

Company Number: 11307980

Appendix D

The Companies Act 2006

PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

QUERCUS HOUSING LIMITED

Incorporated on 13th April 2018

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF

QUERCUS HOUSING LIMITED

1. PRELIMINARY

- 1.1 The model articles of association for private companies limited by guarantee contained in Schedule 2 to the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008 No. 3229) (the "Model Articles") shall apply to the Company save in so far as they are excluded or modified hereby and such Model Articles and the articles set out below shall be the Articles of Association of the Company (the "Articles").
- 1.2 In these Articles, any reference to a provision of the Companies Act 2006 shall be deemed to include a reference to any statutory modification or re-enactment of that provision for the time being in force.
- 1.3 Model Articles 2, 7(2), 9(2), 14, 19(5), 22(1) and 30(4) do not apply to the Company.
- 1.4 The headings used in these Articles are included for the sake of convenience only and shall be ignored in construing the language or meaning of these Articles.
- 1.5 In these Articles, unless the context otherwise requires, references to nouns in the plural form shall be deemed to include the singular and vice versa, references to one gender include all genders and references to persons include bodies corporate and unincorporated associations.

2. DEFINED TERMS

- 2.1 Model Article 1 shall be varied by the inclusion of the following definitions:

"appointor" has the meaning given in Article 8.1;

"secretary" means the secretary of the Company, if any, appointed in accordance with Article 7.1 or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of the Company, including a joint, assistant or deputy secretary; and

"working day" means a day that is not a Saturday or Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or any day that is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in the part of the United Kingdom where the Company is registered.

3. LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

- 3.1 The liability of each member is limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of its being wound up while he is a member or within one year after he ceases to be a member, for -
 - (a) payment of the Company's debts and liabilities contracted before he ceases to be a member,
 - (b) payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and
 - (c) adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

4. PROCEEDINGS OF DIRECTORS

- 4.1 The maximum and minimum number of directors may be determined from time to time by ordinary resolution. Subject to and in default of any such determination there shall be no maximum number of directors and the minimum number of directors shall be one. Whenever the minimum number of directors is one, the general rule about decision-making by the directors does not apply, and the sole director may take decisions without regard to any of the provisions of the Articles (including Model Article 11(2)) relating to directors' decision-making.
- 4.2 Subject to Article 4.3, notwithstanding the fact that a proposed decision of the directors concerns or relates to any matter in which a director has, or may have, directly or indirectly, any kind of interest whatsoever, that director may participate in the decision-making process for both quorum and voting purposes.
- 4.3 If the directors propose to exercise their power under section 175(4)(b) of the Companies Act 2006 to authorise a director's conflict of interest, the director facing the conflict is not to be counted as participating in the decision to authorise the conflict for quorum or voting purposes.
- 4.4 Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, and provided that (if required to do so by the said Act) he has declared to the directors the nature and extent of any direct or indirect interest of his, a director, notwithstanding his office:-
- (a) may be a party to or otherwise interested in, any transaction or arrangement with the Company or in which the Company is otherwise interested;
 - (b) may be a director or other officer or an employee of, or a party to any transaction or arrangement with, or otherwise interested in, any subsidiary of the Company or body corporate in which the Company is interested; and
 - (c) is not accountable to the Company for any remuneration or other benefits which he derives from any such office or employment or from any such transaction or arrangement or from any interest in any such body corporate and no transaction or arrangement is liable to be avoided on the ground of any such remuneration, benefit or interest.

5. UNANIMOUS DECISIONS

- 5.1 Model Article 8(2) is amended by the deletion of the words "copies of which have been signed by each eligible director" and the substitution of the following "where each eligible director has signed one or more copies of it" in its place. Model Article 8(2) shall be read accordingly.

6. TERMINATION OF DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT

- 6.1 In addition to the events terminating a director's appointment set out in Model Article 18, a person ceases to be a director as soon as 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 make a decision to vacate that person's office.

