

The Companies Act 2006

Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

Articles of Association (as amended at AGM on 3rd August 2024)

of

Elphin, Ledmore & Knockan Community Association Limited

Registered number SC381507

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GENERAL

Constitution of company

1. The model articles of association as prescribed in Schedule 2 to the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 are excluded in respect of this company.

Defined Terms

2. In these articles of association, unless the context requires otherwise:-

- a) "Act" means the Companies Act 2006.
- b) "charity" means a body which is either a "Scottish charity" within the meaning of section 13 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 or a "charity" within the meaning of section 1 of the Charities Act 2006, providing (in either case) that its objects are limited to charitable purposes.

- c) "charitable purpose" means a charitable purpose under section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, which is also regarded as a charitable purpose in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts.
- d) "electronic form" has the meaning in section 1168 of the Act.
- e) "property" means any property, heritable or moveable, real or personal, wherever situated.
- f) "subsidiary" has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Act.
- g) "virtual meeting" means a meeting of the member of the company where arrangements have been made in advance by directors to allow or require participants to attend the meeting by a method of electronic communication by which all participants can be seen and/or heard and can see and/or hear each other without the need for them to be physically present in the same location. A person attending such a meeting by such method shall be deemed to be participating virtually and shall have the same rights to speak, vote and otherwise participate as they would if attending the meeting in person. Where a meeting is called as a virtual meeting, the notice shall state this fact and include details of the method by which a member can attend the meeting virtually.

3. Any reference to a provision of any legislation (including any statutory instrument) shall include any statutory modification or re-enactment of that provision in force from time to time.

Objects

4. The company's objects are to acquire the old Assynt Primary School building and its associated land in Elphin and to convert and operate it as a community centre for the use of the full and part-time residents of the townships of Elphin, Knockan, Ledmore, Lyne and Benmore and their neighbourhood in the Highland Council area of Scotland without distinction of age, race, or sex, or political, religious, or other opinions, including:-

- i) use for the social welfare of the local community and meetings, lectures, exhibitions, classes and other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation and arts and literature;
- ii) encourage training and the advancement of education;
- iii) encourage the study, understanding and exposition of the Assynt region's history, culture, natural history, geology and geography;
- iv) any other purposes that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to any of the preceding purposes.

5. The company's objects are limited to those set out in article 4 (but subject to article 6).

6. The company may add to, remove, or alter the statement of the company's objects in article 4; on any occasion when it does so, it must give notice to the registrar of companies and the amendment will not be effective until that notice is registered on the register of companies.

Powers

7. In pursuance of the objects listed in article 4 (but not otherwise), the company shall have the following powers:-

- a) all powers reasonably necessary or desirable towards the achievement of the objects laid down in article 4 above;
- b) to carry on any other activities which further any of the above objects;
- c) to promote companies whose activities may further one or more of the above objects or may generate income to support the activities of the company, acquire and hold shares in such companies and carry out, in relation to any such company which is a subsidiary of the company, all such functions as may be associated with a holding company;
- d) to acquire and take over the whole or any part of the undertaking and liabilities of any body holding property or rights which are suitable for the company's activities;
- e) to purchase, take on lease, hire or otherwise acquire any property or rights which are suitable for the company's activities;
- f) to improve, manage, develop, or otherwise deal with all or any part of the property and rights of the company;
- g) to sell, let, hire out, license, or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property and rights of the company;
- h) to lend money and give credit (with or without security) and to grant guarantees and issue indemnities;
- i) to borrow money, and to give security in support of any such borrowings by the company, in support of any obligations undertaken by the company or in support of any guarantee issued by the company;
- j) to employ such staff as are considered appropriate for the proper conduct of the company's activities, and to make reasonable provision for the payment of pension and/or other benefits for members of staff, ex-members of staff and their dependants;
- k) to engage such consultants and advisers as are considered appropriate from time to time;
- l) to effect insurance of all kinds (which may include officers' liability insurance);
- m) to invest any funds which are not immediately required for the company's activities in such investments as may be considered appropriate (and to dispose of and vary such investments);
- n) to liaise with other voluntary sector bodies, local authorities, UK or Scottish Government departments and agencies, all with a view to furthering the company's objects;
- o) to establish and/or support any charity, and to make donations for any charitable purpose falling within the company's objects;

p) to take such steps as may be deemed appropriate for the purpose of raising funds for the company's activities;

q) to accept grants, donations, and legacies of all kinds (and to accept any reasonable conditions attaching to them);

r) to oppose, or object to, any application or proceedings which may prejudice the company's interests;

s) to enter into any arrangement with any organisation, government or authority which may be advantageous for the purpose of the activities of the company, and to enter into any arrangement for co-operation or mutual assistance with any similar organisation;

t) to do anything which may be incidental or conducive to the furtherance of any of the company's objects.

Restrictions on use of the company's assets

8.

- a) The income and property of the company shall be applied solely towards promoting the company's objects.
- b) No part of the income or property of the company shall be paid or transferred (directly or indirectly) to the members of the company, whether by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise.
- c) No director of the company shall be appointed as a paid employee of the company; no director shall hold any office under the company for which a salary or fee is payable.
- d) No benefit (whether in money or in kind) shall be given by the company to any director except:- i) repayment of out-of-pocket expenses in accordance with article 65; or ii) reasonable payment in return for particular services (not being of a management nature) actually rendered to the company subject to article 64.

