

## **COMPANIES ACT 2006**

### **COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL**

#### **ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF**

#### **DEAN COURT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

1. The company's name is Dean Court Community Association (and in this document it is called the "charity").

#### **Interpretation**

2. In the articles:

"address" means a postal address or, for the purposes of electronic communication, a fax number, an e-mail or postal address or a telephone number for receiving text messages in each case registered with the charity;

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

"the charity" means the company intended to be regulated by the articles;

"clear days" in relation to the period of a notice means a period excluding: the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given; and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;

"the Commission" means the Charity Commission for England and Wales;

"Companies Acts" means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006) insofar as they apply to the charity;

"the directors" means the directors of the charity. The directors are charity trustees as defined by section 97 of the Charities Act 1993;

"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;

"financial benefit" means any benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value;

"the memorandum" means the charity's memorandum of association;

"officers" includes the directors and the secretary (if any);

“secretary” means any person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of the charity;

“section” means a special interest group comprised of individual members and/or associate members of the charity and established in accordance with Article 11;

“stakeholders” means associations, agencies and organisations, whether corporate or unincorporated, (and including branches of national or international organisations) which use the community centre run by the charity or are active in the area of benefit (including non-member associations, agencies and organisations);

“the United Kingdom” means Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

and words importing one gender shall include all genders, and the singular includes the plural and vice versa.

Unless the context otherwise requires words or expressions contained in the articles have the same meaning as in the Companies Acts but excluding any statutory modification not in force when this constitution becomes binding on the charity.

Apart from the exception mentioned in the previous paragraph a reference to an Act of Parliament includes any statutory modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force.

### **Liability of members**

- 3.1 The liability of the members is limited.
- 3.2 Every member of the charity promises, if the charity is dissolved while he or she or it is a member or within twelve months after he or she or it ceases to be a member, to contribute such sum (not exceeding £10) as may be demanded of him or her or it towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity incurred before he or she or it ceases to be a member, and of the costs charges and expenses of winding up, and the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

### **Objects**

- 4 The charity's objects (“Objects”) are specifically restricted to the following:
  - 4.1 to promote the benefit of the inhabitants without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating together the said inhabitants and the statutory authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to promote a sense of community among the inhabitants and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants;
  - 4.2 to establish, or secure the establishment of, a Community Centre and to maintain and manage the same (whether alone or in co-operation with any statutory authority or other person or body) in furtherance of the Objects;

- 4.3 to promote such other purposes as are charitable according to the laws of England and Wales for the benefit of the public as may from time to time be determined.

The Charity shall be non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion. The area of benefit shall be Cumnor Parish as defined by the Vale of the White Horse District Council (or by any competent authority succeeding it).

### **Powers**

- 5 The charity has power to do anything which is calculated to further its Objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the charity has power:
- 5.1 to co-operate with other voluntary organisations, statutory authorities and individuals;
  - 5.2 to establish or support a local forum of representatives of community groups, voluntary organisations; statutory authorities and individuals involved in community work;
  - 5.3 to promote and develop or to assist in the promotion and development of community organisations and community social enterprises in the area of benefit;
  - 5.4 to acquire and distribute funds and to assist in the provision of grants to community organisations in the area of benefit;
  - 5.5 to arrange and provide for, either alone or with others, the holding of exhibitions, meetings, lectures, classes, seminars or training courses, and all forms of recreational and other leisure-time activities;
  - 5.6 to collect and disseminate information on all matters relating to the Objects, and to exchange such information with other bodies having similar objects whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere;
  - 5.7 to raise funds. In doing so, the charity must not undertake any substantial permanent trading activity and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations;
  - 5.8 to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to develop, alter, manage, administer, maintain and equip it for use;
  - 5.9 to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the charity. In exercising this power, the charity must comply as appropriate with sections 36 and 37 of the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006;
  - 5.10 to borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of the property belonging to the charity as security for repayment of the money borrowed or as security for a grant or the discharge of an obligation. The charity must comply as appropriate with sections 38 and 39 of the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006, if it wishes to mortgage land;

- 5.11 to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities and to exchange information and advice with them;
- 5.12 to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in the Objects;
- 5.13 to acquire, merge with or to enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity;
- 5.14 to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;
- 5.15 to employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the charity. The charity may employ or remunerate a director only to the extent it is permitted to do so by article 6 and provided it complies with the conditions in that article;
- 5.16 to:
  - 5.16.1 deposit or invest funds;
  - 5.16.2 employ a professional fund-manager; and
  - 5.16.3 arrange for the investments or other property of the charity to be held in the name of a nominee-  
  
in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000;
- 5.17 to provide indemnity insurance for the directors in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 73F of the Charities Act 1993;
- 5.18 to pay out of the funds of the charity the costs of forming and registering the charity both as a company and as a charity;.