7. SECRETARY

- 7.1 The directors may appoint a secretary to the Company for such period, for such remuneration and upon such conditions as they think fit; and any secretary so appointed by the directors may be removed by them.

8. ALTERNATE DIRECTORS

- 8.1 (a) Any director (the "appointor") may appoint as an alternate any other director, or any other person approved by a decision of the directors, to:-

- (i) exercise that director's powers; and
- (ii) carry out that director's responsibilities,

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

- (b) Any appointment or removal of an alternate must be effected by notice in writing to the Company signed by the appointor, or in any other manner approved by the directors. The notice must:-
 - (i) identify the proposed alternate; and
 - (ii) in the case of a notice of appointment, contain a statement signed by the proposed alternate that he is willing to act as the alternate of his appointor.

8.2 (a) An alternate director has the same rights to participate in any directors' meeting or decision of the directors reached in accordance with Model Article 8, as the alternate's appointor.

(b) Except as these Articles specify otherwise, alternate directors:-

- (i) are deemed for all purposes to be directors;
- (ii) are liable for their own acts or omissions;
- (iii) are subject to the same restrictions as their appointors; and
- (iv) are not deemed to be agents of or for their appointors.

(c) A person who is an alternate director but not a director:-

- (i) may be counted as participating for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is participating (but only if that person's appointor is not participating); and
- (ii) may sign or otherwise signify his agreement in writing to a written resolution in accordance with Model Article 8 (but only if that person's appointor has not signed or otherwise signified his agreement to such written resolution).

No alternate may be counted as more than one director for such purposes.

(d) An alternate director is not entitled to receive any remuneration from the Company for serving as an alternate director except such part of the remuneration payable to that alternate's appointor as the appointor may direct by notice in writing made to the Company.

(e) Model Article 20 is modified by the deletion of each of the references to "directors" and the replacement of each such reference with "directors and/or any alternate directors".

8.3 An alternate director's appointment as an alternate terminates:-

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

(d) when his appointor's appointment as a director terminates.

9. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

9.1 A member may withdraw from membership of the Company by giving notice to the Company in writing; and upon receipt by the Company of such notice, that member's membership is terminated immediately.

10. WRITTEN RESOLUTION OF MEMBERS

10.1 (a) Subject to Article 10.1(b), a written resolution of members passed in accordance with Part 13 of the Companies Act 2006 is as valid and effectual as a resolution passed at a general meeting of the Company.

(b) The following may not be passed as a written resolution and may only be passed at a general meeting:-

(i) a resolution under section 168 of the Companies Act 2006 for the removal of a director before the expiration of his period of office; and

(ii) a resolution under section 510 of the Companies Act 2006 for the removal of an auditor before the expiration of his period of office.

10.2 On a written resolution every member has one vote.

11. NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

11.1 (a) Every notice convening a general meeting of the Company must comply with the provisions of:-

(i) section 311 of the Companies Act 2006 as to the provision of information regarding the time, date and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting; and

(ii) section 325(1) of the Companies Act 2006 as to the giving of information to members regarding their right to appoint proxies.

(b) Every notice of, or other communication relating to, any general meeting which any member is entitled to receive must be sent to each of the directors and to the auditors (if any) for the time being of the Company.

12. QUORUM AT GENERAL MEETINGS

12.1 (a) If and for so long as the Company has one member only who is entitled to vote on the business to be transacted at a general meeting, that member present at the meeting in person or by proxy or, in the event that the member is a corporation, by corporate representative, is a quorum.

(b) If and for so long as the Company has two or more members entitled to vote on the business to be transacted at a general meeting, two of such members, each of whom is present at the meeting in person or by proxy or, in the event that any member present is a corporation, by corporate representative, are a quorum.

(c) Model Article 27(1) is modified by the addition of a second sentence as follows:-

"If, at the adjourned general meeting, a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed therefor or, alternatively, a quorum ceases to be present, the adjourned meeting shall be dissolved.".

13. VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

- 13.1 On a vote on a resolution at a general meeting on a show of hands or on a poll, every member present in person, by proxy or (being a corporation) by corporate representative has one vote.
- 13.2 Polls must be taken at the general meeting at which they are demanded and in such manner as the chairman directs.

14. DELIVERY OF PROXY VOTES

- 14.1 Model Article 31(1) is modified, such that a "proxy notice" (as defined in Model Article 31(1)) and any authentication of it demanded by the directors must be received at an address specified by the Company in the proxy notice not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the proxy appointed pursuant to the proxy notice proposes to vote; and any proxy notice received at such address less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting shall be invalid.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

- 15.1 Subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, a document or information may be sent or supplied by the Company to a person by being made available on a website.
- 15.2 A member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the Company an address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be sent to him or an address to which notices may be sent by electronic means is entitled to have notices sent to him at that address, but otherwise no such member is entitled to receive any notices from the Company.
- 15.3 (a) If the Company sends or supplies notices or other documents by first class post and the Company proves that such notices or other documents were properly addressed, prepaid and posted, the intended recipient is deemed to have received such notices or other documents 48 hours after posting.
- (b) If the Company sends or supplies notices or other documents by electronic means and the Company proves that such notices or other documents were properly addressed, the intended recipient is deemed to have received such notices or other documents 24 hours after they were sent or supplied.
- (c) If the Company sends or supplies notices or other documents by means of a website, the intended recipient is deemed to have received such notices or other documents when such notices or other documents first appeared on the website or, if later, when the intended recipient first received notice of the fact that such notices or other documents were available on the website.
- (d) For the purposes of this Article 15.3, no account shall be taken of any part of a day that is not a working day.

16. COMPANY SEALS

- 16.1 Model Article 35(1) is modified, such that any common seal of the Company may be used by the authority of the directors or any committee of directors.
- 16.2 Model Article 35(3) is modified by the deletion of all words which follow the "," after the word "document" and their replacement with "the document must also be signed by:-
- (a) one authorised person in the presence of a witness who attests the signature;
or
- (b) two authorised persons".

17. WINDING UP

17.1 If the Company is wound up, the liquidator may, with the sanction of a special resolution of the Company and any other sanction required by law, divide among the members in specie the whole or any part of the assets of the Company and may, for that purpose, value any assets and determine how the division shall be carried out as between the members or different classes of members. The liquidator may, with the like sanction, vest the whole or any part of the assets in trustees upon such trusts for the benefit of the members as he may determine, but no member shall be compelled to accept any assets upon which there is a liability.

18. RULES

18.1 (a) The directors may make such rules as they consider necessary or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Company and for the purposes of prescribing the classes of and conditions of membership. In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the directors may make rules regulating:-

- (i) the admission and classification of members of the Company, and the rights and privileges of such members, the conditions of membership and the terms on which members may resign or have their membership terminated and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members;
- (ii) the conduct of members of the Company in relation to one another, and to the Company's officers and employees;
- (iii) the setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Company's premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes;
- (iv) the procedure at general meetings and meetings of the directors and committees of the Company (in so far as such procedure is not governed by these Articles); and
- (v) any and all other matters as are commonly the subject matter of company rules.

(b) The directors must adopt such means as they consider sufficient to bring to the notice of members of the Company all rules made under this Article.

(c) Any rules made by the directors under this Article will be valid and binding as against all members of the Company for so long as such rules are in force.

(d) The Company in general meeting may alter or repeal any rules made by the directors in accordance with this Article.

18.2 Nothing in this Article permits the directors of the Company to make any rules which are inconsistent with or affect or repeal anything in these Articles or in any resolution passed by members of the Company or agreement to which Chapter 3 of Part 3 of the Companies Act 2006 applies.

The model articles of association for private companies limited by guarantee as contained in Schedule 2 to The Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008 No. 3229) apply to the company save in so far as they are excluded or modified. These model articles of association for private companies limited by guarantee are reprinted without the index below.

