

Articles of Association of
SPALDING GENTLEMEN'S SOCIETY

1. Name

The company's name is Spalding Gentlemen's Society
(and in this document it is called the 'Society').

2. Interpretation

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 Society;

'the articles' means the Society's articles of association;

'the Society' 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 Society;

'Council' means the board of directors

'the directors' means the directors of the Society. The directors are Society trustees as defined by section 177 of the Charities Act 2011;

'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;

'the memorandum' means the Society's memorandum of association;

'Officer' means The President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Curator the Librarian and the Lecture Secretary

'the seal' means the common seal of the Society if it has one;

‘secretary’ means any person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of the Society;

‘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 Society.

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.

3. Liability of members

The liability of the members is limited to a sum not exceeding £2, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Society in the event of its being wound up while that individual is a member or within one year after that individual ceases to be a member, for:

- (1) payment of the Society’s debts and liabilities incurred before that individual ceases to be a member;
- (2) payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- (3) adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

4 Objects

The Society’s objects (‘Objects’) are specifically restricted to the following:

To promote and foster among the public knowledge, appreciation and the study of the Arts, Humanities and Sciences including by continuing to maintain and improve the Society’s library archive and museum collections and the organisation and provision of lectures.

5 Powers

The Society has power to do anything which is calculated to further its Objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the Society has power:

- (1) to raise funds. In doing so, the Society must not undertake any taxable permanent trading activity and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations;

(2) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;

(3) to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the Society. In exercising this power, the Society must comply as appropriate with sections 117 and 122 of the Charities Act 2011.

(4) to borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of the property belonging to the Society as security for repayment of the money borrowed or as security for a grant or the discharge of an obligation. The Society must comply as appropriate with sections 124 - 126 of the Charities Act 2011 if it wishes to mortgage land;

(5) to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities and to exchange information and advice with them;

(6) to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in the Objects;

(7) to acquire, merge with or to enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity;

(8) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;

(9) to employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the Society. The Society may employ or remunerate a director only to the extent it is permitted to do so by article 7 and provided it complies with the conditions in that article;

(10) to:

(a) deposit or invest funds;

(b) employ a professional fund-manager; and

(c) arrange for the investments or other property of the Society 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;

(11) to provide indemnity insurance for the directors in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011;

(12) to pay out of the funds of the Society the costs of forming and registering the Society both as a company and as a charity.

6 Application of income and property

(1) The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.

(2) (a) A director is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the Society or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by that director when acting on behalf of the Society.

(b) A director may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the Society's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.

(c) A director may receive an indemnity from the Society in the circumstances specified in article 57.

(d) A director may not receive any other benefit or payment unless it is authorised by article 7.

(3) Subject to article 7, none of the income or property of the Society may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Society. This does not prevent a member who is not also a director receiving:

(a) a benefit from the Society in the capacity of a beneficiary of the Society;

(b) reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the Society.

7 Benefits and payments to Society directors and connected persons

(1) General provisions

No director or connected person may:

(a) buy any goods or services from the Society on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;

(b) sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the Society;

(c) be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the Society;

(d) receive any other financial benefit from the Society;

unless the payment is permitted by sub-clause (2) of this article, or authorised by the court or the prior written consent of the Charity Commission has been obtained.

In this article a 'financial benefit' means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

(2) Scope and powers permitting directors' or connected persons' benefits

(a) A director or connected person may receive a benefit from the Society in the capacity of a beneficiary of the Society provided that a majority of the directors do not benefit in this way.

(b) 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 Society where that is

permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, sections 185 and 186 of the Charities Act 2011.

(c) Subject to sub-clause (3) of this article a director or connected person may provide the Society with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to the Society by the director or connected person.

(d) A director or connected person may receive interest on money lent to the Society at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).

(e) A director or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the director or connected person to the Society. The amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The director concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.

(f) A director or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the Society on the same terms as members of the public.

(3) Payment for supply of goods only – controls

The Society and its directors may only rely upon the authority provided by sub-clause (2)(c) of this article if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

(a) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in an agreement in writing between the Society or its directors (as the case may be) and 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 Society.

(b) 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.

(c) The other directors are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the Society 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.

(d) 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 that supplier with regard to the supply of goods to the Society.

(e) 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.

(f) The reason for their decision is recorded by the directors in the minute book.

(g) A majority of the directors then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by article 7.

(4) In sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this article:

(a) 'Society' includes any company in which the Society:

- (i) holds more than 50% of the shares; or
 - (ii) controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
 - (iii) has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company.
- (b) ‘connected person’ includes any person within the definition in article 61 ‘Interpretation’.