### **Application of income and property**

- 6 Universal clauses
  - 6.1 The income and property of the charity shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.
  - 6.2
    - 6.2.1 A director is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the charity or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the charity.

- 6.2.2 A director may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the charity's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 73F of the Charities Act 1993.
  - 6.2.3 A director may receive an indemnity from the charity in the circumstances specified in article 52
- 6.3 None of the income or property of the charity may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the charity. This does not prevent a member who is not also a director receiving:
  - 6.3.1 a benefit from the charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the charity;
  - 6.3.2 reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the charity.
- 6.4 No director or connected person may:
  - 6.4.1 buy any goods or services from the charity on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;
  - 6.4.2 sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the charity;
  - 6.4.3 be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the charity;
  - 6.4.4 receive any other financial benefit from the charity;unless:
  - 6.4.5 the payment is permitted by article 6.5; or
  - 6.4.6 the directors obtain the prior written approval of the Commission and fully comply with any procedures it prescribes.
- 6.5
  - 6.5.1 A director or connected person may receive a benefit from the charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the charity provided that a majority of the directors do not benefit in this way.
  - 6.5.2 A director or connected person may enter into a contract for the supply of services, or of goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of services, to the charity where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 73A to 73C of the Charities Act 1993.
  - 6.5.3 Subject to article 6.6 a director or connected person may provide the charity with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to the charity by the director or connected person.

- 6.5.4 A director or connected person may receive interest on money lent to the charity at a reasonable and proper rate which must not be more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).
  - 6.5.5 A director or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the director or connected person to the charity if the amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease are reasonable and proper and provided that the director concerned shall withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.
  - 6.5.6 The directors may arrange for the purchase, out of the funds of the charity, of insurance designed to indemnify the directors in accordance with the terms of, and subject to the conditions in, section 73F of the Charities Act 1993.
  - 6.5.7 A director or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the charity on the same terms as members of the public.
- 6.6 The charity and its directors may only rely upon the authority provided by article 6.5.3 if each of the following conditions is satisfied:
- 6.6.1 The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in an agreement in writing between:
    - 6.6.1.1 the charity or its directors (as the case may be); and
    - 6.6.1.2 the director or connected person supplying the goods (“the supplier”) under which the supplier is to supply the goods in question to or on behalf of the charity
  - 6.6.2 The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances for the supply of the goods in question.
  - 6.6.3 The other directors are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the charity to contract with the supplier rather than with someone who is not a director or connected person. In reaching that decision the directors must balance the advantage of contracting with a director or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so.
  - 6.6.4 The supplier is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement with him or her or it with regard to the supply of goods to the charity.
  - 6.6.5 The supplier does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of directors is present at the meeting.
  - 6.6.6 The reason for their decision is recorded by the directors in the minute book.

6.6.7 A majority of the directors then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by article 6.4.

## 6.7

6.7.1 In articles 6.2 to 6.4 “charity” shall include any company in which the charity: holds more than 50% of the shares; or controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or has the right to appoint one or more directors to the directors of the company;

6.7.2 In article 6.4, 6.5. and 6.6 “connected person” means:

6.7.2.1 a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the director;

6.7.2.2 the spouse or civil partner of the director or of any person falling within article 6.7.2.1;

6.7.2.3 a person carrying on business in partnership with the director or with any person falling within articles 6.7.2.1 or 6.7.2.2;

6.7.2.4 an institution which is controlled –

(a) by the director or any connected person falling within paragraph (i), (ii), or (iii) above; or s

(b) by two or more persons falling within sub-paragraph (I), when taken together

6.7.2.5 a body corporate in which –

(a) the director or any connected person falling within articles 6.7.2.1 to 6.7.2.3 has a substantial interest; or

(b) two or more persons falling within sub-paragraph (a) above who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.

6.8 Paragraphs 2 to 4 of Schedule 5 to the Charities Act 1993 apply for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this sub-clause.