Companies Act 2006

Model Articles

Private Company Limited by Guarantee

PART 1 - INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Defined terms

1. In the articles, unless the context requires otherwise—

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

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

"chairman" has the meaning given in article 12;

"chairman of the meeting" has the meaning given in article 25;

"Companies Acts" means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006), in so far as they apply to the company;

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

"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;

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

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

"participate", in relation to a directors' meeting, has the meaning given in article 10;

"proxy notice" has the meaning given in article 31;

"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; 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.

Liability of members

2. The liability of each member is limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while he is a member or within one year after he ceases to be a member, for—

- (a) payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before he ceases to be a member,
- (b) payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and
- (c) adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

PART 2 - DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS' POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Directors' general authority

3. 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.

Members' reserve power

4. (1) The members may, by special resolution, direct the directors to take, or refrain from taking, specified action.
- (2) No such special resolution invalidates anything which the directors have done before the passing of the resolution.

Directors may delegate

5. (1) Subject to the articles, the directors may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under the articles—
 - (a) to such person or committee;
 - (b) by such means (including by power of attorney);
 - (c) to such an extent;
 - (d) in relation to such matters or territories; and
 - (e) on such terms and conditions;

as they think fit.

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

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

Committees

6. (1) Committees to which the directors delegate any of their powers must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of the articles which govern the taking of decisions by directors.
- (2) The directors may make rules of procedure for all or any committees, which prevail over rules derived from the articles if they are not consistent with them.

DECISION-MAKING BY DIRECTORS

Directors to take decisions collectively

7. (1) The general rule about decision-making by directors is that any decision of the directors must be either a majority decision at a meeting or a decision taken in accordance with article 8.
- (2) If—
 - (a) the company only has one director, and
 - (b) no provision of the articles requires it to have more than one director,

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

Unanimous decisions

8. (1) A decision of the directors is taken in accordance with this article when all eligible directors indicate to each other by any means that they share a common view on a matter.
- (2) Such a decision may take the form of a resolution in writing, copies of which have been signed by each eligible director or to which each eligible director has otherwise indicated agreement in writing.
- (3) References in this article to eligible directors are to directors who would have been entitled to vote on the matter had it been proposed as a resolution at a directors' meeting.

- (4) A decision may not be taken in accordance with this article if the eligible directors would not have formed a quorum at such a meeting.

Calling a directors' meeting

9. (1) Any director may call a directors' meeting by giving notice of the meeting to the directors or by authorising the company secretary (if any) to give such notice.
- (2) Notice of any directors' meeting must indicate—
- its proposed date and time;
 - where it is to take place; and
 - if it is anticipated that directors participating in the meeting will not be in the same place, how it is proposed that they should communicate with each other during the meeting.
- (3) Notice of a directors' meeting must be given to each director, but need not be in writing.
- (4) Notice of a directors' meeting need not be given to directors who waive their entitlement to notice of that meeting, by giving notice to that effect to the company not more than 7 days after the date on which the meeting is held. Where such notice is given after the meeting has been held, that does not affect the validity of the meeting, or of any business conducted at it.

Participation in directors' meetings

10. (1) Subject to the articles, directors participate in a directors' meeting, or part of a directors' meeting, when—
- the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the articles, and
 - they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.
- (2) In determining whether directors are participating in a directors' meeting, it is irrelevant where any director is or how they communicate with each other.
- (3) If all the directors participating in a meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

Quorum for directors' meetings

11. (1) At a directors' meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting.
- (2) The quorum for directors' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the directors, but it must never be less than two, and unless otherwise fixed it is two.
- (3) If the total number of directors for the time being is less than the quorum required, the directors must not take any decision other than a decision—
- to appoint further directors, or
 - to call a general meeting so as to enable the members to appoint further directors.

