

**RULES
OF THE
VERNON
BUILDING SOCIETY**



ESTABLISHED 1924

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VERNON BUILDING SOCIETY

ALL PREVIOUS RULES RESCINDED

The headings contained in these Rules are for reference only and shall not affect the interpretation of these Rules.

1. INTERPRETATION

(a) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires -

"Annual Accounts" has the meaning given by Rule 30(3);

"Annual General Meeting" means the meeting held by the Society in the first four months (or such other period as permitted by the Statutes) of each Financial Year at which the Annual Accounts are presented and which is specified as such in the notice convening the meeting;

"Board" means the Board of Directors of the Society;

"Borrower" means a Person (other than a guarantor) who owes money to the Society;

"Borrowing Member" has the meaning given by Rule 4(1)(b);

"Borrowing Members' Resolution" -

- (i) in relation to a resolution proposed or to be proposed, means a resolution that the Statutes require to be passed as a Borrowing Members' Resolution if it is to be effective for its purpose,
- (ii) in relation to a resolution passed, means a resolution passed as a Borrowing Members' Resolution in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes, that is, when it has been passed by a majority of the Borrowing Members of the Society voting in person or by proxy on a poll on the resolution at a meeting of the Society of which notice specifying the intention to move the resolution as a Borrowing Members' Resolution has been duly given,⁷ and for a purpose that the Statutes require to be effected by the passing of a Borrowing Members' Resolution .

For the purposes of a Borrowing Members' Resolution, the meaning of Borrowing Member applied to Individuals by Rule 4(1)(b) shall include any body corporate where that body corporate became so indebted, or so entitled and accepted, to the Society before these Rules took effect.

"Chief Executive" means an Individual who is employed by the Society and who is or will be responsible under the immediate authority of the Board for the conduct of the business of the Society and also means, if the office is vacant or if there is for any other reason no Chief Executive capable of acting, an Individual authorised by the Board to act as the deputy or assistant to or in the stead of the Chief Executive;

"Corporate Representative" means an Individual authorised by resolution of the directors or other governing body of a body corporate to represent it;

"Deposit" means a deposit with the Society by any Person and includes a loan to the Society and a subordinated deposit (that is, a deposit which, on a winding up, would fall to be repaid only after repayment in full had been made to the holders of Shares other than deferred Shares);

"Director" means a member of the Board;

"Directors' Report" has the meaning given by Rule 30(2);

"Electronic Communication" means an electronic communication as defined by the Electronic Communications Act 2000 the processing of which on receipt is intended to produce writing;¹²

"Financial Year" means the 12 months ending on 31 December in any year;

"Heritable Security" means a security capable of being constituted over any land, by disposition or assignation of that interest, in security of any debt, and of being recorded in the Register of Sasines or, as the case may be, in the Land Register of Scotland, and includes a security constituted by a standard security, and any other charge enforceable in the same manner as a standard security;

"Individual" means a natural person;

"Loan" means a loan from the Society which is substantially secured on land within the meaning of the Statutes and these Rules. For the purposes of these Rules, "substantially" means where not less than 75% of the Loan is secured on land;

"Manager" means an Individual (other than the Chief Executive) employed by the Society who, under the immediate authority of a Director or the Chief Executive, exercises managerial functions or is responsible for maintaining accounts or other records of the Society;

"Member" means a Person who is a Shareholding Member or a Borrowing Member or both;

"Memorandum" means the Memorandum, for the time being in force, of the purposes and the extent of the powers of the Society agreed upon by the Society pursuant to the Statutes;

"Month" means calendar month;

"Mortgage" includes a charge and, in Scotland, a Heritable Security over land;

"Mortgage Debt" means the total amount outstanding in respect of -

- (i) the principal of a Loan,
- (ii) interest on the Loan, and
- (iii) any other sum which the Borrower is obliged to pay the Society under the terms of the Loan;

"Officer" means any Director, Chief Executive, Secretary or Manager and all Officers of the Society shall be bound by these Rules and by the Memorandum;²⁰

"Ordinary Resolution" -

- (i) in relation to a resolution proposed or to be proposed, means a resolution that the Statutes require to be passed as an Ordinary Resolution if it is to be effective for its purpose,
- (ii) in relation to a resolution passed, means a resolution passed as an Ordinary Resolution in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes, and for a purpose that the Statutes require to be effected by the passing of an Ordinary Resolution,
- (iii) in relation to (i) and (ii) above, means a resolution which will be effective without being passed as a Special Resolution, Shareholding Members' Resolution or a Borrowing Members' Resolution;

"Person" means any Individual or body corporate;

"Principal Office" means the principal office of the Society for the time being;

"Register" means the Register of Members maintained pursuant to the Statutes, showing the name and postal address of each Member, any electronic address notified by the Member and the purposes for which it has been notified, and whether each Member is a Shareholding Member or a Borrowing Member or both;

"Registered Address" in relation to any Member means -

- (i) the postal address currently shown in the Register, except where paragraph (ii) below applies,
- (ii) where a Member has requested that communications from the Society be sent to some other postal address, that other address;

"Regulator" means the Financial Services Authority or any successor or successors

established by the Statutes;

"Representative Joint Borrower" means that Borrowing Member who is named first in the records of the Society in respect of a Loan;

"Representative Joint Shareholder" means that Shareholding Member who is named first in the records of the Society in respect of a Share;

"Rules" means the Rules of the Society for the time being in force;

"Secretary" means the Officer appointed by the Board to be the Secretary of the Society and also means, if the office is vacant or if there is for any other reason no Secretary capable of acting, an Individual authorised by the Board to act as the deputy or assistant to or in the stead of the Secretary;

"Share" means a share account opened or a share issued by the Society -

- (i) in return for payment, or
- (ii) in pursuance of the fulfilment by the Society of the engagements of another building society, or
- (iii) by way of capitalisation of interest credited,

and includes stock and a part or fraction of a Share;

"Shareholder" means a Person who has a Shareholding;

"Shareholding" means the holding by a Member of a Share or Shares (whether in a class or not);

"Shareholding Member" has the meaning given by Rule 4(1)(a);

"Shareholding Members' Resolution" -

- (i) in relation to a resolution proposed or to be proposed, means a resolution that the Statutes require to be passed as a Shareholding Members' Resolution for it to be effective for its purpose,
- (ii) in relation to a resolution passed, means a resolution passed as a Shareholding Members' Resolution in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes, that is, when it has been passed by not less than three-quarters of the number of the Shareholding Members of the Society qualified to vote on a Shareholding Members' Resolution and voting in person or by proxy on a poll on the resolution at a meeting of the Society of which notice specifying the intention to move the resolution as a Shareholding Members' Resolution has been duly given, and for a purpose that the Statutes require to be effected by the passing of a Shareholding Members' Resolution;

"Society" means Vernon Building Society;

"Special Resolution" -

- (i) in relation to a resolution proposed or to be proposed, means a resolution that the Statutes require to be passed as a Special Resolution if it is to be effective for its purpose,
- (ii) in relation to a resolution passed, means a resolution passed as a Special Resolution in accordance with the requirements of the Statutes, that is, when it has been passed by not less than three-quarters of the number of the Members of the Society qualified to vote on a Special Resolution, and voting -

- (A) in person or by proxy on a poll on the resolution at a meeting of the Society, or

- (B) in a postal ballot or electronic ballot,

of which notice specifying the intention to move the resolution as a Special Resolution has been duly given, and for a purpose that the Statutes require to be effected by the passing of a Special Resolution;

"Statutes" means the Building Societies Act 1986, or other Act or Acts, or statutory instruments or other statutory provisions from time to time in force relating to building societies, and any reference in these Rules to the provisions of any particular statute shall be construed as if these Rules were an enactment to which section 17(2) of the Interpretation Act 1978 applies.

(b) In these Rules, unless the context requires otherwise, for any reference to the value of a Shareholding, that value shall be taken as the amount standing to the credit of the Shareholding Member in respect of -

- (i) payments made on the Shares, and
- (ii) interest credited by way of capitalisation.

(c) In these Rules, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (i) references to a Person's holding of Shares include references to any Shares which, under section 4(2) of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008, that Person is for the time being treated as having in respect of the balance of a dormant share account which the Society has transferred to an authorised reclaim fund in accordance with section 1 of that Act, or which the Society has transferred to such a fund and one or more charities in accordance with section 2 of that Act;
- (ii) "hold" or "held", in relation to a Share, shall be construed accordingly; and

- (iii) References to an amount standing to the credit of a Shareholding Member in respect of any Shares include references to an amount credited in respect of Shares which the Shareholding Member is treated as having as described in sub-paragraph (i) above.
- (d) In these Rules, references to a document being signed, or to a signature, shall include:
 - (i) a signature printed or otherwise reproduced by mechanical or other means;
 - (ii) the use of a stamp or similar item indicating approval by the Person regarded as signing the document;
 - (iii) an electronic signature or other means of verifying the authenticity of an Electronic Communication where this has been approved by the Board in relation to the relevant document or category of document.
- (e) Any reference in these Rules to a notice, document or other communication being sent, despatched, given, delivered or served shall include its being:
 - (i) transmitted to an electronic address;
 - (ii) published on a website; or
 - (iii) otherwise communicated, in a manner and form which, in relation to the particular notice, document or other communication, is approved by the Board from time to time and complies with any applicable requirements of the Statutes.
- (f) In these Rules, unless the context requires otherwise, words importing one gender import any other gender, and words importing the singular include the plural, and vice versa.
- [(g) In these Rules, each amount, figure, length of time or percentage shall be read as if followed by the words "or such other amount, figure, length of time or percentage (as appropriate) which is for the time being the maximum permitted for this purpose by the Statutes". Such Rules include -
 - (i) paragraphs (1)(e), (4)(a), (4)(b), (5) and (11) of Rule 13,
 - (ii) Rule 14,
 - (iii) paragraph (1)(b) of Rule 24,
 - (iv) paragraph (5)(g) of Rule 30,
 - (v) paragraphs (3)(a), (4)(a) and (4)(b) of Rule 31,

- (vi) paragraphs (1)(a) and (1)(b) of Rule 33,
- (vii) paragraph (6)(b) of Rule 35,
- (viii) paragraphs (3)(c) and (4)(c) of Rule 36, and
- (ix) paragraph (5)(c) of Rule 41.]

2. NAME

The name of the Society is "Vernon Building Society".