## Members

### 7

7.1 The subscribers to the memorandum are the first members of the charity.

7.2 Membership shall be open, irrespective of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, nationality, or political, religious or other opinions to:

7.2.1 individuals aged 18 and above:

7.2.1.1 who live within the area of benefit, who shall be known as full members;

7.2.1.2 who live outside the area of benefit, who shall be known as associate members

7.3 Applicants for membership must

7.3.1 apply to the charity in the form required by the directors and

7.3.2 be approved by the directors.

7.4

7.4.1 The directors may only refuse an application for membership if, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be in the best interests of the charity to refuse the application.

7.4.2 The directors must inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within twenty-one days of the decision

7.4.3 The directors must consider any written representations the applicant may make about the decision. The directors' decision following any written representations must be notified to the applicant in writing but shall be final.

7.5 Membership is not transferable.

7.6 The directors must keep a register of names and addresses of the members.

### **Classes of membership**

8

8.1 The directors may establish additional classes of membership with different rights and obligations and shall record the rights and obligations in the register of members.

8.2 The directors may not directly or indirectly alter the rights or obligations attached to a class of membership.

8.3 The rights attached to a class of membership may only be varied if:

8.3.1 three-quarters of the members of that class consent in writing to the variation; or

8.3.2 a special resolution is passed at a separate general meeting of the members of that class agreeing to the variation.

- 8.4 The provisions in the articles about general meetings shall apply to any meeting relating to the variation of the rights of any class of members.

### **Voting rights and appointment of representatives**

- 9.1 Associate members may attend as observers but shall not have the right to vote at general meetings of the charity.
- 9.2 Associate members have power to elect one of their number to represent them and vote on their behalf at general meetings. Any such election shall take place at a general meeting of the charity. The chair shall manage all aspects of the meeting of associate members to elect an authorised representative. All disputes arising in relation to any such meeting shall be referred to the chair whose decision shall be final and binding. Otherwise, all the provisions of these articles which apply to general meetings shall (so far as possible) apply to any such meetings save that THREE associate members or one-third of the total number of such members in each case, whichever shall be the lesser shall be the quorum for a meeting.

### **Termination of membership**

- 10 Membership is terminated if:
- 10.1 the member dies or, if it is an organisation, ceases to exist;
- 10.2 the member resigns by written notice to the charity unless, after the resignation, there would be less than two members;
- 10.3 any sum due from the member to the charity is not paid in full within six months of it falling due;
- 10.4 the member is removed from membership by a resolution of the directors that it is in the best interests of the charity that his or her or its membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member from membership may only be passed if:
- 10.4.1 the member has been given at least twenty-one days' notice in writing of the meeting of the directors at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;
- 10.4.2 the member or, at the option of the member, the member's representative (who need not be a member of the charity) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

### **Sections**

- 11 Groups of individuals, being full or associate members, may, with the permission of the directors, form themselves into sections for the furtherance of common activities of the charity. The following provisions apply to Sections:

- 11.1 the directors shall determine the terms of reference and functions of each such section and the duration of its activities;
- 11.2 no section may disregard any instruction of the directors or carry on any activity that may, in the directors' opinion, conflict with the objects, the standing orders or any decision made by the directors;
- 11.3 sections may fundraise for their activities utilising, with the permission of the directors, the charity registration of the charity but all funds so raised or property acquired with such funds shall belong to the charity and, subject to article 11.4, shall be paid to the charity immediately following receipt.
- 11.4 sections may hold such funds for float purposes as shall be agreed from time to time with the directors;
- 11.5 sections and members thereof have no power of management or control over any part of the charity's assets.

## **Forum**

- 12.1 In addition to annual general meetings the directors shall convene at least one open meeting in each calendar year as a consultative forum of its stakeholders. The directors shall, except in the case of emergency, give not less than seven clear days notice of such open meeting to stakeholders which notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place or places in the area of benefit;
- 12.2 Stakeholders attending any such meeting shall constitute the forum. The forum is the process by which stakeholders may raise and discuss amongst themselves and members of the charity issues that affect the area of benefit and/or the running or use of the community centre operated by the charity. The forum may also be used for the giving of a report from the directors on policies and procedures connected with the use of the community centre and reports from stakeholders. Any proposal arising from discussion at the meeting concerning the use of the community centre shall be referred to the next meeting of the directors;
- 12.3 The chair of the directors shall normally chair the meeting but in his or her absence or if the forum decides otherwise those present shall elect one of their number to take the chair.

## **General meetings**

- 13.1 The charity must hold its first annual general meeting within eighteen months after the date of its incorporation.
- 13.2 An annual general meeting must be held in each subsequent year and not more than fifteen months may elapse between successive annual general meetings.
- 13.3 The directors may call a general meeting at any time.