Liability of members

9. Each member undertakes that if the company is wound up while he/she is a member (or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member), he/she will contribute – up to a maximum of £1 – to the assets of the company, to be applied towards:-

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

General structure

10. The structure of the company consists of:-

- a) The **Members** – who have the right to attend the annual general meeting (and any extraordinary general meeting) and have important powers under the articles of association and the Act; in particular, the members elect people to serve as directors and take decisions in relation to changes in the articles themselves.
- b) The **Directors** - who hold regular meetings during the period between annual general meetings, and generally control and supervise the activities of the company; in particular, the directors are responsible for monitoring the financial position of the company.

MEMBERS

Qualifications for membership

11. The members of the company shall consist of the subscribers to the memorandum of association and such other persons as are admitted to membership under articles 13 to 15.

12. Membership shall be open to anyone aged 16 or over who is a full or part-time resident of the townships of Elphin, Knockan, Ledmore, Lyne and Benmore and their neighbourhood in the Highland Council area of Scotland (“the community”). Further, the directors may at their sole discretion admit to membership any person aged 16 or over who, while not a full or part-time resident in the community, has a strong connection with or interest in the community.

12A Minimum Number of Members

12A.1 The minimum number of members is 20.

12A.2 In the event that there is a reduction in the number of members to 19 or less, the directors may not conduct any business other than to enable the admission of sufficient business to ensure that there are 20 or more members once more or, failing that, to apply to wind the Company up.

Application for membership

13. After the first meeting to set up the company, any person who wishes to become a member must sign and lodge with the company a written application for membership.

14. The directors may at their discretion refuse to admit any person to membership.

15. The directors shall consider each application for membership at the first directors’ meeting which is held after receipt of the application; the directors shall, within a reasonable time after the meeting, notify the applicant of their decision on the application.

Membership subscription

16. No membership subscription shall be payable, unless the members in general meeting shall so resolve by special resolution amending this article.

Register of members

17. The directors shall maintain a register of members, setting out the full name and address of each member, the date on which he/she was admitted to membership, and the date on which any person ceased to be a member.

Withdrawal for membership

18. Any person who wishes to withdraw from membership shall sign, and lodge with the company, a written notice to that effect; on receipt of the notice by the company, he/she shall cease to be a member.

Expulsion from membership

19. Any person may be expelled from membership by special resolution (see article 32), providing the following procedures have been observed:-

- a) At least 21 days' notice of the intention to propose the resolution must be given to the member concerned, specifying the grounds for the proposed expulsion;
- b) The member concerned shall be entitled to be heard on the resolution at the general meeting at which the resolution is proposed.

Termination/transfer

20. Membership shall cease on death.

21. A member may not transfer his/her membership to any other person.

GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings (meetings of members)

22. The directors shall convene an annual general meeting in each year. Not more than 15 months shall elapse between one annual general meeting and the next.

23. Annual general meetings or extraordinary general meetings may take place as physical meetings or virtual meetings as decided by the directors and stated in the notice convening the relevant meeting.

24. The business of each annual general meeting shall include:-

- a) A report by the chair on the activities of the company;
- b) Consideration of the annual accounts of the company;
- c) The election/re-election of directors, as referred to in articles 50 to 53.

25. The directors may convene an extraordinary general meeting at any time.

26. The directors must convene an extraordinary general meeting if there is a valid requisition by members (under section 303 of the Act) or a requisition by a resigning auditor (under section 518 of the Act).

Notice of general meetings

27. At least 14 clear days' notice must be given of an annual general meeting or an extraordinary general meeting.

28. The reference to clear days in article 27 shall be taken to mean that, in calculating the period of notice, the day after the notice is posted (or, in the case of a notice sent by electronic means, the day after it was sent) and also the day of the meeting, should be excluded.

29. A notice calling the meeting shall specify the time and place of the meeting; it shall:-

- a) indicate the general nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting; and
- b) if a special resolution (see article 32) or a resolution requiring special notice under the Act is to be proposed, also state that fact, giving the exact terms of the resolution.

30. A notice convening an annual general meeting shall specify that the meeting is to be an annual general meeting; any other general meeting shall be called an extra ordinary general meeting.

31. Notice of every general meeting shall be given:-

- a) in hard copy form;
- b) (where the individual to whom notice is given has notified the company of an address to be used for the purpose of electronic communication) in electronic form; and/or
- c) (subject to the company notifying members of the presence of the notice on the website and complying with the other requirements of section 309 of the Act) by means of a website.

Special resolutions and ordinary resolutions

32. For the purposes of these articles, a "special resolution" means a resolution passed by 75% or more of the votes cast on the resolution at an annual general meeting or an extraordinary general meeting, providing proper notice of the meeting and of the intention to propose the resolution has been given in accordance with articles 27 to 31; for the avoidance of doubt, the reference to a 75% majority relates only to the number of votes cast in favour of the resolution as compared with the number of votes cast against the resolution, and accordingly no account shall be taken of abstentions or members absent from the meeting.