3. PRINCIPAL OFFICE

- (1) The address of the Principal Office is 19 St Petersgate, Stockport, Cheshire, SK1 1HF
- (2) The Board may from time to time by resolution change the place of the Principal Office.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- (1) No Person shall be a Member of the Society unless he is a Shareholding Member or a Borrowing Member or both, and -
 - (a) "Shareholding Member" means a Person who holds a Share in the Society; and
 - (b) "Borrowing Member" means an Individual -
 - (i) who is indebted to the Society in respect of a Loan or a Loan from another building society whose interest in the Loan has, as the result of any amalgamation or transfer of engagements, passed to the Society, or
 - (ii) who is indebted to the Society as mentioned in (i) above and who has taken with the consent of the Society a transfer of any land already in mortgage to the Society, and who shall become a Borrowing Member as from the date the transfer is registered in the records of the Society, or
 - (iii) who, on the death or bankruptcy of a Borrowing Member or otherwise on transfer by operation of law becomes entitled to land already in mortgage to the Society and who (being willing to

become a Borrowing Member) is accepted by the Society as a Borrowing Member while such Loan shall be outstanding, from the date of acceptance by the Society

- (2) Each Member, and all Persons claiming through him or on his behalf or under the Rules, shall be bound by these Rules and by the Memorandum
- (3) Each Member shall, on demand, be given a copy of these Rules and of the Memorandum-
 - (a) free of charge, if he has not previously been given a copy, or
 - (b) upon payment of £1, or such other fee as may be duly prescribed from time to time by HM Treasury (or any successor authorised for this purpose), if he has already been given a copy.
- (4) Each Member shall -
 - (a) notify the Society immediately of any change of name or address and shall produce such evidence of the change as the Society may require,
 - (b) supply a specimen of his signature as and when required,
 - (c) ensure that where he is the Shareholding Member or Representative Joint Shareholder in respect of more than one Shareholding, his name and Registered Address are notified in identical terms in respect of each Shareholding,
 - (d) ensure that where he is the Borrowing Member or Representative Joint Borrower in respect of more than one Loan, his name and Registered Address are notified in identical terms in respect of each Loan,
 - (e) ensure that where he is both a Shareholding Member or Representative Joint Shareholder and a Borrowing Member or Representative Joint Borrower, that his name and Registered Address are notified to the Society in identical terms in respect of the Shareholding and the Loan.
- (5) For the purposes of these Rules -
 - (a) where, in relation to any two or more Shareholdings, to any two or more Loans, or to any Shareholding and a Loan, the names or Registered Addresses of the Shareholding Member or Borrowing Member (or the Representative Joint Shareholder or the Representative Joint Borrower as the case may be) have been notified to the Society in terms that are not identical the Society shall, insofar as it is reasonable to do so, be entitled to assume (in the absence of written notice to the contrary) that those Shares are held by different Shareholding Members, that those Loans were made to different Borrowing Members, or that the Shareholding Member and the Borrowing Member are different Persons,

- (b) where a Shareholding is issued during a Financial Year or up to 56 days prior to the voting date (if applicable) the Society shall, insofar as it is reasonable to do so, be entitled to assume that the Shareholding Member (or Representative Joint Shareholder) was not a member at the end of the last Financial Year unless either -
 - (i) at the end of the last Financial Year the Register included an entry showing a Person of the same name and Registered Address as a Shareholding Member (or Representative Joint Shareholder) or as a Borrowing Member (or Representative Joint Borrower), or
 - (ii) the Society is given written notice to the contrary,
- (c) where a Loan is made during a Financial Year, the Society shall be entitled to assume that the Borrowing Member of the Loan (or Representative Joint Borrower) was not a Member during the last Financial Year unless either of the circumstances as set out in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) above applies in the same way, the necessary changes being made.
- (6) Two or more Persons may jointly hold a Share unless the terms of issue forbid a joint holding but no Share shall be issued to the holders, or be held by them at any time, as tenants in common. The Society may decline to issue any Share or lend money to more than four Persons jointly. Joint Shareholding Members or joint Borrowing Members shall be entitled to choose the order in which they are named in the records of the Society.
- (7) A Shareholding Member or all joint Shareholding Members may authorise an agent (who may be one of the joint Shareholding Members) to withdraw any Share or to receive any interest or bonus paid in respect of it and the receipt of, or evidence of payment to, an agent so authorised shall be a good discharge to the Society.
- (8) The Society may in its absolute discretion and without giving any reason refuse to-
 - (a) open a new share or mortgage account for a Person, or
 - (b) accept any Person as a Member.
- (9) If the Society accepts a transfer of engagements of any other building society, any Person who becomes a Member of the Society by virtue of the transfer shall be deemed to have been a Member at any date before the transfer on which he was a member of the transferor society and -
 - (a) in the case of a member holding shares in the transferor society, to have had a Shareholding on that date to the value of his shares in the transferor society, or

- (b) in the case of a member to whom a Loan has been made by the transferor society, to have owed the Society on that date the amount of his mortgage debt to the transferor society.

5. DEATH OR BANKRUPTCY OF MEMBER

- (1) If -
 - (a) a Member domiciled in any part of the United Kingdom dies testate or intestate, and
 - (b) at the time of his death the sum of money standing to his credit with the Society in respect of his Shareholding does not exceed the amount specified in or under the provision of the Statutes* regarding payment to a Person who claims to be beneficially entitled without the grant of probate of the will or the grant of letters of administration or confirmation,

then, although there is no probate of the will or letters of administration or confirmation, as the case may be, the Society may pay that sum of money to a Person who claims to be beneficially entitled to that sum of money and who satisfies the requirements of that provision for the production to the Society of appropriate evidence of his entitlement. Such payment shall be valid and effective with respect to any demand against the funds of the Society from any other Person claiming to be entitled to it.

* This footnote is not part of the rules. When these Rules were printed on 25th April 2013, the "Statutes" applicable was the Building Societies Act 1986 which specified an amount of £5,000.

- (2) Any Person becoming entitled to a Share or to land already in mortgage to the Society as a result of the death or bankruptcy of a Member may, subject to Rule 4(8) and upon such evidence being produced and upon the payment of such fee (if any) as the Society may from time to time require, be registered as the Shareholding Member or as the Borrowing Member in respect of the Loan and, if registration is refused in respect of a Share, the Society shall repay that Share with interest up to the date of repayment at the rate then being paid on that type of Share.

6. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) below, a Shareholding Member shall cease to be a Shareholding Member if he ceases to hold a Share in the Society.
- (2) If the Society allows a Shareholding Member to overdraw on his account, he shall not cease to be a Shareholding Member so long as the amount overdrawn does not exceed the limit to which the Society has for the time being consented but, if -

- (a) the amount overdrawn exceeds that limit, or
- (b) consent to overdrawing is withdrawn,

he shall cease to be a Shareholding Member on such date as the Society may decide.

(3) Subject to the terms applying to the Share, the Society may terminate the membership rights of a Shareholding Member, not being a Director, as follows:

- (a) Unless the Shares have been issued for a fixed term, the Society may give written notice to the Member, terminating his membership rights as a Shareholding Member, either:
 - (i) with immediate effect if:
 - he has been physically or verbally abusive to the Society's staff;
 - the Society reasonably suspects that his share account is being used for an illegal purpose; or
 - the Society has any other valid reason for immediately terminating his membership rights as a Shareholding Member; or
 - (ii) at the expiration of a period of not less than one month or (in the case of Shares for which the Shareholding Member would be required by the terms of issue to give more than one month's notice of withdrawal) a period not less than the period of notice which the Shareholding Member would be required to give of his intention to withdraw the Shares.
- (b) If the Shares have been issued for a fixed term, the Society may at any time give the Shareholding Member written notice terminating his membership rights as a Shareholding Member with effect from the expiration of the fixed term.
- (c) Upon a notice given under paragraph (a) or (b) above taking effect, the Society may pay to the Shareholding Member the whole of his Shareholding together with interest on it, up to and including the date of payment, at the applicable rate or rates. Payment may be made by any means the Society considers appropriate and may be posted, delivered or otherwise transmitted to the Shareholding Member or (in the case of Shares which are jointly held) to the Representative Joint Shareholder. Upon that payment being posted, delivered or otherwise transmitted, the Shareholding Member or (as the case may be) the joint Shareholding Members shall cease to be Shareholding Members.

- (4) A Borrowing Member shall cease to be a Borrowing Member at any time if at that time the Society -
- (a) takes possession of, or exercises its power of sale in relation to, the whole or any part of the land on which the Loan is secured, or
 - (b) obtains an order for foreclosure absolute or, in Scotland, foreclosure in respect of the whole or any part of that land, or
 - (c) serves upon him written notice that it has transferred or assigned its interest in his Mortgage.

7. RAISING OF FUNDS

The Society may raise funds in accordance with and subject to the Statutes.

8. SHARES

- (1) The power of the Society to raise funds by the issue of Shares shall be exercised, subject to these Rules and the Statutes, by the issue of Shares or classes of Shares as the Board may from time to time in its absolute discretion determine and the Board may decide to discontinue, suspend, limit or resume the issue of any Shares or class of Shares.
- (2) Preferential and deferred Shares may be issued on such terms and conditions as the Board may from time to time in its absolute discretion determine, but the Society's liabilities in respect of such Shares immediately following any such issue shall not exceed 5% of the Society's aggregated share, deposit and loan liabilities.
- (3) The terms on which Shares or classes of Shares are to be issued shall be determined by the Society.
- (4) (a) The Society may at any time change the terms on which Shares or any particular class of Shares already issued are held, in the manner and subject to the conditions set out in the terms applying at that time to such Shares or class of Shares.

The Society shall notify each Shareholding Member of a change in the terms on which his Shares are held in the manner specified in the terms which apply to those Shares, or, if those terms do not specify (or do not validly specify) the manner in which such changes are to be notified, then by giving personal notice of the change to the Shareholding Member not less than two months before the date on which the change is to take effect,

- (b) An accidental omission to exhibit a notice (where required) or to publicise under (a) above shall not affect the validity of the alteration.

- (5) If it appears to the Society that any Shareholding Member is suffering from mental disorder or is through mental infirmity arising from disease or age incapable of managing his affairs, any Person appearing to the Society to have the care of such Shareholding Member or the management of his affairs may, with its consent, withdraw the whole or any part of the amount standing to the credit of that Shareholding Member's account but this will be subject to the terms and conditions applying to any Share.

9. DEPOSITS WITH AND LOANS TO THE SOCIETY

- (1) The power of the Society to borrow money from any Person on deposit or by way of loan may be exercised, subject to these Rules and the Statutes, by the receipt of deposits or loans or classes of deposits or loans as the Board may in its absolute discretion from time to time determine.
- (2) The Society shall have power to determine the terms on which deposits or loans or classes of deposits or loans are to be received and the Board may determine the rates of interest or bonus (if any) to be paid on deposits or loans or on classes of deposits or loans, and the conditions subject to which the same shall be payable.
- (3) The Society may give such security upon any of its assets for any deposits or loans as the Board may from time to time consider expedient.
- (4) Except where the Board requires otherwise, the receipt of a deposit taken by the Society in accordance with the Statutes shall be, insofar as it is permissible by the Statutes to do so, on terms that Rule 4(4) to (7), Rule 5, Rule 6(1) to (3), Rule 8(4) and (5) and Rule 12(5) apply (with any necessary consequential amendments being made) to a depositor and a deposit as those Rules apply to a Shareholding Member and a Share.

10. LENDING

The Society may lend money, with or without security, upon such terms and conditions as the Board may determine from time to time, subject to the Statutes, the Memorandum and these Rules, and may suspend, reduce or waive any repayment of principal, or the payment of interest, or other payment on such terms and from such date (whether then already past or not) as the Society may think proper.