## **Notice of general meetings**

- 14.1 The minimum period of notice required to hold a general meeting of the charity is fourteen clear days.
- 14.2 A general meeting may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed by a majority in number of members having a right to attend and vote at the meeting, being a majority who together hold not less than 90 percent of the total voting rights.
- 14.3 The notice must specify the date time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. If the meeting is to be an annual general meeting, the notice must say so. The notice must also contain a statement setting out the right of members to appoint a proxy under section 324 of the Companies Act 2006 and article 19.
- 14.4 The notice must be given to all the members and to the directors and auditors.
- 14.5 The proceedings at a meeting shall not be invalidated because a person who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of an accidental omission by the charity.

## **Proceedings at general meetings**

- 15.1 No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.
- 15.2 A quorum is:
  - 15.2.1 ten members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting; or
  - 15.2.2 one tenth of the total membership at the time whichever is the greater.
- 15.3 The authorised representative of associate members shall be counted in the quorum.
- 16.1 If:
  - 16.1.1 a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting; or
  - 16.1.2 during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present;the meeting shall be adjourned to such time and place as the directors shall determine.
- 16.2 The directors must reconvene the meeting and must give at least seven clear days' notice of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting.
- 16.3 If no quorum is present at the reconvened meeting within fifteen minutes of the time specified for the start of the meeting the members present in person or by proxy at that time shall constitute the quorum for that meeting.

17

- 17.1 General meetings shall be chaired by the person who has been appointed to chair meetings of the directors.
- 17.2 If there is no such person or he or she is not present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the meeting a director nominated by the directors shall chair the meeting.
- 17.3 If there is only one director present and willing to act, he or she shall chair the meeting.
- 17.4 If no director is present and willing to chair the meeting within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding it, the members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote must choose one of their number to chair the meeting.

18

- 18.1 The members present in person or by proxy at a meeting may resolve by ordinary resolution that the meeting shall be adjourned.
- 18.2 The person who is chairing the meeting must decide the date, time and place at which the meeting is to be reconvened unless those details are specified in the resolution.
- 18.3 No business shall be conducted at a reconvened meeting unless it could properly have been conducted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place.
- 18.4 If a meeting is adjourned by a resolution of the members for more than seven days, at least seven clear days' notice shall be given of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting.

19

- 19.1 Any vote at a meeting shall be decided by a show of hands unless before, or on the declaration of the result of, the show of hands a poll is demanded:
  - 19.1.1 by the person chairing the meeting; or
  - 19.1.2 by at least two members present in person or by proxy and having the right to vote at the meeting; or
  - 19.1.3 by a member or members present in person or by proxy representing not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at the meeting.
- 19.2
  - 19.2.1 The declaration by the person who is chairing the meeting of the result of a vote shall be conclusive unless a poll is demanded.
  - 19.2.2 The result of the vote must be recorded in the minutes of the charity but the number or proportion of votes cast need not be recorded.

### 19.3

- 19.3.1 A demand for a poll may be withdrawn, before the poll is taken, but only with the consent of the person who is chairing the meeting.
- 19.3.2 If the demand for a poll is withdrawn the demand shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made.
- 19.3.3 A poll must be taken as the person who is chairing the meeting directs, who may appoint scrutineers (who need not be members) and who may fix a time and place for declaring the results of the poll.
- 19.3.4 The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll is demanded.
- 19.3.5 A poll demanded on the election of a person to chair a meeting or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately.
- 19.3.6 A poll demanded on any other question must be taken either immediately or at such time and place as the person who is chairing the meeting directs.
- 19.3.7 The poll must be taken within thirty days after it has been demanded.
- 19.3.8 If the poll is not taken immediately at least seven clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken.
- 19.3.9 If a poll is demanded the meeting may continue to deal with any other business that may be conducted at the meeting.

### **Content of proxy notices**

- 19.1 Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a "proxy notice") which—
  - 19.1.1 states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
  - 19.1.2 identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
  - 19.1.3 is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and
  - 19.1.4 is delivered to the charity in accordance with the articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.
- 19.2 The charity may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes

- 19.3 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.
- 19.4 Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as –
- 19.4.1 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
- 19.4.2 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.

### **Delivery of proxy notices**

- 20.1 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 charity by or on behalf of that person.
- 20.2 An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the charity a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.
- 20.3 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.
- 20.4 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.