Chairing of directors' meetings

12. (1) The directors may appoint a director to chair their meetings.
- (2) The person so appointed for the time being is known as the chairman.
- (3) The directors may terminate the chairman's appointment at any time.
- (4) If the chairman is not participating in a directors' meeting within ten minutes of the time at which it was to start, the participating directors must appoint one of themselves to chair it.

Casting vote

13. (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.
- (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.

Conflicts of interest

14. (1) If a proposed decision of the directors is concerned with an actual or proposed transaction or arrangement with the company in which a director is interested, that director is not to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum or voting purposes.
- (2) But if paragraph (3) applies, a director who is interested in an actual or proposed transaction or arrangement with the company is to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum and voting purposes.
- (3) This paragraph applies when—
- the company by ordinary resolution disapplies the provision of the articles which would otherwise prevent a director from being counted as participating in the decision-making process;
 - the director's interest cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest; or
 - the director's conflict of interest arises from a permitted cause.
- (4) For the purposes of this article, the following are permitted causes—
- a guarantee given, or to be given, by or to a director in respect of an obligation incurred by or on behalf of the company or any of its subsidiaries;
 - subscription, or an agreement to subscribe, for securities of the company or any of its subsidiaries, or to underwrite, sub-underwrite, or guarantee subscription for any such securities; and
 - arrangements pursuant to which benefits are made available to employees and directors or former employees and directors of the company or any of its subsidiaries which do not provide special benefits for directors or former directors.
- (5) For the purposes of this article, references to proposed decisions and decision-making processes include any directors' meeting or part of a directors' meeting.
- (6) Subject to paragraph (7), if a question arises at a meeting of directors or of a committee of directors as to the right of a director to participate in the meeting (or part of the meeting) for voting or quorum purposes, the question may, before the conclusion of the meeting, be referred to the chairman whose ruling in relation to any director other than the chairman is to be final and conclusive.
- (7) If any question as to the right to participate in the meeting (or part of the meeting) should arise in respect of the chairman, the question is to be decided by a decision of the directors at that meeting, for which purpose the chairman is not to be counted as participating in the meeting (or that part of the meeting) for voting or quorum purposes.

Records of decisions to be kept

15. 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.

Directors' discretion to make further rules

16. Subject to the articles, the directors may make any rule which they think fit about how they take decisions, and about how such rules are to be recorded or communicated to directors.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Methods of appointing directors

17. (1) Any person who is willing to act as a director, and is permitted by law to do so, may be appointed to be a director—
- by ordinary resolution, or
 - by a decision of the directors.
- (2) In any case where, as a result of death, the company has no members and no directors, the personal representatives of the last member to have died have the right, by notice in writing, to appoint a person to be a director.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), where 2 or more members die in circumstances rendering it uncertain who was the last to die, a younger member is deemed to have survived an older member.

Termination of director's appointment

18. A person ceases to be a director as soon as—
- (a) that person ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Act 2006 or is prohibited from being a director by law;
 - (b) a bankruptcy order is made against that person;
 - (c) a composition is made with that person's creditors generally in satisfaction of that person's debts;
 - (d) a registered medical practitioner who is treating that person gives a written opinion to the company stating that that person has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
 - (e) *by reason of that person's mental health, a court makes an order which wholly or partly prevents that person from personally exercising any powers or rights which that person would otherwise have;*¹
 - (f) 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.

Directors' remuneration

19. (1) Directors may undertake any services for the company that the directors decide.
- (2) Directors are entitled to such remuneration as the directors determine—
- (a) for their services to the company as directors, and
 - (b) for any other service which they undertake for the company.
- (3) Subject to the articles, a director's remuneration may—
- (a) take any form, and
 - (b) include any arrangements in connection with the payment of a pension, allowance or gratuity, or any death, sickness or disability benefits, to or in respect of that director.
- (4) Unless the directors decide otherwise, directors' remuneration accrues from day to day.
- (5) Unless the directors decide otherwise, directors are not accountable to the company for any remuneration which they receive as directors or other officers or employees of the company's subsidiaries or of any other body corporate in which the company is interested.