11. REPAYMENT OF MONEY OWED TO THE SOCIETY

If a Person wishes to repay the whole or any part -

- (a) of a Mortgage Debt, or
- (b) of any sum owing,

before the time agreed, he may do so in accordance with the terms on which the money was lent and in the case of a repayment in full he shall pay to the Society the Mortgage Debt and all sums owing under the terms of the mortgage.

12. DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

- (1) The business of the Society and any business that the Society proposes to carry on shall be under the direction of a Board of Directors consisting of not more than 9 nor (subject to the provisions of Rule 25(6)) less than 5 Members and the Board may from time to time resolve the number who together shall constitute the Board within these limitations.
- (2) The Board may exercise all those powers of the Society that are not, by the Statutes or by these Rules, required to be exercised by the Society in general meeting.
- (3) No Rule or alteration to a Rule made by the Society in general meeting shall invalidate any act of the Board prior to the date on which the Rule or alteration takes effect that would have been valid if that Rule or alteration had not been made.
- (4) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing paragraphs (1), (2) and (3), the Board -
 - (a) shall ensure the direction and management of all affairs and business of the Society by a sufficient number of Individuals fit and proper to be Directors or other Officers, in their respective positions, with prudence and integrity, in the best interests of the Society, in accordance with the Statutes, the Memorandum and these Rules,
 - (b) may appoint, and terminate the appointment of, any Members of the Society as members of a local board with such powers, duties, discretions and authorities as the Board may at any time delegate to that board but so that-
 - (i) each Director shall be a member ex officio of any such local board but no Director shall receive any remuneration by reason of his being an ex officio member of such local board,
 - (ii) two members of a local board shall form a quorum, and
 - (iii) no Member shall be eligible for appointment to, or continue as a member of, any local board unless he shall have a Shareholding in his own right of not less than £1,000,

- (c) may, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing sub-paragraph (b)(i), remunerate out of the funds of the Society, and pay the reasonable expenses and any professional and other fees of, the members of any local board,
- (d) may pay out of the funds of the Society the expenses of the Society and such sums as the Board may deem necessary or expedient to be paid in the interests of the Society, but no Director (other than a holder of any executive office) shall receive any payment save as is authorised by these Rules,
- (e) may make, vary or revoke regulations for the conduct of its meetings and all affairs and business of the Society, provided that the same are not inconsistent with the Statutes, the Memorandum and these Rules,
- (f) may authorise the use of all forms, instruments and other documents that it may deem necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the Society,
- (g) may delegate any of its powers, duties, discretions and authorities relating to the business of the Society to -
 - (i) one or more Directors,
 - (ii) committees consisting of such Director or Directors, other Officer or Officers and/or employee or employees as it thinks fit,
 - (iii) one or more Officers or employees

provided that where the powers of the Board are delegated to a committee pursuant to (ii) above, the Board may make, vary or revoke without notice regulations for the membership of the committee and the conduct of its meetings (including but not limited to the quorum)

The Board may also, by power of attorney or otherwise, appoint a Person or Persons to be the agent of the Society and may delegate to such Person or Persons any of its powers, duties, authorities or discretions for such purposes, for such time and on such terms and conditions (including as to remuneration) as it thinks fit. The Board may grant the power to sub-delegate and may retain or exclude the right of the Board to exercise the delegated powers, duties, authorities or discretions collaterally with the agent. The Board may at any time revoke or alter the terms and conditions of the appointment or delegation.

- (5) The Board may demand payment or reimbursement from any Person in respect of any cost, expense or liability that the Society may incur directly resulting from any act, default or neglect of such Person, or the carrying out of

tasks considered by the Board to be outside the normal servicing of that Person's account.

13. ELIGIBILITY AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

- (1) No Individual shall be elected or appointed as a Director unless -
 - (a) his election or appointment complies with any binding requirement of the Statutes regarding the age of a Director at the time his election or appointment takes effect,
 - (b) he is qualified under Rule 14 at the date of his election or, in the case of appointment under Rule 25, the date of his appointment,
 - (c) he is not a minor,
 - (d) such Individual maintains in his own right a Shareholding with the Society of an amount not less than £1,000, and
 - (e) (except in the case of appointment under Rule 25, or nomination under paragraph (12) below, or where a Director retires under Rule 26), a nomination form in the form required by the Society, signed by not less than 50 Members who comply with the requirements of paragraph (4) below, has been delivered at the Principal Office. A nomination may be made at any time but, if made after the end of the Financial Year preceding the Annual General Meeting at which the vacancy in respect of which he is nominated is to be filled, the nomination shall be carried forward (unless the candidate otherwise requires) as a nomination for the next election of Directors at the next Annual General Meeting.
- (2) The nomination form shall contain the full name, address, age and occupation of the Individual nominated, and his consent to be so nominated. The nomination form shall also –
 - (a) give the full names and addresses of the Members proposing the individual's nomination; and
 - (b) identify, in relation to each such Member, a share or mortgage account, which will evidence the fact that the Member fulfils the condition set out in paragraph 4(a) below, and one or other of the conditions set out in paragraph 4(b) below.

If the Board wishes to object to a nomination form by virtue of any of the requirements of this Rule 13(2) not being met, it must do so within 14 days of the form being delivered to the Principal Office under Rule 13(1)(e).

- (3) In exercise of its duties pursuant to Rule 12(4)(a), the Board may require any Individual nominated for election as a Director to supply in writing in such form

as the Board may specify, evidence as to his qualifications, financial and managerial experience, creditworthiness, competence and character and to complete in draft any form or questionnaire that, if elected, he would be required to submit to any regulatory authority in accordance with the Statutes.

- (4) The requirements with which a Member must comply in order to be eligible to nominate an Individual as a Director are as follows -
- (a) he must have been a Member for not less than 2 years before the date of nomination, and
 - (b) either -
 - (i) if he claims eligibility as a Shareholding Member, he must hold at that date Shares to the value of not less than £100,
 - (ii) if he claims eligibility as a Borrowing Member, he must owe at that date a Mortgage Debt of an amount not less than £100,and, at all times during that period of 2 years, he must have been such a Shareholding Member or such a Borrowing Member, and
 - (c) he must not be a minor at that date.
- (5) An Individual duly nominated for election as a Director shall deposit £250 with the Society not later than one week after the end of the Financial Year referred to in paragraph (1)(e) above, and an Individual so nominated who fails to lodge the required deposit money with the Society within the time required by this paragraph shall not be eligible for election.
- (6) An Individual duly nominated for election as a Director may furnish the Society with an election address or a revised election address and the Society shall be under a duty to send a copy of the address or revised address to each Member entitled to vote in the election if -
- (a) the address or revised address does not exceed 500 words,
 - (b) the Society is furnished with the address or revised address before the end of the Financial Year referred to in paragraph (1)(e) above,
 - (c) publicity for the address or revised address is not likely to diminish substantially the confidence in the Society of investing members of the public,
 - (d) the right conferred by this paragraph on the Individual seeking election is not being abused to seek needless publicity for defamatory matter or for frivolous or vexatious purposes, and
 - (e) the address or revised address relates directly to the affairs of the

Society,

and the Regulator shall hear and determine any dispute arising from sub-paragraph (c) above

- (7) Any Individual nominated for election as a Director may withdraw his name only by delivering a written notice of his withdrawal addressed to the Secretary at the Principal Office not later than 28 days after the end of the Financial Year during which his nomination was delivered at the Principal Office. In the event of such withdrawal the Board shall decide within one month after the date on which the Society received notice of his withdrawal whether all or any part of any deposit lodged by that person under paragraph (5) above shall be forfeited or returned to him.
- (8) Elections of Directors shall be conducted either on a poll taken at the Annual General Meeting or, if the Board so determines, by postal ballot or electronic ballot (conducted in accordance with Rule 39) of the Members conducted during that part of the Financial Year which precedes the date of the Annual General Meeting. If an election is conducted by postal ballot or electronic ballot the following provisions of this Rule shall apply to the ballot by making any necessary consequential amendments

Where Directors are to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, a form for the appointment of a proxy shall be sent to each person entitled to notice of the meeting. Subject to paragraph 10(c) below, the vacancies shall be filled by those candidates obtaining the most votes in their favour. The Persons entitled to vote in an election of Directors are those Members who, on the voting date, are entitled to vote on an Ordinary Resolution.

The following provisions of this Rule shall apply to the poll -

- (a) the voting papers shall include the number of vacancies on the Board, the full names of all the candidates and any declarations required by the Statutes,
 - (b) subject to paragraph (a) above, the Board shall prescribe or approve the form of the voting paper and may include such other declarations and denoting of retiring Directors as it thinks fit,
 - (c) the voting shall be effected by the placing of an X after the names of the candidates for whom the votes are to be cast,
 - (d) the voting paper shall be void if a Member votes for more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled.
- (9) If on the election of Directors there are more candidates than vacancies to be filled by the election, each Member entitled to vote in the election -
 - (a) shall have one vote in respect of every vacancy, but

- (b) cannot be required to cast all or any of his votes.
- (10) If on the election of Directors there are not more candidates than vacancies to be filled by the election -
- (a) each Member entitled to vote in the election shall have one vote in respect of every candidate, but cannot be required to cast all or any of his votes,
 - (b) each vote shall be capable of being cast either for or against the candidate concerned, and
 - (c) a candidate shall be elected if, and only if, more votes are cast for him than against him.

(11) Within 14 days after the date of the election the Society shall return to an Individual who -

- (a) has been nominated for election as a Director, but
- (b) has not been elected,

the deposit money lodged by him under paragraph (5) above if, but only if, he secured not less than -

- (i) 5 per cent of the total number of votes cast for all the candidates in the election, or
- (ii) 20 per cent of the number of votes cast for the candidate who has been elected with the smallest number of votes,

whichever is the smaller, and the Society shall also return within a like period to a Member who has been nominated for election as a Director, and who has been elected as such, the deposit money so lodged by him.

(12) If a vacancy arises on the Board after the last day of the Financial Year and before the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting held in the succeeding Financial Year for any reason including the death, disqualification or resignation of any retiring Director who was seeking re-election the Board may either -

- (a) without giving notice under Rule 32 substitute in that Director's place some other Member who has filled the vacancy under Rule 25 and who is at the date of that meeting -
 - (i) of an age such that no breach occurs of any binding requirement of the Statutes regarding the age of a Director, and

- (ii) not a minor, and
- (iii) qualified under Rule 14

to take the place of such retiring Director as a candidate for election and such Member shall be deemed to be a retiring Director, or

- (b) reduce the number of vacancies to be filled at the Annual General Meeting by one in respect of each such event and any remaining vacancy on the Board shall be and become a vacancy which the Directors have power to fill under Rule 25

14. QUALIFICATION OF DIRECTORS

The qualification of a Director shall be that he holds in his own right a Shareholding to the value of not less than £1,000.

15. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

- (1) At its first meeting after every Annual General Meeting the Board shall elect from its number a Chairman and if thought fit a Vice-Chairman who shall, subject to paragraph (3) below, hold office until the commencement of the first meeting of the Board held after the next Annual General Meeting unless either shall cease in the meantime to be a Director or shall resign the office. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board at which he is present and in the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman shall take his place.
- (2) If the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, if any so elected shall both be absent from a meeting of the Board or shall both decline to act as Chairman, the Directors present at that meeting shall elect a Director to be Chairman for the purposes of that meeting.
- (3) The Board may at any time remove the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman, if any from office.
- (4) The Board shall fill from its number any casual vacancy (whether or not arising from the exercise of its power under paragraph (3) above) in the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman and a Chairman or Vice-Chairman so elected shall, subject to paragraph (3) above, hold office until the commencement of the first meeting of the Board held after the next Annual General Meeting unless he shall cease in the meantime to be a Director or shall resign the office.

16. MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

- (1) The Board shall meet for the despatch of business as often as it shall find necessary and 4 Directors present at any Board meeting shall, subject only to the provisions of Rule 25(6), form a quorum.
- (2) Questions arising at a meeting shall be resolved by a majority of votes and, in the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- (3) A Director may, and the Secretary at the request of a Director shall, call a meeting of the Board.
- (4) This paragraph applies to any Board meeting, other than one at which it is intended to move a resolution of the kind specified in Rule 24(2). Where this paragraph applies, notice of a Board meeting shall be deemed to be duly given to a Director if:
 - (a) it is given to him personally or by word of mouth; or
 - (b) it is given to him by electronic means at an electronic address which he has supplied to the Society for the purpose; or
 - (c) it is sent in writing to his last known address within the United Kingdom or any other address within the United Kingdom which he has supplied to the Society for the purpose.

It shall not be necessary to give notice of a Board meeting to a Director who is absent from the United Kingdom unless the Director has notified the Society in writing of an address in the United Kingdom or an electronic address at which notice of such meetings is to be given to him when he is absent from the United Kingdom. A Director may waive the requirement that notice of any Board meeting be given to him, either prospectively or retrospectively.

- (5) A notice given under paragraph (4) above shall state the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- (6) Subject to paragraphs (1) to (5) above and the approval of the Chairman of the meeting, all or any members of the Board, or any committee of the Board, or any local board, may participate in a meeting of the Board, or that committee, or local board, by means of a conference telephone or any other communications equipment which allows all Individuals participating in the meeting to hear, or both see and hear, each other. An Individual so participating shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be entitled to vote or be counted in a quorum accordingly. Such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group is assembled or, if there is no such group, where the Chairman of the meeting is present.

17. MINUTES

The Board shall cause minutes to be taken of all proceedings at all meetings of the Society, of the Board, of any committee and of any local board. Any such minutes of any meeting if purporting to be signed by the chairman of that meeting or by the chairman of the next succeeding meeting (or in the case of any Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, by the Chairman at a Board meeting following the relevant general meeting) shall be conclusive evidence without any further proof of the facts stated in those minutes.

18. VALIDITY OF ACTS

- (1) All acts done by the Board, or any committee, or any local board, shall be valid even though it might afterwards be discovered that there was some defect in the constitution of the Board, or committee, or local board, or in the election, or re-election, or appointment, of any member of the Board, or committee, or local board, or Individual acting as such. Likewise, such acts shall not be invalidated by reason of the fact that any Individual acting in such capacity was disqualified from holding office, or was not entitled to vote.
- (2) A resolution in writing signed by all the members of the Board or of a committee of Directors or any local board shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board or (as the case may be) a committee of Directors or any local board duly convened, constituted and held and may consist of several documents (which may be or include Electronic Communications) in a like form each signed by one or more Directors or (as the case may be) members of the local board.

19. REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES OF DIRECTORS

- (1) The annual remuneration of the Directors as members of the Board (exclusive of any remuneration paid in respect of executive duties) shall be paid at a rate to be determined by the Board from time to time but not exceeding 8 pence per one hundred pounds of total assets of the Society as at the first day of the Financial Year in which payment is made. This remuneration shall be divisible among the Directors in such proportion as may be agreed among them by a majority decision and, in default of agreement, in equal shares.
- (2) In addition to such remuneration, any Director may be paid such reasonable travelling, accommodation and other expenses as he might incur while attending Society business with the approval of the Board. He may also, by resolution of the Board, be paid for professional or other work done by him on behalf of the Society in addition to his usual services as a Director.

20. OFFICES OF PROFIT

- (1) A Director may hold any office or place of profit with the Society (other than the office of auditor or valuer) simultaneously with his office of Director and may be appointed by the Board to an office or place of profit with any body corporate in which the Society is, or will be, interested.
- (2) A Director so appointed to an office or place of profit with a body corporate in accordance with paragraph (1) above shall disclose to the Board any benefit he derives from any such office or place in the Financial Year in which it is received.
- (3) A Director, notwithstanding his interest, may be counted in the quorum present at any meeting at which he or any other Director is appointed to hold any office or place of profit with the Society or with any body corporate in which the Society is, or will be, interested or at which the terms of any such appointment are arranged. He may vote on any such appointment or arrangement other than his own appointment or the arrangement of the terms of that appointment.

21. INTEREST IN CONTRACTS

- (1) Subject to a Director's complying with the provisions for the time being of the Statutes that -
 - (a) require him to declare to the Board any direct or indirect interest he might have, or be treated as having in any contract to which the Society is a party,
 - (b) prohibit particular contracts,
 - (c) require a contract to be approved by a resolution of a general meeting, or
 - (d) require him to furnish to the Society particulars of any related business,he may enter into or be interested, whether directly or indirectly, in contracts with the Society and shall not be disqualified from office as a result of his interest, nor shall he be liable to account to the Society for any profit arising out of any such contract to which he is a party or in which he is interested by reason of his being at the same time a Director.
- (2) Except as required by Rules 19(1), no Director may vote as a Director in regard to any contract, or proposal for a contract, in which he is interested, whether directly or indirectly, or upon any matter arising out of it. If he shall so vote, his vote shall not be counted nor shall he be reckoned in estimating a quorum when any such contract, or proposal for a contract, is under consideration.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Rule, the prohibition contained in the foregoing paragraph (2) may at any time or times be suspended or relaxed

to any extent by resolution at a general meeting of the Society.

- (4) In this Rule the term "contract" includes any transaction or arrangement. For the avoidance of doubt, the word "interest" in this Rule does not include any interest a Director may have as a director of a connected undertaking of the Society or as a Member.

22. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS

- (1) The Board shall appoint and may terminate the appointment of the Chief Executive and the Secretary.
- (2) The Board may also -
 - (a) appoint and terminate the appointment of a Manager and such employees, advisers, bankers and agents as the Board may at any time determine,
 - (b) appoint under this Rule more than one Individual to any office or place of profit with the exception of the offices of Chief Executive and Secretary,

and may require from any Person appointed under this Rule such guarantees as in its judgment shall appear necessary.

- (3) The powers and duties of Persons appointed under this Rule shall be those given them from time to time by the Board which may pay them such salaries, wages, remunerations, fees, commissions and bonuses (whether or not section 67 of the Building Societies Act 1986 would otherwise apply to such commissions or bonuses but not so as to contravene sub-section (5) of that section), compensation for loss of office or of employment, fees and other remuneration as it may consider desirable.

23. INDEMNITY TO DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

- (1) Every Director, and every other Officer and every employee of the Society shall be indemnified by the Society against any liability in respect of losses, costs, charges, damages and expenses which might arise from, or in the course of, his duties, but not against any such liability as, by virtue of any rule of law or of the Statutes, would attach to him in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust of which he might be guilty in relation to the Society. He shall, however, be indemnified against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings whatsoever, whether civil or criminal, arising out of his duties in relation to the Society in which judgment is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted.
- (2) The Society may make arrangements to provide and pay for insurance in respect of any such indemnity or liability as is mentioned in paragraph (1)

above.

24. VACATION OF OFFICE AND DISQUALIFICATION

- (1) A Director shall cease to hold office -
- (a) if he resigns his office by notice in writing to the Secretary on the date specified in the notice or, if none, the date that the notice is received by the Secretary,
 - (b) if he ceases to hold in his own right a Shareholding of not less than £1,000 as prescribed by Rule 14,
 - (c) if he takes up a permanent residence outside the United Kingdom,
 - (d) if he is requested in writing by a majority of his co-Directors to resign and a resolution that he has vacated office is thereafter passed at a meeting of the Board by at least two thirds of the members of the full Board,
 - (e) if for more than six consecutive months he absents himself without permission of the Board from meetings of the Board held during that period and the Board passes a resolution that he has vacated office,
 - (f) if he becomes bankrupt or is sequestrated or compounds or makes any arrangement with his creditors generally,
 - (g) if he is, or might be, suffering from mental disorder and either -
 - (i) he is admitted to hospital in pursuance of an application for admission for treatment under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983 or he is admitted to hospital under the provisions of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 1984 or the provisions of the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, or
 - (ii) an order is made by a court having jurisdiction (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) in matters concerning mental disorder for his detention or for the appointment of a deputy, curator bonis or other Individual to exercise powers with respect to his property or affairs,
 - (h) upon a resolution of which notice has been given under Rule 33(2)(a) that he shall cease to be a Director passed by a majority of the votes cast on a poll at a general meeting,
 - (i) if, whilst a Director of the Society and without the consent of the Board, he accepts the office of a director or officer in, or employment by, any other building society or firm which has permission under Part IV of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 to accept deposits or enter into

regulated mortgage contracts as lender, or any other organisation, company or body deemed by the Board to be in direct competition with the business of the Society,

- (j) he retires at the conclusion of an Annual General Meeting as a result of any binding requirement of the Statutes regarding retirement of a Director by reason of his age,
 - (k) if he becomes prohibited by law from being a Director,
 - (l) if he contravenes Rule 21(1) by knowingly or recklessly failing to declare an interest and the Board passes a resolution that he has vacated office,
 - (m) if the Board passes a resolution that the Director shall vacate office after either of the following has occurred -
 - (i) the Regulator has made it a condition of the Society's continued authorisation that the Director should cease to hold office or has imposed a requirement or made a recommendation that he should cease to hold office
 - (ii) the Director has failed to obtain or maintain any personal authorisation required from the Regulator relevant to the office of Director,
 - (n) in the case of a Director who holds executive office, his appointment to such office is terminated or expires and the Board resolves that his office be vacated.
- (2) The Secretary shall give not less than 14 clear days' notice in writing to all Directors of a meeting of the Board at which it is intended to move a resolution regarding vacation of office by a Director. The notice shall set out the proposed resolution and, if all the requirements of this paragraph are not complied with, the resolution, even if passed, shall be of no effect. The provisions of Rule 47(2) shall be deemed to apply to any such notice.

25. FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCIES

- (1) In the case of any vacancy not occasioned by the retirement of any Director by rotation the Board may at any time, and from time to time, appoint an Individual as a Director to fill such vacancy.
- (2) If the Board resolves to increase the number of Directors within the limitations prescribed by Rule 12(1), the Board may appoint an Individual as an additional Director in order to fill any vacancy.
- (3) The Board shall appoint under this Rule only an Individual who -

- (a) appears to it to be fit and proper to be a Director, and
 - (b) is qualified under Rule 13 (as far as that Rule is applicable), and
 - (c) is not an Individual who, having been nominated for election as a Director at any election held within the preceding 12 months, was not elected as a Director.
- (4) A Director appointed under this Rule shall hold office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next following such appointment but, if he is appointed on a date falling within a period commencing with the beginning of the Financial Year and ending with the Annual General Meeting held in that year, he shall (unless otherwise determined by the Board) not retire at that Annual General Meeting but -
- (a) at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting, or
 - (b) at the expiration of the period of 16 months beginning with the date of his appointment,
- whichever is the earlier.
- (5) A Director appointed under this Rule and retiring under paragraph (4) above shall be eligible for election without nomination, provided that he is qualified under Rule 14 at the date of the Annual General Meeting at which he retires and is not ineligible by reason of his age on that date.
- (6) Notwithstanding any vacancies on the Board, the remaining Directors may continue to act. If at any time the number of Directors falls below the minimum of 5 prescribed by Rule 12, the Board so constituted, although its members are insufficient to form a quorum, may act by a majority of its members for a maximum period of 6 months but the Chairman shall, notwithstanding Rule 16(2), not have a second or casting vote.

26. RETIREMENT BY ROTATION

- (1) In addition to any Director retiring under Rule 24(1)(j) or 25(4) and any Director choosing to retire and stand for re-election, not less than one-third (or the whole number nearest to but not exceeding one-third) of the other Directors or (if their number is greater) all those of the other Directors who have not been elected or re-elected at either of the last two Annual General Meetings shall retire from office at the Annual General Meeting in each year.
- (2) The Directors to retire by rotation in each year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election but, as between Individuals who were elected or were last re-elected Directors on the same day, those to retire shall, unless they agree among themselves, be decided by the Board by lot.

- (3) A Director retiring under this Rule shall be eligible for re-election without nomination provided he is qualified under Rule 14 at the date of the Annual General Meeting at which he retires and is not ineligible by reason of his age on that date and he shall retain office until the conclusion of that meeting.

27. RESERVES

The Board may set aside to reserve sums whether for particular purposes or otherwise. Subject to the Statutes or regulations made under the Statutes, the revenue and reserve funds may be drawn upon for such purposes of the Society as the Board may think fit and in particular for the payment of interest and bonuses, or either of them, on Shares at such rates and in such manner as the Board may from time to time determine.

28. LOSSES

- (1) For the purposes of this Rule liabilities and assets shall be determined at the figures at which they are taken into account in a balance sheet of the Society;
- (2) If the accounting records show a loss in respect of any Financial Year, that loss shall be borne by the Society's reserves (if any). If at any time the accounting records disclose that the liabilities exceed the assets, the Board shall take such steps as it may deem necessary in the interests of the Society; for example, it may put to the Members proposals, including proposals to deal with the situation as follows -
 - (a) the transfer of all the Society's engagements to an existing building society or company, or
 - (b) the winding up of the Society.
- (3) No Person who has been lent money by the Society and who does not hold a Share shall be liable for any loss incurred by the Society other than a loss incurred in connection with such lending but, if that Person also holds Shares, he shall be liable in respect of that Shareholding.

29. PENSION AND OTHER SCHEMES AND FUNDS

- (1) In this Rule the term "Officers" excludes any Director who does not hold or has not held any executive position in the Society in addition to that of Director.
- (2) The Board may from the Society's resources and on such terms as it thinks fit provide, establish, maintain and administer pension, life assurance, sickness, annuity and other funds or schemes (whether contributory or not) for the benefit of -

- (a) past, present or future Officers and employees of the Society,
 - (b) past and present Officers and employees of any society with which the Society might merge in the future,
 - (c) the spouses, children and dependants of Individuals referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) or (b) above.
- (3) In addition to the powers aforesaid the Board may grant on such terms as it thinks fit other pensions, allowances, gratuities, donations and bonuses to or for the benefit of -
- (a) past or present Officers and employees of the Society,
 - (b) past Officers and employees of a society with which the Society has merged,
 - (c) any spouses, children or dependants of Individuals mentioned in (a) or (b) of this paragraph.
- (4) The Board may make, vary and revoke the rules of any such fund or scheme as is mentioned in paragraph (2) (to such extent as this power is not as a result prohibited, or is found permissible) and may constitute any trust and may from time to time at its discretion exercise any powers reserved to the Society by the terms of any trust constituted by the Society including the power of modifying or discontinuing the terms of any such trust or any rules or regulations that may be or may have been made pursuant to it.

30. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (1) The Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting in each Financial Year, at such hour, date and place as the Board shall determine.
- (2) The Board shall lay before the Members at the Annual General Meeting the Annual Accounts of the Society for the last Financial Year before the date of that meeting, and shall also submit to them a report by the Board (called in these Rules "the Directors' Report") on the business of the Society, which Directors' Report shall include the information required by or under the Statutes.
- (3) In these Rules "Annual Accounts" means the classes of document (including the notes to them) the Society is required (unless otherwise exempted) by or under the Statutes to prepare by way of accounts for itself individually and, if it has subsidiary undertakings, by way of group accounts for itself and those subsidiary undertakings.
- (4) The report of the auditors on -

- (a) the Annual Accounts laid before the Annual General Meeting, and
- (b) to the extent required by the Statutes, the annual business statement of the Society and the Directors' Report

shall be open to inspection by any Member at that meeting.

- (5) No business shall be transacted at an Annual General Meeting, and no resolution shall be brought forward at any such meeting, except as might arise upon -
 - (a) the Annual Accounts laid before the meeting,
 - (b) the annual business statement for the last Financial Year before the date of the meeting,
 - (c) the Directors' Report submitted to the meeting,
 - (d) the report of the auditors on the documents listed in (a) to (c) above,
 - (e) the election and re-election of Directors,
 - (f) the appointment or re-appointment of auditors,
 - (g) a motion for a resolution (whether Special Resolution or Ordinary Resolution), notice of intention to move which at the meeting has been duly given to the Society by 100 Qualified Members (as defined in Rule 33(1)(a)) not later than the last day of the Financial Year preceding that in which the meeting is held,
 - (h) business (including a motion for a resolution, whether Special Resolution or Ordinary Resolution, or a motion for a Shareholding Members' or Borrowing Members' Resolution) brought before the meeting by the Board, and
 - (i) notification of any merger or transfer proposal required by the Statutes.

31. SPECIAL MEETINGS

- (1) All general meetings other than Annual General Meetings shall be called special general meetings.
- (2) The Board may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting.
- (3) (a) The Board shall convene a special general meeting on the requisition of not less than 100 Members qualified under paragraph (4) below, and specify the meeting as such in the notice calling it. Subject to the

provisions of sub-paragraph (b) below, the requisition shall state the objects of the meeting, and the full text of any resolution which the requisitioners wish to move at the meeting, (neither of which must include the election of a Director or a resolution which, if passed, would purport to interfere with the Directors' right and duty to manage the affairs of the Society). The requisition shall be signed by the requisitioners and deposited at the Principal Office and may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more requisitioners, provided that each document is deposited within 3 months of the date on which the first was deposited . A deposit of £25 in respect of each requisitioner signing the requisition shall be lodged with it. If within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, all such deposits shall be forfeited but if a quorum is present the Members present and entitled to vote at the meeting shall decide by Ordinary Resolution whether the deposits shall be appropriated either wholly or in part towards the expenses of convening and holding the meeting and to any extent to which the deposits are not so appropriated they shall be returned by the Society to the requisitioners equally.

If required by the requisition, the Board shall, subject to sub-paragraph (c) below, send to each Member entitled to receive notice of the meeting a copy of a statement of not more than 500 words with respect to the matters to be dealt with at the meeting.

- (b) The Board shall be under no duty to convene such a special general meeting if-
 - (i) the only or main object of the meeting as stated in the requisition is to move a resolution in substantially the same terms as any resolution which has been defeated at a meeting [or on a postal ballot or electronic ballot] during the period beginning with the third Annual General Meeting before the date on which the requisition is deposited at the Principal Office, or
 - (ii) the date of the meeting called in accordance with paragraph (5) below would fall during the period of four months beginning one month after the end of the Financial Year.

- (c) The Board shall be under no duty to send copies of a statement to Members entitled to receive notice of the meeting in any case where -
 - (i) the statement does not relate directly to the affairs of the Society, or
 - (ii) publicity for the statement would be likely to diminish substantially the confidence in the Society of investing members of the public, or
 - (iii) the rights conferred by paragraph (a) above are being abused to

seek needless publicity for defamatory matter or for frivolous or vexatious purposes,

and the Regulator shall hear and determine any dispute arising from subparagraph (ii) above.

- (4) A Member shall be qualified under this paragraph for the purposes of paragraph (3) above if he -
- (a) has or had a Shareholding to the value of not less than £100 or owes or owed to the Society a Mortgage Debt of not less than £100 on the qualifying date, and
 - (b) had held such a Shareholding or owed such a Mortgage Debt for a continuous period of not less than 2 years ending with the qualifying date, and
 - (c) is not a minor,

and in (a) and (b) above the "qualifying date" is either the date of deposit of the sole requisition or the date of deposit of the last requisition sufficient to comply with the requirements of paragraph (3).

In addition, to be qualified under this paragraph for the purposes of paragraph (3) above, a Member must -

- (i) state his full name and address, and
- (ii) identify a share account or mortgage account or both with the Society which will evidence the fact that he fulfils the conditions set out in paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

If the Board wishes to object to the requisition by virtue of any of the requirements of this paragraph or paragraph (3) above not being met, it must do so within 14 days of the requisition or document being deposited at the Principal Office.

- (5) If the Board does not within 28 days after the date of deposit of the sole requisition or the date of deposit of the last requisition sufficient to comply with the requirements of paragraph (3) above proceed to despatch notices convening a meeting to be held within 63 days after that date, the requisitioners or any proportion of them exceeding one-half may themselves convene a special general meeting, but any meeting so convened shall not be held after the expiration of five months from the date of the deposit of the sole or last requisition. The meeting so convened by the requisitioners shall be convened in the same manner, as nearly as possible, as that in which meetings are convened by the Board and notices of it shall be sent by post to the Persons entitled to it under Rule 32(3).

The Board or, as the case may be, the requisitioners shall give to the Members notice of any resolution the requisitioners propose to move at the meeting at the same time and in the same manner as notice is given of the meeting.

If the Board is required under paragraph (3)(a) above to send a statement to Members entitled to receive notice of the meeting and does not comply with the requirement within 28 days from the date of the deposit of the sole requisition or the date of deposit of the last requisition, not less than one half of the requisitioners themselves may send a copy of the statement to each Member entitled to receive notice of the meeting.