### **Written resolutions**

- 20.1 Other than in the case of a resolution to remove a director or auditor before the expiry of their office, a resolution in writing agreed by a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution by a majority of not less than 75%) of the members who would have been entitled to vote upon it had it been proposed at a general meeting shall be effective provided that:
- (a) a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to every eligible member;
- (b) a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution a majority of not less than 75% of members) has signified its agreement to the resolution; and
- (c) it is contained in an authenticated document which has been received at the registered office within the period of 28 days beginning with the circulation date.
- 20.2 A written resolution is passed as soon as the required majority of eligible members have signified their agreement to it. The document indicating a member's approval of a written resolution must be sent to the charity in hard copy form or in electronic

form. A member's agreement to a written resolution, once signified, may not be revoked.

- 20.3 A written resolution lapses if the necessary number of approvals has not been received 28 days after the first day on which copies of the resolution were circulated to members.
- 20.4 A resolution in writing may comprise several copies to which one or more members have signified their agreement.
- 20.5 In the case of a member that is an organisation, its authorised representative may signify its agreement.

### **Votes of members**

- 21.1 Subject to article 8, every full member and every authorised representative of associate members present in person shall have one vote.
- 21.2 No full member shall be entitled to vote in any specific capacity at any general meeting unless all moneys then payable by reference to such capacity by him or her to the charity have been paid.
- 21.3 No objection shall be raised to the qualification of any voter except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting shall be valid. Any objection shall be referred to the chair whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

### **Directors**

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- 22.1 A director must be a natural person aged 16 years or older.
  - 22.2 No one may be appointed a director if he or she would be disqualified from acting under the provisions of article 33.
  - 22.3 The number of directors shall be not less than three but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum.
  - 22.4 The first directors shall be those persons notified to Companies House as the first directors of the charity
  - 22.5 A director may not appoint an alternate director or anyone to act on his or her behalf at meetings of the directors.
- 23 The directors shall have general management and control of the affairs and assets of the charity. The directors are both the directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Acts and charity trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act, 1993. The directors must act reasonably and prudently in all matters relating to the charity and must always bear in mind the interests of the charity to the exclusion of personal prejudices and interests.

24 The first directors of the charity shall be deemed to have been appointed under the articles. The first directors shall have power to appoint further directors who shall hold office until the end of the first annual general meeting. Such directors shall have power to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Subject to this, the Board shall consist of the following directors:

24.1 up to 12 individuals elected by full members and by the authorised representative of associate members;

24.2 up to 5 individuals co-opted by the Board who shall serve on the Board until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting;

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25.1 Full members and authorised representatives of associate members shall be entitled by ordinary resolution at a general meeting of the charity to elect any full member or associate member willing to act to be a director either to fill a vacancy or as an additional director PROVIDED THAT the number of persons in office at any one time who have been so appointed by the members shall not exceed 12 (or such other maximum number as may be determined by the charity in general meeting).

25.2 Any election of directors made under article 25.1 (otherwise than at a general meeting of the charity) shall be minuted and the minutes shall be signed by the chair of the meeting and submitted to the secretary.

25.3 Every director shall upon election or appointment receive a copy of the charity's articles.

25.4 In order to be eligible to vote at any meeting of the directors, every director must-

25.4.1 be or become a full or associate member of the charity and

25.4.2 sign a declaration of willingness to act as a charity trustee of the charity.

25.5 Subject as aforesaid, the charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a director either to fill a vacancy or as an additional director and may also determine the rotation (if applicable) in which any additional directors are to retire.

25.6 The directors may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a director either to fill vacancy or as an additional director PROVIDED THAT the appointment does not cause the number of directors to exceed any number fixed by or in accordance with the articles as the maximum number of directors. A director so appointed shall hold office only until the next following annual general meeting and shall not be taken into account in determining the directors who are to retire by rotation (if applicable) at the meeting. If not reappointed at

such annual general meeting, he or she shall vacate office at the conclusion thereof.

- 25.7 A technical defect in the appointment of a director of which the directors are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.
- 25.8 An employee of the charity shall not be eligible to be a director, or member of any section committee or any sub-committee of the charity, but may be invited to attend such committees as a non-voting adviser.