Directors' expenses

20. The company may pay any reasonable expenses which the directors properly incur in connection with their attendance at—
- (a) meetings of directors or committees of directors,
 - (b) general meetings, or
 - (c) separate meetings of the holders of debentures of the company,
- or otherwise in connection with the exercise of their powers and the discharge of their responsibilities in relation to the company.

PART 3 - MEMBERS

BECOMING AND CEASING TO BE A MEMBER

Applications for membership

21. No person shall become a member of the company unless—
- (a) that person has completed an application for membership in a form approved by the directors, and
 - (b) the directors have approved the application.

Termination of membership

22. (1) A member may withdraw from membership of the company by giving 7 days' notice to the company in writing.

- (2) Membership is not transferable.
- (3) A person's membership terminates when that person dies or ceases to exist.

ORGANISATION OF GENERAL MEETINGS

Attendance and speaking at general meetings

23. (1) A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when that person is in a position to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the meeting.
- (2) A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting when—
- (a) that person is able to vote, during the meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the meeting, and
 - (b) that person's vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the meeting.
- (3) The directors may make whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to enable those attending a general meeting to exercise their rights to speak or vote at it.
- (4) In determining attendance at a general meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more members attending it are in the same place as each other.
- (5) Two or more persons who are not in the same place as each other attend a general meeting if their circumstances are such that if they have (or were to have) rights to speak and vote at that meeting, they are (or would be) able to exercise them.

Quorum for general meetings

24. No business other than the appointment of the chairman of the meeting is to be transacted at a general meeting if the persons attending it do not constitute a quorum.

Chairing general meetings

25. (1) If the directors have appointed a chairman, the chairman shall chair general meetings if present and willing to do so.
- (2) If the directors have not appointed a chairman, or if the chairman is unwilling to chair the meeting or is not present within ten minutes of the time at which a meeting was due to start—
- (a) the directors present, or
 - (b) (if no directors are present), the meeting,

must appoint a director or member to chair the meeting, and the appointment of the chairman of the meeting must be the first business of the meeting.

- (3) The person chairing a meeting in accordance with this article is referred to as "the chairman of the meeting".

Attendance and speaking by directors and non-members

26. (1) Directors may attend and speak at general meetings, whether or not they are members.
- (2) The chairman of the meeting may permit other persons who are not members of the company to attend and speak at a general meeting.

Adjournment

27. (1) If the persons attending a general meeting within half an hour of the time at which the meeting was due to start do not constitute a quorum, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the chairman of the meeting must adjourn it.
- (2) The chairman of the meeting may adjourn a general meeting at which a quorum is present if—
- (a) the meeting consents to an adjournment, or
 - (b) it appears to the chairman of the meeting that an adjournment is necessary to protect the safety of any person attending the meeting or ensure that the business of the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.
- (3) The chairman of the meeting must adjourn a general meeting if directed to do so by the meeting.

¹ The Mental Health (Discrimination) Act 2013 provides that 18(e) is omitted as from 28 April 2013.

- (4) When adjourning a general meeting, the chairman of the meeting must—
 - (a) either specify the time and place to which it is adjourned or state that it is to continue at a time and place to be fixed by the directors, and
 - (b) have regard to any directions as to the time and place of any adjournment which have been given by the meeting.
- (5) If the continuation of an adjourned meeting is to take place more than 14 days after it was adjourned, the company must give at least 7 clear days' notice of it (that is, excluding the day of the adjourned meeting and the day on which the notice is given)—
 - (a) to the same persons to whom notice of the company's general meetings is required to be given, and
 - (b) containing the same information which such notice is required to contain.
- (6) No business may be transacted at an adjourned general meeting which could not properly have been transacted at the meeting if the adjournment had not taken place.
 - (d) is delivered to the company in accordance with the articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.
- (2) The company may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.
- (3) Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.
- (4) Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as—
 - (a) allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting, and
 - (b) appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

Delivery of proxy notices

- 32. (1) A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the company by or on behalf of that person.
- (2) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the company a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.
- (3) A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.
- (4) If a proxy notice is not executed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf.