Any days falling within the period mentioned in paragraph (3)(b)(ii) above shall be disregarded in determining any period for the purposes of this paragraph.

Any reasonable expenses incurred by the requisitioners by reason of the failure of the Board duly to convene a meeting shall be paid to those requisitioners by the Society. Any sum so paid shall be recovered by the Society from the defaulting Directors (whether by way of retention of fees or other remuneration in respect of services, or otherwise).

- (6) No business shall be entertained at any special general meeting except such as shall be stated in the notice convening the meeting or, (where applicable), to decide by Ordinary Resolution whether the deposits mentioned in paragraph (3)(a) above shall be appropriated either wholly or in part towards the expenses of convening and holding the meeting.
- (7) Except where the requisitioners themselves convene a special general meeting under paragraph (5) of this Rule, special general meetings shall be held at such hour, date and place as the Board shall determine.
- (8) The accidental omission to give, send or deliver a statement to, or the non-receipt of a statement by, any Person entitled to receive a statement shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

32. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- (1) At least 21 clear days' notice, calculated from the final date for the receipt of proxies under Rule 37(3), in writing of every general meeting (whether an Annual General Meeting or a special general meeting) specifying the hour, date and place of the meeting shall be given to Members as provided in paragraph (3) of this Rule. The notice shall specify -
 - (a) the nature of any resolution to be moved at the meeting and of the other business to be transacted at it, and
 - (b) the full name of each candidate for the office of director or auditor, unless in the case of an Individual nominated under Rule 13(12) the nomination has been made, or in the case of an auditor his nomination has been received, too late for his candidature to be included in, or to accompany,

the notice.

The notice shall state that -

- (i) a Member entitled to attend and vote may appoint one proxy to attend and, on a poll, vote at the meeting instead of him, and
 - (ii) the proxy need not be a Member of the Society, and
 - (iii) the Member may direct the proxy how to vote at the meeting.
- (2) The Annual General Meeting shall be described as such in the notice of meeting.
- (3) Notice of meeting shall be given to every Member who would be eligible to vote at the meeting under the provisions of Rule 36 if the meeting were held on the date of the notice. Notice shall also be given to every Person who -
- (a) becomes a Shareholding Member or Borrowing Member of the Society after the date of the notice and before the specified date, or
 - (b) being such a Member at the date of the notice, attains the age of 18 after that date and on or before the date of the meeting,

and who would (in either case) be eligible to vote at the meeting if he remained such a Member until the date of the meeting. The "specified date" means the date specified by the Society as the final date for the receipt of proxies under Rule 37(3).

- (4) Subject to Rule 47(3) to (5), a notice of meeting shall, unless otherwise specified, be given in accordance with Rule 47(2). In paragraphs (5) to (9) below, the term "notice" includes any Members' Notice given or statement duly lodged and required to be sent by Rule 33(2) and any election address, or revised election address, required to be sent by Rule 13(6).
- (5) A notice of meeting shall be given by the Society to -
- (a) joint Shareholding Members, or
 - (b) joint Borrowing Members,

either by giving it personally or by sending or delivering it to the Representative Joint Shareholder or (as the case may be) the Representative Joint Borrower at his Registered Address or at any electronic address which he has notified for the purpose.

- (6) A notice of meeting shall be given by the Society to the Persons who, in consequence of the death or bankruptcy of a Member, are entitled -

- (a) to a Share, or
- (b) to land already in mortgage to the Society

either by giving it personally or by sending or delivering it, addressed to them by name, or by the title of representatives of the deceased, or trustee of the bankrupt, or by any like description, to the address, if any, supplied for the purpose by the Persons claiming to be so entitled, or (until such an address has been so supplied) by sending the notice through the post to the Registered Address of the deceased or bankrupt member.

- (7) A notice of meeting shall be given to the holder of a power of attorney which has been duly registered in the records at the Principal Office by giving it personally or by sending or delivering it to the registered address of the holder of the power of attorney, and shall relieve the Society of the obligation to give notice to the Member who gave the power
- (8) If a Member is suffering from mental disorder a notice of meeting shall be given by the Society to his deputy, curator bonis or other Person in that behalf appointed by any court having jurisdiction (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) in matters concerning mental disorder. Such a notice shall be given to such Person personally or by sending or delivering it to the address supplied for the purpose by the aforesaid deputy, curator bonis or other Person or, until such an address has been so supplied, by sending the notice by post to the Registered Address of the Member.
- (9) The accidental omission to give, send or deliver a notice of meeting to, or the non-receipt of a notice of meeting by, any Person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

33. ENTITLEMENT TO PROPOSE RESOLUTIONS

- (1) For the purposes of the following paragraphs of this Rule the following expressions shall have the following meanings –
 - (a) "Qualified Member" means a Member who has been a Member for not less than (2) years before the qualifying date, was not a minor on the qualifying date, and either -
 - (i) holds or held Shares to the value of not less than £100 on the qualifying date, or
 - (ii) owes or owed a Mortgage Debt to the Society of an amount not less than £100 on the qualifying date,

and

- (iii) at all times during that period of 2 years, was such a Shareholding

Member or such a Borrowing Member

and in this paragraph the "qualifying date" is the date on which the notice of intention to have the resolution moved is given to the Society.

- (b) "Requisite Number" means 100 and
- (c) "Members' Notice" means a notice given to the Society in writing (whether in one or more documents) by at least the Requisite Number of Qualified Members, of their intention to have moved on their behalf at an Annual General Meeting a resolution that is specified in the notice and is either a Special Resolution or an Ordinary Resolution, but is not a Shareholding Members' Resolution or a Borrowing Members' Resolution.

The notice must –

- (i) be signed by the Members giving the notice;
- (ii) state the full names and addresses of those Members; and
- (iii) identify, in relation to each such Member, a share or mortgage account, which will evidence the fact that the Member fulfils the conditions set out in sub-paragraph (a)(i) and (iii) above or (as the case may be) the conditions set out in sub-paragraph (a)(ii) and (iii) above.

If the Board wishes to object to a Members' Notice by virtue of any of the requirements of Rule 33(1)(c)(i) to (iii) not being complied with, it must do so within 14 days of the notice being given to the Society.

- (2) If the Society receives a Members' Notice, (subject to paragraphs (3) and (4) below) the Board shall -
 - (a) include in the notice of the Annual General Meeting a notice specifying the intention of those Members moving it to have the resolution moved on their behalf at that meeting and, if applicable, the intention to move it as a Special Resolution and
 - (b) at the request of the Qualified Members intending to have the resolution moved on their behalf, include in the notice of that meeting to each Member entitled under Rule 32(3) above to receive notice of that meeting a copy of any statement of not more than 500 words with respect to the matter referred to in the resolution.
- (3) The Board shall be under no duty -
 - (a) to include a Members' Notice in the notice of the Annual General Meeting, or

- (b) to send to Members such a statement as is mentioned in paragraph 2(b) above

if -

- (i) the Members' Notice (or the last of the documents sufficient to enable it to comply with the requirements of paragraph 1(c) above) and, if submitted, any statement given (of the kind mentioned in paragraph 2(b) above) are given to or lodged with the Society later than the last day of the Financial Year preceding that in which the Annual General Meeting at which it is intended to move the resolution is held, or
- (ii) the resolution specified in the Members' Notice and, if lodged, any such statement does not relate directly to the affairs of the Society, or
- (iii) publicity for the resolution specified in the Members' Notice or, as the case may be, the statement would be likely to diminish substantially the confidence in the Society of investing members of the public, or
- (iv) the rights conferred by paragraph (2) above are being abused to seek needless publicity for defamatory matter or for frivolous or vexatious purposes, or
- (v) the resolution specified in the Members' Notice is in substantially the same terms as any resolution that has been defeated at a meeting or on a postal ballot or electronic ballot during the period beginning with the third Annual General Meeting before the date on which the Members' Notice (or the last of the documents sufficient to enable it to comply with the requirements of paragraph 1(c) above) is given to the Society, or
- (vi) the resolution if passed would purport to interfere with the Directors' right and duty to manage the affairs of the Society.

and the Regulator shall hear and determine any dispute arising from sub-paragraph (iii) above.

- (4) If it is not practicable for any reason to include a Members' Notice, duly given, within the notice of the Annual General Meeting, the Members' Notice so given together with any statement, duly lodged, as mentioned in paragraph 2(b) above shall be sent along with the notice of that meeting. If, however, that is not practicable, the Members' Notice so given and any statement so lodged shall be sent as soon as practicable after the despatch of the notice of that meeting.

34. QUORUM AT MEETINGS

- (1) No business shall be considered at any Annual General Meeting or special general meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business and a quorum shall be constituted for all purposes as follows -
 - (a) except where sub-paragraph (b) below applies, by 10 Members present and entitled to vote on a show of hands under Rule 36(5),
 - (b) in the case of a special general meeting requisitioned under Rule 31(3), by 10 Members present and entitled to vote on a show of hands under Rule 36(5).

- (2) If no quorum shall be present within half an hour after the time appointed for the Annual General Meeting or special general meeting, the Chairman of the meeting shall adjourn it to such hour, date and place as he shall direct, unless it is a special general meeting requisitioned under Rule 31(3) whereupon the Chairman of the meeting shall dissolve it.
- (3) The Members present at an adjourned meeting and entitled under paragraph (1) above to be included in the quorum for the meeting shall constitute a sufficient quorum.

35. PROCEDURE AT MEETINGS

- (1) The Chairman of the Board [or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman of the Board] shall preside at every meeting of the Society. If there is no such Chairman or Vice-Chairman or if neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman is not present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for the meeting or if both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are unwilling to act, the Directors present shall elect one of their number to be Chairman of the meeting. If at any meeting no Director is willing to act as Chairman, or if no Director is present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the Members present and entitled under Rule 34(1) above to be included in the quorum for the meeting shall choose one of their number who is present to be the Chairman of the meeting.
- (2) The Chairman of the meeting may, notwithstanding the presence of a quorum (and shall, if so directed by a resolution of the meeting), adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place but, except as provided in paragraph (10) of this Rule, no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished or not reached at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- (3) Every adjourned meeting shall be deemed a continuation of the original meeting but any resolution passed at an adjourned meeting shall for all purposes be treated as having been passed on the date on which it was in fact passed and shall not be deemed to have been passed on any earlier date.
- (4) When a meeting is adjourned for 30 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of an original meeting but otherwise it shall not be necessary to give any notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.
- (5) Subject to the Statutes and these Rules every question submitted to an Annual General Meeting or special general meeting shall be decided by a simple majority and such votes shall be taken in the first instance by a show of hands.
- (6) A poll may (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) be demanded by -

- (a) the Chairman of the meeting, or
- (b) 10 Members who are entitled to vote at the meeting and are present in person, by proxy, by attorney, by representative or by a Person specified in Rule 36(7),

and in the event of such a demand, a poll shall be taken in accordance with paragraph (10) of this Rule, but no poll shall be permitted upon a resolution to appoint a Chairman.