### **Powers of directors**

- 26.1 The directors shall manage the business of the charity and may exercise all the powers of the charity unless they are subject to any restrictions imposed by the Companies Acts, the articles or any special resolution.
- 26.2 No alteration of the articles or any special resolution shall have retrospective effect to invalidate any prior act of the directors.
- 26.3 Any meeting of directors at which a quorum is present at the time the relevant decision is made may exercise all the powers exercisable by the directors.
- 26.4 The directors have power to do anything which is calculated to further the charity's Objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the directors have power-
  - 26.4.1 to permit individual members of the charity to establish sections and to regulate their functions and activities; and to order the dissolution of any section in breach of the requirements of Article 4.2 or of any requirements of the directors
  - 26.4.2 to exercise the charity's power to borrow money and, subject always to the Charities Act 1993, to mortgage or charge its undertaking and property, or any part thereof, and to issue any securities, whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of the charity or of any third party subject to such consents as may be required by law.

### **Appointment of directors**

- 27 The charity may by ordinary resolution:
  - 27.1 appoint a person who is willing to act to be a director; and
  - 27.2 determine the rotation in which any additional directors are to retire.
- 28 No person other than a director retiring by rotation may be appointed a director at any general meeting unless:
  - 28.1 he or she is recommended for re-election by the directors; or

- 28.2 not less than fourteen nor more than thirty-five clear days before the date of the meeting, the charity is given a notice that:
- 28.2.1 is signed by a member entitled to vote at the meeting;
  - 28.2.2 states the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a director;
  - 28.2.3 contains the details that, if the person were to be appointed, the charity would have to file at Companies House; and
  - 28.2.4 is signed by the person who is to be proposed to show his or her willingness to be appointed.
- 29 All members who are entitled to receive notice of a general meeting must be given not less than seven nor more than twenty-eight clear days' notice of any resolution to be put to the meeting to appoint a director other than a director who is to retire by rotation.
- 30
- 30.1 The directors may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a director.
  - 30.2 A director appointed by a resolution of the other directors must retire at the next annual general meeting and must not be taken into account in determining the directors who are to retire by rotation.
- 31 The appointment of a director, whether by the charity in general meeting or by the other directors, must not cause the number of directors to exceed any number fixed as the maximum number of directors.

### **Retirement of directors**

- 32.1 At the first and at each subsequent annual general meeting all the directors shall retire from office unless by the close of the meeting the members have failed to elect sufficient directors to hold a quorate meeting of the directors.
- 32.2 A director who retires at an annual general meeting may, if willing to act, be re-elected. If the charity does not fill the vacancy created by his or her resignation, he or she shall, if willing to act, be deemed to have been re-elected unless at the meeting it is resolved not to fill the vacancy or unless a resolution for the re-election of the director has been put to a meeting and lost. If he or she is not re-elected he or she shall retain office until the meeting elects someone in his or her place, or if it does not do so, until the end of the meeting.
- 32.3 If a director is required to retire at an annual general meeting by a provision of the articles the retirement shall take effect upon the conclusion of the meeting.

## **Disqualification and removal of directors**

- 33 A director shall cease to hold office if he or she:
- 33.1 ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision in the Companies Acts or is prohibited by law from being a director;
  - 33.2 is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);
  - 33.3 ceases to be a member of the charity;
  - 33.4 becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;
  - 33.5 resigns as a director by notice to the charity (but only if at least two directors will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect);
  - 33.6 is absent without the permission of the directors from all their meetings held within a period of six consecutive months and the directors resolve that his or her office be vacated; or
  - 33.7 is removed by ordinary resolution of the members of the charity present and voting at a general meeting after the meeting has invited the views of the Trustee concerned and considered the matter in the light of any such views.

## **Remuneration of directors**

- 35 The directors must not be paid any remuneration unless it is authorised by article 6.

## **Proceedings of directors**

- 36
- 36.1 The directors may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of the articles.
  - 36.2 Any director may call a meeting of the directors.
  - 36.3 The secretary (if any) must call a meeting of the directors if requested to do so by a director.
  - 36.4 Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes.
  - 36.5 In the case of an equality of votes, the person who is chairing the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
  - 36.6 A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the directors in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.

36.7 A procedural defect of which the directors are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.

37

37.1 No decision may be made by a meeting of the directors unless a quorum is present at the time the decision is purported to be made. 'Present' includes being present by suitable electronic means agreed by the directors in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants.

37.2 The quorum shall be three or the number nearest to one-third of the total number of directors, whichever is the greater, or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the directors.

37.3 A director shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which that director is not entitled to vote.

38 If the number of directors is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing directors or director may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.

39

39.1 The directors shall appoint a director to chair their meetings and may at any time revoke such appointment.

39.2 If no-one has been appointed to chair meetings of the directors or if the person appointed is unwilling to preside or is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the directors present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.

