hands declared before the demand was made.
- 52.3 Polls must be taken immediately and in such manner as the chairman of the meeting directs.

53 Content of proxy notices

53.1 Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a **proxy notice**) which:

- 53.1.1 states the name and address of the shareholder appointing the proxy;
- 53.1.2 identifies the person appointed to be that shareholder's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
- 53.1.3 is signed by or on behalf of the shareholder appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and
- 53.1.4 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.

53.2 The company may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form and may specify different forms for different purposes.

53.3 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.

53.4 Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:

- 53.4.1 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
- 53.4.2 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.

54 Delivery of proxy notices

54.1 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.

54.2 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.

54.3 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.

54.4 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.

55 Proxies and corporate representatives

The failure of any proxy or corporate representative to vote in accordance with any instructions given by the member by whom such proxy or corporate representative is appointed shall not invalidate the result of any vote in which the proxy or corporate representative has participated

and the company and the directors shall be under no duty to enquire as to the instructions given to any such proxy or corporate representative.

56 Amendments to resolutions

56.1 An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if:

56.1.1 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

56.1.2 the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the chairman of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution.

56.2 A special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if:

56.2.1 the chairman of the meeting proposes the amendment at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed; and

56.2.2 the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution.

56.3 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.

57 Written resolutions and decisions of the Parent

57.1 A proposed written resolution of the members of the company (or of a class of members) shall lapse if it is not passed before the end of the period of six months beginning with the circulation date of such resolution (as defined in section 290 of the Companies Act 2006).

57.2 If the Parent makes a decision which is required to be taken in a general meeting or by means of a written resolution, that decision shall be valid and effectual as if agreed by the Company in general meeting. Any decision taken by the Parent pursuant to this Article 57 shall be recorded in writing and delivered by the Parent to the Company for entry in the Company's minute book.

58 Means of communication to be used

58.1 Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the company under the articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the company.

58.2 Subject to the articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.

- 58.3 A director may agree with the company that notices or documents sent to that director in a particular way are to be deemed to have been received within a specified time of their being sent, and for the specified time to be less than 48 hours.
- 58.4 Any notice, document or other information shall be deemed served on or delivered to the intended recipient:
- 58.4.1 if properly addressed and sent by prepaid United Kingdom first class post to an address in the United Kingdom, 48 hours after it was posted (or five working days after posting either to an address outside the United Kingdom or from outside the United Kingdom to an address within the United Kingdom, if (in each case) sent by reputable international overnight courier addressed to the intended recipient, provided that delivery in at least five working days was guaranteed at the time of sending and the sending party receives a confirmation of delivery from the courier service provider);
 - 58.4.2 if properly addressed and delivered by hand, when it was given or left at the appropriate address;
 - 58.4.3 if properly addressed and sent or supplied by electronic means, one hour after the document or information was sent or supplied; and
 - 58.4.4 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.
- 58.5 For the purposes of this article, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.
- 58.6 In proving that any notice, document or other information was properly addressed, it shall be sufficient to show that the notice, document or other information was delivered to an address permitted for the purpose by the Companies Act 2006.
- 59 **Company seals**
- 59.1 Any common seal may only be used by the authority of the directors.
- 59.2 The directors may decide by what means and in what form any common seal is to be used.
- 59.3 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.
- 59.4 For the purposes of this article, an authorised person is:
- 59.4.1 any director of the company;
 - 59.4.2 the company secretary (if any); or
 - 59.4.3 any person authorised by the directors for the purpose of signing documents to which the common seal is applied.

60 **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.

61 **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.

62 **Indemnity**

62.1 The company may indemnify any relevant officer out of the assets of the company from and against any loss, liability or expense incurred by him or them in relation to the company (including any liability incurred in connection with the activities of the company or an associated company in its capacity as a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Companies Act 2006)) **provided that** this article shall have effect, and any indemnity provided by or pursuant to it shall apply, only to the extent permitted by, and subject to the restrictions of, the Companies Act 2006. This article does not allow for or provide (to any extent) an indemnity which is more extensive than as permitted by the Companies Act 2006 and any such indemnity is limited accordingly. This article is also without prejudice to any indemnity to which any person may otherwise be entitled.

62.2 To the extent permitted by, and subject to the restrictions in, the Companies Act 2006 and without prejudice to any indemnity to which he may otherwise be entitled, the board shall have the power to provide funds to meet any expenditure incurred or to be incurred by any relevant officer in defending any criminal or civil (including regulatory) proceedings, or in connection with an application under the Companies Act 2006, or to enable him to avoid incurring such expenditure.

62.3 Without prejudice to the provisions of article 63, the directors may exercise all the powers of the company to purchase and maintain insurance for the benefit of any person who is a relevant officer or an employee or former employee of the company or any associated company or who is or was a trustee of a retirement benefits scheme or another trust in which a relevant officer or an employee or former employee is or has been interested, indemnifying him against liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust or any other liability which may lawfully be insured against by the company.

62.4 In these articles:

62.4.1 companies are **associated** if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate;

62.4.2 **relevant officer** means any current or former director, secretary or other officer of the company or an associated company (including any company which is a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Companies Act 2006)), other than any person (whether an officer or not) engaged by the company (or associated company) as an auditor, to the extent he acts as an auditor.

63 **Insurance**

63.1 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.

63.2 In this article:

63.2.1 a **relevant director** means any director or former director of the company or an associated company;

63.2.2 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

63.2.3 companies are **associated** if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.