8 Declaration of directors’ interests

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

9 Conflicts of interests and conflicts of loyalties

(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:

- (a) 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;
- (b) 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
- (c) the unconflicted directors consider it is in the interests of the Society to authorise the conflict of interests in the circumstances applying.

(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.

10 Members

(1) Membership is open to individuals who:

- (a) apply to the Society in the form required by the directors; and
- (b) are approved by the directors.

(2) (a) 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 Society to refuse the application.

(b) The directors must inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within twenty-one days of the decision.

(c) 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.

(3) Membership is not transferable.

(4) The directors must keep a register of names and addresses of the members.

11 Classes of membership

(1) The directors may establish classes of membership with different rights and obligations and shall record the rights and obligations in the register of members.

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

(3) The rights attached to a class of membership may only be varied if:

(a) three-quarters of the members of that class consent in writing to the variation; or

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

(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.

(5) The Directors may establish a class of membership for persons under the age of 18 years and members of that class shall not be entitled to vote at any meetings and shall not be required to make any contribution under clause (3) in the event of the winding up of the Society. The terms of such membership shall be determined by the Directors and the provisions of sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause shall not apply to this class of membership

12 Termination of membership

Membership is terminated if:

(1) the member dies or,;

(2) the member resigns by written notice to the Society unless, after the resignation, there would be less than two members;

(3) any sum due from the member to the Society is not paid in full within six months of it falling due;

(4) the member is removed from membership by a resolution of the directors that it is in the best interests of the Society that such membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member from membership may only be passed if:

- (a) 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;
 - (b) the member or, at the option of the member, the member's representative (who need not be a member of the Society) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.
- (5) membership of any class established by the Directors under clause 11 (5) shall determine on the 31st day of December following such member attaining the age of 18 years

13 Annual General meetings

- (1) The Society must hold its first annual general meeting within fifteen months after the date of its last Annual General Meeting.
- (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.

14 General Meetings

The directors may call a general meeting at any time.

15 Notice of general meetings

- (1) The minimum periods of notice required to hold a general meeting of the Society are:
 - (a) twenty-one clear days for an annual general meeting or a general meeting called for the passing of a special resolution;
 - (b) fourteen clear days for all other general meetings.
- (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.
- (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 22.
- (4) The notice must be given to all the members and to the directors and auditors.

16 Accidental omission to give notice

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 Society.

17 Proceedings at general meetings

(1) No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.

(2) A quorum is:

(a) 10 members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting; or

(b) one twentieth of the total membership at the time;

whichever is the greater.

18 Lack of quorum

(1) If:

(a) a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting; or

(b) during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present;

the meeting shall be adjourned to such time and place as the directors shall determine.

(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.

(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.

19 Chairman

- (1) General meetings shall be chaired by the President of the Society or if the President is not present or is unwilling to act the Secretary of the Society shall chair the meeting.
- (2) If neither the President nor the Secretary is present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the meeting a director nominated by the directors shall chair the meeting.
- (3) If there is only one director present and willing to act, that director shall chair the meeting.
- (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.

20 Adjournments

- (1) The members present in person or by proxy at a meeting may resolve by ordinary resolution that the meeting shall be adjourned.
- (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.
- (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.
- (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.

21 Votes

- (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:
 - (a) by the person chairing the meeting; or
 - (b) by at least two members present in person or by proxy and having the right to vote at the meeting; or
 - (c) 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.
- (2) (a) The declaration by the person who is chairing the meeting of the result of a vote shall be conclusive unless a poll is demanded.
 - (b) The result of the vote must be recorded in the minutes of the Society but the number or proportion of votes cast need not be recorded.

(3) (a) 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.

(b) 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.

(4) (a) 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.

(b) The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll is demanded.

(5) (a) A poll demanded on the election of a person to chair a meeting or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately.

(b) 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.

(c) The poll must be taken within thirty days after it has been demanded.

(d) 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.

(e) If a poll is demanded the meeting may continue to deal with any other business that may be conducted at the meeting.

22 – 22A Proxies

22(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

(d) 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.

(2) The charity 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

22A (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.

(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.

(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.

23 Written resolutions

No decisions may be made by written resolutions

24 – 25 Votes of members further provisions

24 Subject to article 11, every member shall have one vote.

25 Any objection to the qualification of any voter must be raised at the meeting at which the vote is tendered and the decision of the person who is chairing the meeting shall be final.

26 - 30 Directors

26 (1) A director must be a natural person aged 18 years or older.