- (7) Unless a poll be so demanded, a declaration by the Chairman that a resolution on a show of hands has been carried, or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority, and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of, or against, such resolution.
- (8) If a motion for a Special Resolution or an election of Directors is to be put to the vote of the meeting or there is a contest for the office or appointment of auditor, a poll shall be deemed to have been demanded by the Chairman.
- (9) Except in the case of a motion for a Special Resolution or of an election of Directors or of a contest for the office or appointment of auditor, the demand for a poll may, before the poll is taken, be withdrawn but only with the consent of the Chairman, and a demand so withdrawn shall not be taken to have invalidated the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made.
- (10) If a poll is duly demanded in accordance with paragraph (6), it shall be taken at the meeting at which it is demanded or, if the Chairman so decides, at an adjourned meeting and in either case (subject to Rules 13(8), (9) and (10) in the case of an election of Directors and to Rule 41(6) in the case of a contested appointment of auditors) in such manner, subject to paragraph (12) below, as the Chairman directs and the result of the poll, shall, notwithstanding paragraph (3) of this Rule, be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the poll was taken. The Chairman may, in the event of a poll, appoint the scrutineers (who need not be Members) and may adjourn the meeting or adjourned meeting to some hour, date and place fixed by him for the purpose of declaring the result of the poll.
- (11) A poll demanded on a question of adjournment shall be taken forthwith and the result declared immediately upon the conclusion of the taking of the poll. A poll demanded on any other question shall not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than that upon which the poll has been demanded. The result of a poll, other than on a question of adjournment, shall be declared in the manner and at the time determined by the Chairman.

- (12) Voting papers to be used on a poll shall be valid only if they are issued by the Society. Members are entitled to vote in accordance with Rule 36. In addition, if the Member is voting by proxy, Rule 37 shall apply.
- (13) In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the Chairman of the meeting at which the show of hands takes place, or at which the poll is taken, shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.

36. ENTITLEMENT OF MEMBERS TO VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS

- (1) In this Rule "voting date" means -
- (a) the date of the meeting at which the resolution is intended to be moved, or
 - (b) in the case of a Member appointing a proxy to vote instead of him at a meeting, the date the Society specifies as the final date for the receipt of instruments appointing proxies to vote on that resolution.
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4) below, a Member is entitled to vote -
- (a) on an Ordinary Resolution or a Special Resolution if he was, at the end of the last Financial Year before the voting date, and is, on the voting date, a Shareholding Member or Borrowing Member,
 - (b) on a Shareholding Members' Resolution if he was, at the end of that year, and is, on the voting date, a Shareholding Member, and
 - (c) on a Borrowing Members' Resolution if he was, at the end of that year, and is, on the voting date, a Borrowing Member.
- (3) A Shareholding Member is entitled to vote on a resolution (whether Ordinary, Special or Shareholding Members') if -
- (a) being an Individual he is not a minor on the voting date or, where he is voting by proxy, on the date of the meeting at which the resolution is intended to be moved, and
 - (b) in the case of a joint Shareholding he is the Representative Joint Shareholder, and
 - (c) he held Shares to the value of not less than £100 -
 - (i) at the end of the Financial Year before the voting date, or
 - (ii) if the voting date falls during that part of the Financial Year which follows the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting commenced in that year, at the beginning of the period of 56 days immediately

preceding the voting date for Members voting in person at a special general meeting or a postal ballot or electronic ballot,

as the case may be, and

- (d) he has not ceased to hold Shares at any time between the time referred to in (c)(i) or (ii) above (as applicable) and the voting date.
- (4) A Borrowing Member is entitled to vote on a Resolution (whether Ordinary, Special or Borrowing Members') if -
- (a) being an Individual he is not a minor on the voting date or, where he is voting by proxy, on the date of the meeting at which the resolution is intended to be moved, and
 - (b) in the case where the Loan has been made to two or more Members jointly he is the Representative Joint Borrower, and
 - (c) the amount of his Mortgage Debt to the Society in respect of that Loan both at the end of the last Financial Year before the voting date and at that date is not less than £100, and
 - (d) where a Borrowing Members' Resolution approving a transfer of the engagements of the Society is moved, his is one of the mortgages to be transferred.
- (5) Subject to paragraph (3) or (4) above (as applicable), on a show of hands every Member who-
- (a) being an Individual, is present in person or by attorney or by a representative or by a Person specified in paragraph (7) of this Rule, or
 - (b) being a body corporate, is present by a Corporate Representative, not being himself a Member entitled to vote thereon,

shall be entitled to one vote and on a poll a Member may vote in person or by proxy or by attorney or by representative or by a Corporate Representative or by a Person specified in paragraph (7) of this Rule and shall be entitled to one vote.

- (6) The holder of a power of attorney from a Person who is a Member and who is entitled to vote under paragraphs (2) or (3) or (4) above shall, if the power of attorney is duly registered at the Principal Office and if the power has the effect of authorising the holder to exercise the rights of the Member under the Rules, be entitled to vote in all circumstances as if he were a member and in the Member's stead but he shall not be entitled to appoint a proxy or an attorney
- (7) A Member who is entitled to vote under paragraph (2) or (3) or (4) above but in respect of whom an order has been made by any court having jurisdiction

(whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) in matters concerning mental disorder may vote, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, by his deputy, curator bonis or other representative in that behalf appointed by that court. Any such deputy, curator bonis or other representative may, on a poll, vote by proxy. Evidence to the satisfaction of the Board of the authority of the Person claiming to exercise the right to vote shall be received at the Principal Office (or such other place as may be specified in the relevant notice of meeting, which may include any electronic address which is specified for the purpose) not less than 2 clear days before the day appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the right to vote is to be exercised and in default the right to vote shall not be exercisable.

- (8) A body corporate entitled to vote under paragraph (2) or (3) or (4) above may by resolution of its directors or other governing body expressed in a deed or other duly executed instrument authorise an Individual (who should not be a Member) to act as its Corporate Representative at a meeting or adjourned meeting. Such Corporate Representative shall not be entitled to appoint a proxy but shall (subject to Rule 37(3)) otherwise be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the body corporate he represents as that body corporate could exercise if it were an Individual Member.
- (9) The right to vote shall be limited to those Persons on whom this Rule confers a right to vote.

37. APPOINTMENT OF PROXIES

- (1) A Member entitled to attend and vote at a meeting of the Society-
 - (a) may appoint one Person (whether a Member or not) as his proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote at the meeting instead of him, and
 - (b) may direct the proxy how to vote at the meeting.
- (2) A proxy shall be appointed by an instrument in writing (which may, if the Board so determines, take the form of an Electronic Communication) which shall be in such form and include such declarations as the Board may from time to time determine. The instrument shall enable the Person appointing the proxy to direct him how to vote and, if the instrument is not in the form specified by the Society or is not signed by the appointor, the appointment of the proxy shall be invalid.
- (3) The instrument appointing a proxy or a representative shall be received at the Principal Office (or such other place as may be specified in the relevant notice of meeting which may include any electronic address which is specified for the purpose) not less than 2 clear days before the day appointed for holding the meeting, or adjourned meeting, and in default the instrument shall not be treated as valid.

- (4) The instrument appointing a proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll but, save as by this paragraph provided, a proxy shall have no right to speak at the meeting.
- (5) If a Member who at the final date for the receipt of proxy instruments determined under paragraph (3) above is entitled to attend and vote at the meeting appoints a Person as a proxy to vote instead of him at that meeting and then ceases after that date to be so entitled, that Person may notwithstanding Rule 36(2), (3) or (4) act as the Member's proxy at that meeting.
- (6) A vote given in accordance with the terms of an instrument of proxy shall be valid notwithstanding the previous death or mental disorder of the appointor or revocation of the proxy or of the authority under which the proxy was executed, or the transfer of a Share in respect of which the proxy is given, provided that no intimation in writing of such death, mental disorder, revocation or transfer as aforesaid shall have been received by the Society at its Principal Office (or such other place as may be specified in the relevant notice of meeting which may include any electronic address which is specified for the purpose) before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the proxy is used.
- (7) The Board may from time to time make, vary, or revoke regulations regarding the appointment of proxies, provided that the same are not inconsistent with the Statutes. Such regulations may include (but need not be limited to) provisions for determining:
 - (a) the authenticity and time of receipt of any Electronic Communication which purports to appoint, or to revoke the appointment of, a proxy, or to notify the Society of an event terminating such an appointment; and
 - (b) which of two or more proxy appointments received from the same Member in respect of the same meeting is to be treated as valid.

38. JOINT SHAREHOLDING MEMBERS AND JOINT BORROWING MEMBERS

- (1) No joint Shareholding Member, other than the Representative Joint Shareholder, and no joint Borrowing Member, other than the Representative Joint Borrower, may attend a meeting except as a proxy or exercise any right conferred by these Rules on a Member.
- (2) Any reference in these Rules to any number of Members shall be read as if any joint Shareholding were held by the Representative Joint Shareholder and as if any Loans received jointly were received by the Representative Joint Borrower.

39. POSTAL BALLOTS (AND ELECTRONIC BALLOTS)

- (1) The Board may determine that the voting on any resolution or in any election of directors may be conducted by postal ballot or by electronic ballot (being a ballot on which some of the voting is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes as to electronic voting and the remainder of the voting is conducted as if it were a postal ballot), but the power conferred by this Rule shall not be exercisable in respect of -
 - (a) elections of Directors, or
 - (b) Shareholding Members' Resolutions, or
 - (c) Borrowing Members' Resolutions, or
 - (d) any other resolution required by the Statutes to be passed at a meeting of the Society, or
 - (e) resolutions for the appointment or reappointment of an auditor or for the removal of an auditor before the expiration of his term of office.
- (2) If any resolution is passed or is rejected at any general meeting or adjourned general meeting then, if in the opinion of the Board the carrying into effect of such resolution would be injurious to the Society (in the one case) or the passing of such resolution would be beneficial to the Society (in the other case), the Board may within one month after that meeting -
 - (a) determine to submit the resolution for decision by postal or electronic ballot, and
 - (b) cause the operation of a resolution passed to be suspended until such a decision.
- (3) Within one month (or such longer period as the Board may deem necessary) after the determination of the Board under paragraphs (1) or (2) above the Society shall give notice of the postal or electronic ballot in accordance with the Statutes. Except where the Statutes otherwise provide in relation to a Member who has agreed with the Society to access notice of the ballot on a website, the notice shall be accompanied by or incorporate a ballot form and shall be sent -
 - (a) not less than 21 days nor more than 56 days before the date which the Society specifies for the receipt of the completed ballot forms, and
 - (b) subject to Rule 47(3) to (5) , by post to the Registered Address (or to any electronic address notified to the Society for the purpose) of every Member who under Rules 36(2) to (4) (whichever is applicable) would be eligible to vote on the resolution if the voting date fell on the date of the notice of the postal or electronic ballot, "the voting date" here meaning the date specified for the receipt of the completed ballot forms, and

(c) to every Person -

- (i) who becomes a Shareholding Member or Borrowing Member of the Society after the date of the notice of the postal or electronic ballot and before the voting date, or
- (ii) who, being such a Member at the date of that notice, attains the age of 18 after that date and on or before the voting date,

and who would (in either case) be eligible to vote on the resolution if he remained such a Member until the voting date,

and for the purposes of this paragraph, paragraphs (5) to (9) of Rule 32 shall apply to the sending of a notice of a postal or electronic ballot as they apply to the sending of a notice of a meeting.