Amendments to resolutions

- 33. (1) An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if—
 - (a) notice of the proposed amendment is given to the company in writing by a person entitled to vote at the general meeting at which it is to be proposed not less than 48 hours before the meeting is to take place (or such later time as the chairman of the meeting may determine), and
 - (b) the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the chairman of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution.
- (2) A special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if—
 - (a) the chairman of the meeting proposes the amendment at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed, and
 - (b) the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution.
- (3) If the chairman of the meeting, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chairman's error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution.

PART 4 - ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Means of communication to be used

- 34. (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.
- (2) Subject to the articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.
- (3) A director may agree with the company that notices or documents sent to that director in a particular way are to be

VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

Voting: general

28. A resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is duly demanded in accordance with the articles.

Errors and disputes

- 29. (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 is to be tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting is valid.
- (2) Any such objection must be referred to the chairman of the meeting whose decision is final.

Poll votes

- 30. (1) A poll on a resolution may be demanded—
 - (a) in advance of the general meeting where it is to be put to the vote, or
 - (b) at a general meeting, either before a show of hands on that resolution or immediately after the result of a show of hands on that resolution is declared.
- (2) A poll may be demanded by—
 - (a) the chairman of the meeting;
 - (b) the directors;
 - (c) two or more persons having the right to vote on the resolution; or
 - (d) a person or persons representing not less than one tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote on the resolution.
- (3) A demand for a poll may be withdrawn if—
 - (a) the poll has not yet been taken, and
 - (b) the chairman of the meeting consents to the withdrawal.
- (4) Polls must be taken immediately and in such manner as the chairman of the meeting directs.

Content of proxy notices

- 31. (1) Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a "proxy notice") which—
 - (a) states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
 - (b) identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
 - (c) is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and

deemed to have been received within a specified time of their being sent, and for the specified time to be less than 48 hours.

Company seals

35. (1) Any common seal may only be used by the authority of the directors.
- (2) The directors may decide by what means and in what form any common seal is to be used.
- (3) Unless otherwise decided by the directors, if the company has a common seal and it is affixed to a document, the document must also be signed by at least one authorised person in the presence of a witness who attests the signature.
- (4) For the purposes of this article, an authorised person is—
- (a) any director of the company;
 - (b) the company secretary (if any); or
 - (c) any person authorised by the directors for the purpose of signing documents to which the common seal is applied.

No right to inspect accounts and other records

36. 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 member.

Provision for employees on cessation of business

37. The directors may decide to make provision for the benefit of persons employed or formerly employed by the company or any of its subsidiaries (other than a director or former director or shadow director) in connection with the cessation or transfer to any person of the whole or part of the undertaking of the company or that subsidiary.

DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

Indemnity

38. (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a relevant director of the company or an associated company may be indemnified out of the company's assets against—

- (a) any liability incurred by that director in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the company or an associated company,
 - (b) any liability incurred by that director in connection with the activities of the company or an associated company in its capacity as a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Companies Act 2006),
 - (c) any other liability incurred by that director as an officer of the company or an associated company.
- (2) This article does not authorise any indemnity which would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Companies Acts or by any other provision of law.
- (3) In this article—
- (a) companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate, and
 - (b) a "relevant director" means any director or former director of the company or an associated company.

Insurance

39. (1) The directors may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the company, for the benefit of any relevant director in respect of any relevant loss.
- (2) In this article—
- (a) a "relevant director" means any director or former director of the company or an associated company,
 - (b) a "relevant loss" means any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant director in connection with that director's duties or powers in relation to the company, any associated company or any pension fund or employees' share scheme of the company or associated company, and
 - (c) companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.