39.3 The person appointed to chair meetings of the directors shall have no functions or powers except those conferred by the articles or delegated to him or her by the directors.

40

40.1 A resolution in writing or in electronic form agreed by a simple majority of all the directors entitled to receive notice of a meeting of directors or of a committee of directors and to vote upon the resolution shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the directors or (as the case may be) a committee of directors duly convened and held provided that:

40.1.1 a copy of the resolution is sent or submitted to all the directors eligible to vote; and

40.1.2 a simple majority of directors has signified its agreement to the resolution in an authenticated document or documents which are received at the registered office within the period of 28 days beginning with the circulation date.

- 40.2 The resolution in writing may comprise several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more directors has signified their agreement.

## **Delegation**

41

- 41.1 The directors may delegate any of their functions to sub-committees and to define the terms of reference of any sub-committee and determine its composition and the duration of its activities but the terms of any delegation must be recorded in the minute book.
- 41.2 The directors may impose conditions when delegating, including the conditions that:
- 41.2.1 the relevant powers are to be exercised exclusively by the committee to whom they delegate;
  - 41.2.2 no expenditure may be incurred on behalf of the charity except in accordance with a budget previously agreed with the directors.
- 41.3 The directors may revoke or alter a delegation.
- 41.4 All acts and proceedings of any committees must be fully and promptly reported to the directors.

## **Declaration of directors' interests**

- 42 A director must declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the charity or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the charity which has not previously been declared. A director must absent himself or herself from any discussions of the directors in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the charity and any personal interest (including but not limited to any personal financial interest).

## **Conflicts of interests**

43

- 43.1 If a conflict of interests arises for a director because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person and the conflict is not authorised by virtue of any other provision in the articles, the unconflicted directors may authorise such a conflict of interests where the following conditions apply:
- 43.1.1 the conflicted director is absent from the part of the meeting at which there is discussion of any arrangement or transaction affecting that other organisation or person

- 43.1.2 the conflicted director does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when considering whether a quorum of directors is present at the meeting; and
- 43.1.3 the unconflicted directors consider it is in the interests of the charity to authorise the conflict of interests in the circumstances applying.
- 43.2 In this article a conflict of interests arising because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person only refers to such a conflict which does not involve a direct or indirect benefit of any nature to a director or to a connected person.

### **Validity of directors' decisions**

44

- 44.1 Subject to article 44.2, all acts done by a meeting of directors, or of a committee of directors, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a director:
  - 44.1.1 who was disqualified from holding office;
  - 44.1.2 who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;
  - 44.1.3 who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interests or otherwise;if without:
  - 44.1.4 the vote of that director; and
  - 44.1.5 that director being counted in the quorum; the decision has been made by a majority of the directors at a quorate meeting.
- 44.2 Article 44.1 does not permit a director or a connected person to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the directors or of a committee of directors if, but for article 44.1, the resolution would have been void, or if the director has not complied with article 42.

### **Advisers to the directors**

45

- 45.1 The directors may at any time and from time to time appoint any person of any age to the position of adviser to the directors.
- 45.2 An adviser to the directors shall advise and assist the directors but shall not attend meetings of the directors except at the invitation of the directors, and when present at meetings of the directors he or she shall not be entitled to vote, nor be counted in the quorum, but subject to this he or she shall as adviser to

the directors have such powers, authorities and duties as the directors may in the particular case from time to time determine.

- 45.3 An adviser to the directors shall not be deemed a trustee, nor shall he or she be a director for any of the purposes of the articles or (so far as provision may lawfully be made in this behalf) for any of the purposes of the Companies Acts.
- 45.4 Without prejudice to any rights or claims the adviser to the directors may have under any contract with the charity, any appointment as an adviser may be terminated by the directors at any time.
- 45.5 An adviser may receive such remuneration (if any) in addition to the remuneration received as an employee of the charity as the directors shall from time to time determine.

### **Minutes**

- 46 The directors must keep minutes of all:
  - 46.1 appointments of officers made by the directors;
  - 46.2 proceedings at meetings of the charity;
  - 46.3 meetings of the directors and committees of directors including:
    - 46.3.1 the names of the directors present at the meeting;
    - 46.3.2 the decisions made at the meetings; and
    - 46.3.3 where appropriate the reasons for the decisions.

### **Accounts**

- 47
  - 47.1 The directors must prepare for each financial year accounts as required by the Companies Acts. The accounts must be prepared to show a true and fair view and follow accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board or its successors and adhere to the recommendations of applicable Statements of Recommended Practice.
  - 47.2 The directors must keep accounting records as required by the Companies Acts.