(4) The notice of a postal or electronic ballot sent in accordance with paragraph (3) above -

- (a) shall contain such other notices relating to the resolution, and
- (b) shall be accompanied by such other documents

as would be required to be given, sent or delivered to a Member with a notice of meeting, had it been intended to vote on the resolution at a meeting instead of by postal or electronic ballot with the exception of any notices relating to voting by proxy at a meeting.

(5) The accidental omission -

- (a) to give notice of a postal or electronic ballot, or
- (b) to send a ballot form or any document required by paragraph (4) above to accompany such a notice,

to any Person entitled to receive it, or non-receipt of such a notice, ballot form or document by such a Person, shall not invalidate the ballot.

(6) The ballot form shall be in such form and be accompanied by or incorporate any explanatory note as the Board may decide.

(7) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Rule, the Board shall make regulations for the conduct of the ballot (including the appointment of a Person to decide all questions that might arise relating to the ballot except such as are by this Rule delegated to the Board) and shall fix a time (not being later than 7 days after the final date for the receipt of ballot forms) and place at which the ballot forms shall be opened and counted.

- (8) A Member to whom ballot form is sent in accordance with paragraph (3) above shall be entitled to one vote on any resolution.
- (9) The matter in question shall be decided by the appropriate majority of the votes given and if the decision is -
 - (a) to rescind a resolution, it shall be rescinded as from the time at which the counting of the votes is completed but any such rescission shall not affect the validity of any act done under the resolution before it was suspended, or
 - (b) to carry into effect or to pass a resolution, that resolution shall come into effect as from the time at which the counting of the votes is completed.
- (10) The Board shall announce the result of the postal ballot by -
 - (a) a notice displayed on the Society's website.
 - (b) a notice displayed in a prominent position at the Principal Office and at all branch offices

and shall state in that notice the time at which the counting of the votes was completed.

- (11) Where the Board has determined under paragraph (1) above that the voting in an election or on a resolution of the Society is to be conducted by an electronic ballot, the regulations made by the Board under paragraph (7) above may include (but need not be limited to) regulations prescribing-
 - (a) the manner in which the votes of Members who vote electronically may be registered in accordance with the Statutes;
 - (b) the manner in which Members who vote electronically may confirm the terms of the declarations required by the Statutes;
 - (c) the manner in which the authenticity and integrity of the votes of Members who vote electronically is to be established;
 - (d) the consequences of any irregularities occurring in the course of the ballot, including (but not limited to) provisions as to the validity of multiple votes cast by a Member [in the same election or] on the same resolution; and
 - (e) the final date for the registration of the votes of Members who vote electronically.

40. COUNTING OF VOTES

If on a show of hands or on a poll or a postal ballot or electronic ballot -

- (a) any votes are counted that ought not to have been counted, or
- (b) any votes are not counted that ought to have been counted,

the error shall not vitiate the decision arrived at unless it has been in the opinion of the Chairman or in the case of a postal ballot or electronic ballot the Individual appointed by the Board pursuant to regulations made under Rule 39(7) of sufficient magnitude so to do.

41. AUDITORS

- (1) At each Annual General Meeting the Society shall appoint one or more auditors to hold office as such from the conclusion of that meeting until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.
- (2) No Person shall be appointed as an auditor of the Society unless he is qualified for such an appointment by or under the Statutes.
- (3) The Board may appoint any Person qualified for appointment under this Rule to fill any casual vacancy but, while any such vacancy continues, any surviving or continuing auditor may continue to act.
- (4) If notice of intention to move a resolution at an Annual General Meeting or special general meeting -
 - (a) appointing as auditor a Person other than a retiring auditor, or
 - (b) filling a casual vacancy in the office of auditor, or
 - (c) reappointing as auditor a retiring auditor who was appointed by the Board to fill a casual vacancy, or
 - (d) removing an auditor before the expiration of his term of office,is to be given, the notice, if it is to be effective, must be given in accordance with paragraph (5) below.
- (5) Such notice must be given to the Society not less than 28 clear days before the meeting at which it is to be moved -
 - (a) by the Board, or
 - (b) in the case of an Annual General Meeting, by the requisite number of qualified Members entitled to move a resolution under Rule 33(1), or
 - (c) in the case of a special general meeting, by 100 Members qualified to

requisition such a meeting under Rule 31(4),

and the Society shall give notice of the resolution (and send copies of any appropriate representations made by the auditors in due time) to the Members entitled to receive notice of the meeting at which the resolution is to be moved.

- (6) If at an Annual General Meeting or special general meeting there is a contest for the office of auditor in that there are more candidates for such office than there are vacancies, the vote shall be taken on a poll, which shall be deemed to have been demanded by the Chairman and the candidates obtaining the most votes shall fill the vacancies. The procedure for the poll shall be the same as that set out in Rules 13(8) and (9) for election of Directors but substituting "auditors" for "Directors" and with any other necessary consequential amendments.
- (7) The remuneration to be paid to the auditors shall be fixed by the Board and, for the purposes of this paragraph, the term "remuneration" shall be deemed to include sums to be paid in respect of the auditors' expenses.

42. COMMON SEAL

- (1) The Common Seal of the Society shall be two concentric circles with the Society's name between their circumferences and within the smaller circle a monogram of the initial letters of the Society, V.B.S.
- (2) The Society may have in addition to the Common Seal one or more other seals each of which shall be a facsimile of the Common Seal. Any provisions relating to the safe custody and otherwise of the Common Seal shall also apply to any such facsimile seals.
- (3) The Common Seal shall be kept at the Principal Office or at such other place as the Board may from time to time determine, and shall be in the custody of such Individual as the Board may from time to time direct.
- (4) The Common Seal shall not be used without the authority of the Board or a Committee of the Board authorised in that behalf and, when used or affixed to any document, such document shall be countersigned by such Individual or Individuals as the Board may authorise for that purpose from time to time. All documents so sealed and countersigned shall be deemed to be validly executed by the Society.
- (5) In this Rule the word "countersigned" includes the use of a facsimile signature by whatever process reproduced. The use of such facsimile signature is only authorised in so far as it is permitted from time to time by law.
- (6) In this Rule reference to the Common Seal being affixed to any document includes the reproduction of the image of that seal on a document by any mechanical or electronic means which has been approved by the Board.

43. CUSTODY OF DOCUMENTS

All documents of title, mortgage deeds and other securities belonging to the Society and all the documents relating to -

- (a) land on which Loans are secured, and
- (b) loans, whether or not they are secured, made by the Society

shall be kept in safe custody by such employees of the Society as the Board shall appoint for the purpose either -

- (i) at the Principal Office, or
- (ii) at such other place or places as may from time to time be determined by the Board,

and the consent of the Board or of an Officer or of such an employee shall be required on each occasion on which any such document is released from the custody of such an employee.

44. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS ASSETS ON WINDING UP OR DISSOLUTION

- (1) Upon the winding-up of the Society, or upon its being dissolved by consent, any surplus remaining after payment in full of the Society's creditors and repayment to Members of the amount of their Shares (together with interest due thereon) shall be applied either in accordance with the instrument of dissolution (if any) or otherwise shall be divided among qualifying Members in proportion to the values of their Shareholdings at the date of commencement of dissolution or winding-up.
- (2) For the purposes of this Rule, "qualifying Members" means Persons who hold on the date of commencement of the dissolution or winding-up, and have held, throughout the period of two years up to that date, Shares to the value of not less than £100.

45. ALTERATION OF RULES

Notwithstanding anything elsewhere in these Rules, these Rules may be altered by passing a resolution as a Special Resolution.

46. NOTICES TO THE SECRETARY AND BY THE SOCIETY

- (1) Any notice or other document to be served on the Society under these Rules may be served -
 - (a) by leaving it, addressed to the Secretary, at the Principal Office, or
 - (b) by sending it by post, or delivering it, to him at that Office,
- (2) Subject to paragraph (3) below, any notice or other document to be served by the Society on a Member under these Rules may be served on him either:
 - (a) personally; or
 - (b) by sending it by post or by otherwise delivering it, addressed to him at his Registered Address; or
 - (c) by sending it electronically to an electronic address which he has notified for the purpose,

and in the case of a notice or document sent by post as described in subparagraph (b) above, the notice or document shall be deemed to have been duly served 48 hours after having been posted (regardless of the class of post by which such notice or document is sent). The provisions of Rule 32(5)-(9) shall apply to the service of any notices in the same way as to notice of meetings, with the necessary changes being made.

- (3) The Society shall not be obliged by the Statutes or these Rules to serve a notice (including a notice of a meeting or a notice of a postal ballot or electronic ballot), a ballot form or other document to a Member in whose case the Society has reason to believe that communications sent to him at his Registered Address are unlikely to be received by him but in the case of a notice (defined by Rule 32(4)) of a meeting and in the case of the notice of a postal ballot or electronic ballot pursuant to Rule 39 the Society shall, if it decides not to send the notice to him by post in accordance with those provisions, instead display in a prominent position at the Principal Office and in every branch office a notice of the holding of the meeting or a notice of the holding of the postal ballot or electronic ballot which -
 - (a) must be given not later than 21 clear days before the date of the proposed meeting, or 21 clear days calculated from the final date for the receipt of proxies, or, as the case may be, the final date for the receipt of completed ballot forms, and
 - (b) must state -
 - (i) where Members may obtain copies of the resolutions and of any statements with respect to the matters referred to in a resolution, and

- (ii) where Members may obtain forms relating to voting by proxy and, in the case of a postal ballot, where they may obtain ballot papers or, in the case of an electronic ballot, how they may access electronic voting facilities.

- (4) If by reason of the suspension or curtailment of postal services the Society is unable to give notice by post in hard copy form of a meeting, then such notice shall be deemed to have been given to all Members entitled to receive such notice in hard copy form if it is advertised in at least two leading daily newspapers widely circulated in the United Kingdom. Such notice shall be deemed to have been duly served on all Members entitled to receive notice of such meeting at noon on the day on which the second of such advertisements appears. In any such case the Society shall:
 - (a) make such notice available on an appropriate website of the Society from the date of such advertisement until the conclusion of the meeting; and
 - (b) send confirmatory copies of the notice to those Members by post in hard copy form if, at least seven days before the meeting, the posting of notices to addresses throughout the United Kingdom again becomes practicable.

- (5) Nothing in these Rules shall prevent the service of a notice or other document by the Society
 - (a) by sending it electronically to an electronic address notified for the purpose in accordance with express provision made by the Statutes, or
 - (b) by publication on a web site in accordance with any such provision.

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