(2) No one may be appointed a director if he or she would be disqualified from acting under the provisions of article 39.

27 The minimum number of directors shall be 9 and (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution at a general meeting) shall be subject to a maximum of 12.

28 The President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Curator the Librarian and the Lecture Secretary shall ex officio be Directors of the Society and each of these shall be elected at the Annual General meeting.

29 No person other than an Officer retiring at the meeting unless recommended by Council shall be eligible for election as an Officer at any general meeting unless within the prescribed time before the day appointed for the meeting there shall have been given to the Secretary written notice by a member who is qualified to attend and vote at such meeting of his intention to propose such person for election and such notice is accompanied by a consent to such nomination by the person to be proposed of his willingness to stand. The prescribed time above mentioned shall be such that between the date when the notice is served or deemed to be served and the date appointed for the meeting there shall be not less than four and not more than fourteen intervening days.

30 A director may not appoint an alternate director or anyone to act on his or her behalf at meetings of the directors.

31 Powers of directors

(1) The directors shall manage the business of the Society and may exercise all the powers of the Society unless they are subject to any restrictions imposed by the Companies Acts, the articles or any special resolution.

(2) No alteration of the articles or any special resolution shall have retrospective effect to invalidate any prior act of the directors.

(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.

32 - 33 Retirement of directors

32 At the first annual general meeting after the adoption of these articles all the directors must 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.

33 (1) At such first annual general meeting the Lecture Secretary shall be elected for a term of one year, the Secretary and the Curator for a term of two years and the Treasurer and Librarian for a term of three years. As and when each of such terms of appointment come to an end the subsequent appointment shall be for the term of three years.

(2) The President shall be elected at each annual general meeting for a term of one year

(3) At such first annual general meeting one third of the directors not referred to in sub-clauses (1) and (2) of this clause shall be elected for one year, one third for a period of two years and one third for a period of three years. In the event of the number of directorships available to be filled under this sub-clause not being divisible by three the first one of the excess shall be comprised within the one third to be elected for three years and (if applicable) the second of the excess shall be comprised within the one third to be elected for two years. As and when each of such terms of appointment come to an end the subsequent appointment shall be for the term of three years

(4) 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.

34 -38 Appointment of directors

34 The Society may by ordinary resolution:

- (1) appoint a person who is willing to act to be a director; and
- (2) determine the rotation in which any additional directors are to retire.

35 No person other than a director retiring by rotation may be appointed a director at any general meeting unless:

- (1) he or she is recommended for re-election by the directors; or
- (2) not less than fourteen nor more than thirty-five clear days before the date of the meeting, the Society is given a notice that:
 - (a) is signed by a member entitled to vote at the meeting;
 - (b) states the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a director;
 - (c) contains the details that, if the person were to be appointed, the Society would have to file at Companies House; and
 - (d) is signed by the person who is to be proposed to show his or her willingness to be appointed.

36 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.

37 (1) The directors may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a director.

(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.

38 The appointment of a director, whether by the Society 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.

39 Disqualification and removal of directors

A director shall cease to hold office if that person:

- (1) ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision in the Companies Acts or is prohibited by law from being a director;
- (2) is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of sections 178 and 179 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of those provisions);
- (3) ceases to be a member of the Society;
- (4) in the written opinion, given to the company, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
- (5) resigns as a director by notice to the Society (but only if at least two directors will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect); or
- (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.

40 Remuneration of directors

The directors must not be paid any remuneration unless it is authorised by article 7.

41 – 45 Proceedings of directors

41 (1) The directors may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of the articles.

(2) Any director may call a meeting of the directors.

(3) The secretary (if any) must call a meeting of the directors if requested to do so by a director.

(4) Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes.

(5) In the case of an equality of votes, the person who is chairing the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(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.

42 (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.]

(2) The quorum shall be two 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.

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

43 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.

44 (1) The directors shall appoint a director to chair their meetings and may at any time revoke such appointment.

(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.

(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.

45 (1) A resolution in writing or in electronic form agreed by all of the directors entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the 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 duly convened and held.

(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.

46 Delegation

(1) The directors may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee of two or more directors but the terms of any delegation must be recorded in the minute book.

(2) The directors may impose conditions when delegating, including the conditions that:

(a) the relevant powers are to be exercised exclusively by the committee to whom they delegate;

(b) no expenditure may be incurred on behalf of the Society except in accordance with a budget previously agreed with the directors.

(3) The directors may revoke or alter a delegation.

(4) All acts and proceedings of any committees must be fully and promptly reported to the directors.