### **Annual Report and Return and Register of Charities**

- 48
  - 48.1 The directors must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993 with regard to the:

- 48.1.1 transmission of the statements of account to the charity;
  - 48.1.2 preparation of an Annual Report and its transmission to the Commission;
  - 48.1.3 preparation of an Annual Return and its transmission to the Commission.
- 48.2 The directors must notify the Commission promptly of any changes to the charity's entry on the Central Register of Charities.

**Means of communication to be used**

49

- 49.1 Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the charity 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 charity.
- 49.2 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.

50

- 50.1 Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the articles: must be in writing; or
- 50.2 must be given in electronic form.

51

- 51.1 The charity may give any notice to a member either:
  - 51.1.1 personally; or
  - 51.1.2 by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his or her address; or
  - 51.1.3 by leaving it at the address of the member; or
  - 51.1.4 by giving it in electronic form to the member's address; or
  - 51.1.5 by placing the notice on a website and providing the person with a notification in writing or in electronic form of the presence of the notice on the website. The notification must state that it concerns a notice of a company meeting and must specify the place date and time of the meeting
- 51.2 A member who does not register an address with the charity or who registers only a postal address that is not within the United Kingdom shall not be entitled to receive any notice from the charity.

- 51.3 A member present in person at any meeting of the charity shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.
- 51.4 Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.
- 51.5 Proof that an electronic form of notice was given shall be conclusive where the company can demonstrate that it was properly addressed and sent, in accordance with section 1147 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 51.6 In accordance with section 1147 of the Companies Act 2006 notice shall be deemed to be given:
- 51.6.1 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted; or
- 51.6.2 in the case of an electronic form of communication, 48 hours after it was sent

## **Indemnity**

- 52 In the execution of their duties no director shall be liable:
- 52.1 for any loss to the property of the charity by reason of any improper investment made in good faith (so long as he or she shall have sought professional advice before making such investment); or
- 52.2 for the negligence or fraud of any agent employed by him or her or by any other director in good faith (provided reasonable supervision shall have been exercised);
- and no director shall be liable by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any Trustee other than wilful and individual fraud, wrongdoing or wrongful omission on the part of the member who is sought to be made liable.
- 53
- 53.1 The charity shall indemnify a relevant director against any liability incurred in successfully defending legal proceedings in that capacity, or in connection with any application in which relief is granted by the Court from liability for negligence, default, or breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the charity.
- 53.2 In this article a “relevant director” means any director or former director of the charity.

## **Standing orders**

54

- 54.1 The directors may from time to time make such reasonable and proper standing orders as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the charity.
- 54.2 The standing orders may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them:
  - 54.2.1 the admission of members of the charity (including the admission of organisations to membership) and the rights and privileges of such members, and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members;
  - 54.2.2 the conduct of members of the charity in relation to one another, and to the charity's employees and volunteers;
  - 54.2.3 the setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the charity's premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes;
  - 54.2.4 the procedure at general meetings and meetings of the directors in so far as such procedure is not regulated by the Companies Acts or by the articles;
  - 54.2.5 generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of company rules.
- 54.3 The charity in general meeting has the power to alter, add to or repeal the standing orders.
- 54.4 The directors must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the standing orders to the notice of members of the charity.
- 54.5 The standing orders shall be binding on all members of the charity. No standing order shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, the articles.

## **Dissolution**

- 55.1 The members of the charity may at any time before, and in expectation of, its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision has been made for them, shall on or before the dissolution of the charity be applied or transferred in any of the following ways:
  - 55.1.1 directly for the Objects; or
  - 55.1.2 by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or

55.1.3 to any charity or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

55.2 Subject to any such resolution of the members of the charity, the directors of the charity may at any time before, and in expectation of, its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision has been made for them, shall on or before the dissolution of the charity be applied or transferred:

55.2.1 directly for the Objects; or

55.2.2 by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or

55.2.3 to any charity or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

55.3 In no circumstances shall the net assets of the charity be paid to or distributed among the members of the charity (except to a member that is itself a charity) and if no resolution in accordance with article 55.1 is passed by the members or the directors the net assets of the charity shall be applied for charitable purposes as directed by the Court or the Commission.

## **Disputes**

56 If a dispute arises between members of the charity about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members of the charity under these articles, and the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement, the parties to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation before resorting to litigation.