47 Validity of directors' decisions

(1) Subject to article 47(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:

(a) who was disqualified from holding office;

(b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;

(c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interests or otherwise;

if without:

(d) the vote of that director; and

(e) that director being counted in the quorum;

the decision has been made by a majority of the directors at a quorate meeting.

(2) Article 47(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 47(1), the resolution would have been void, or if the director has not complied with article 8.

48 Seal

If the Society has a seal it must only be used by the authority of the directors or of a committee of directors authorised by the directors. The directors may determine who shall sign any instrument to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by a director and by the secretary (if any) or by a second director.

49 Minutes

The directors must keep minutes of all:

(1) appointments of officers made by the directors;

(2) proceedings at meetings of the Society;

(3) meetings of the directors and committees of directors including:

(a) the names of the directors present at the meeting;

- (b) the decisions made at the meetings; and
- (c) where appropriate the reasons for the decisions.

50 Accounts

- (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.
- (2) The directors must keep accounting records as required by the Companies Act.

51 Annual Report and Return and Register of Charities

- (1) The directors must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with regard to the:
 - (a) transmission of a copy of the statements of account to the Commission;
 - (b) preparation of an Annual Report and the transmission of a copy of it to the Commission;
 - (c) preparation of an Annual Return and its transmission to the Commission.
- (2) The directors must notify the Commission promptly of any changes to the Society's entry on the Central Register of Charities.

52 Means of communication to be used

- 52 (1) Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the Society 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 Society.
- (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.

53 Notices

53 Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the articles:

- (1) must be in writing; or
- (2) must be given in electronic form.

54 (1) The Society may give any notice to a member either:

- (a) personally; or
- (b) by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his or her address; or
- (c) by leaving it at the address of the member; or
- (d) by giving it in electronic form to the member's address.
- (e) 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.

(2) A member who does not register an address with the Society or who registers only a postal address that is not within the United Kingdom shall not be entitled to receive any notice from the Society.

55 A member present in person at any meeting of the Society shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.

56 (1) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.

(2) 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.

(3) In accordance with section 1147 of the Companies Act 2006 notice shall be deemed to be given:

- (a) 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted; or
- (b) in the case of an electronic form of communication, 48 hours after it was sent.

57 Indemnity

(1) The Society shall indemnify a relevant director against any liability incurred in that capacity, to the extent permitted by sections 232 to 234 of the Companies Act 2006.

(2) In this article a 'relevant director' means any director or former director of the Society.

58 Rules

58 (1) The directors may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules or bye laws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the Society.

(2) The bye laws may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them:

(a) the admission of members of the Society and the rights and privileges of such members, and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members;

(b) the conduct of members of the Society in relation to one another, and to the Society's employees and volunteers;

(c) the setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Society's premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes;

(d) 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;

(e) generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of company rules.

(3) The Society in general meeting has the power to alter, add to or repeal the rules or bye laws.

(4) The directors must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the rules and bye laws to the notice of members of the Society.

(5) The rules or bye laws shall be binding on all members of the Society. No rule or bye law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, the articles.

59 Disputes

If a dispute arises between members of the Society about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members of the Society 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, if unsuccessful then arbitration, before resorting to litigation.

60 Dissolution

(1) The members of the Society may at any time before, and in expectation of, its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the Society after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision has been made for them, shall on or before the dissolution of the Society be applied or transferred in any of the following ways:

(a) directly for the Objects; or

(b) by transfer to any society or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or

(c) to any society or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

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

(a) directly for the Objects; or

(b) by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or

(c) to any charity or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

(3) In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Society be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society and if no resolution in accordance with article 60(1) is passed by the members or the directors the net assets of the Society shall be applied for charitable purposes as directed by the Court or the Commission.

61 Interpretation

In article 7, sub-clause (2) of article 9 and sub-clause (2) of article 47 ‘connected person’ means:

(1) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the director;

(2) the spouse or civil partner of the director or of any person falling within sub-clause (1) above;

(3) a person carrying on business in partnership with the director or with any person falling within sub-clause (1) or (2) above;

(4) an institution which is controlled –

(a) by the director or any connected person falling within sub-clause (1), (2), or (3) above; or

(b) by two or more persons falling within sub-clause 4(a), when taken together.

(5) a body corporate in which –

(a) the director or any connected person falling within sub-clauses (1) to (3) has a substantial interest; or

(b) two or more persons falling within sub-clause (5)(a) who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.

(c) Sections 350 – 352 of the Charities Act 2011 apply for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this article.