33. In addition to the matters expressly referred to elsewhere in these articles, the provisions of the Act allow the company by special resolution;-

- a) To alter its name

b) To alter any provision of these articles or adopt new articles of association.

34. For the purposes of these articles, an “ordinary resolution” means a resolution passed by majority vote (taking account only of those votes cast in favour as compared with those votes against), at an annual general meeting or extraordinary general meeting, providing proper notice of the meeting has been given in accordance with articles 27 to 31.

Procedure at general meetings

35. No business shall be dealt with at any general meeting unless a quorum is present; the quorum for a general meeting shall be 5% of the membership entitled to vote (each being a member or proxy for a member).

36. If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes after the time at which a general meeting was due to commence – or if during a meeting, a quorum ceases to be present – the meeting shall stand adjourned to such time and place as may be fixed by the chairperson of the meeting.

37. The chair of the company shall (if present and willing to act as chairperson) preside as chairperson of each general meeting; if the chair is not present and willing to act as chairperson within 15 minutes after the time at which the meeting was due to commence, the directors present shall elect from among themselves the person who will act as chairperson of the meeting.

38. The chairperson of a general meeting may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting to such time and place as the chairperson may determine.

39. Every member shall have one vote, which (whether on a show of hands or on a secret ballot) may be given either personally or by proxy.

40. Any member who wishes to appoint a proxy to vote on his/her behalf at any meeting (or adjourned meeting):-

- a) shall lodge with the company, at the company’s registered office, a written instrument of proxy (in such form as the directors require), signed by him/her; or
- b) shall send by electronic means to the company, at such electronic address as may have been notified by the company for that purpose, an instrument of proxy (in such form as the directors require)

providing in either case the instrument of proxy is received by the company at the relevant address not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting (or, as the case may be adjourned meeting).

41. An instrument of proxy which does not conform with the provisions of article 40, or which is not lodged or sent in accordance with such provisions, shall be invalid.

42. A member shall not be entitled to appoint more than one proxy to attend on the same occasion.

43. A proxy appointed to attend and vote at any meeting instead of a member shall have the same right as the member who appointed him/her to speak at the meeting and need not be a member of the company.

44. A vote given or ballot demanded by proxy shall be valid notwithstanding that the authority of the person voting or demanding a ballot had terminated prior to the giving of such vote or demanding of such ballot, unless notice of such termination was received by the company at the company's registered office (or where sent by electronic means, was received by the company at the address notified by the company to members for the purposes of electronic communications) before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote was given or the ballot demanded.

45. If there are an equal number of votes for and against any resolution, the chairperson of the meeting shall not be entitled to a casting vote.

46. A resolution put to the vote at a general meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless a secret ballot is demanded by the chairperson or by at least two persons present in person at the meeting and entitled to vote (whether as members or proxies for members); a secret ballot may be demanded either before the show of hands takes place, or immediately after the result of the show of hands is declared.

47. If a secret ballot is demanded, it shall be taken at the meeting and shall be conducted in such a manner as the chairperson may direct; the result of the ballot shall be declared at the meeting at which the ballot was demanded.

DIRECTORS

Maximum number of directors

48. The maximum number of directors shall be 12. Out of that number, no more than 3 directors shall be directors who were co-opted under the provisions of article 51.

Eligibility

49. A person shall not be eligible for election/appointment as a director unless he/she is a member of the company. Provided always that a person appointed as a director under article 51 need not however be a member of the company.

Election, retiral, re-election

50. At each annual general meeting, the members may (subject to article 48) elect any member (providing he/she is willing to act) to be a director.

51. The directors may at any time appoint (co-opt) any member (providing he/she is willing to act) to be a director (subject to article 48). The directors may also at any time (subject to article 48) appoint any non-member to be a director (provided he/she is willing to act) on the basis that he/she has specialist knowledge or experience and/or skills which could be of assistance to the directors.

52. At the first annual general meeting, one third (to the nearest whole number) of the directors (disregarding for this purpose those appointed under article 51) shall retire from office; the question which of them is to retire shall be decided by some random method.

53. At each annual general meeting (other than the first),

- a) any director appointed under article 51 in the period since the preceding annual general meeting shall retire from office;
- b) out of the remaining directors, one third (to the nearest whole number) shall retire from office.

The directors to retire under sub-paragraph b) above shall be those who have been longest in office since they were last elected or re-elected; as between persons who were last elected or re-elected on the same date, the question of which of them is to retire shall be decided by some random method. All of the directors who shall retire from office shall be eligible for re-election.

Termination of office

54. A director shall automatically vacate office if:-

- a) he/she ceases to be a director through the operation of any provision of the Act or becomes prohibited by law from being a director;
- b) he/she becomes incapable due to physical or mental illness or accident of fulfilling the duties of his/her office for a period of more than 6 months;
- c) he/she ceases to be a member of the company;
- d) he/she resigns office by notice to the company;
- e) he/she is absent (without permission of the directors) from more than 3 consecutive meetings of the directors, and the directors resolve to remove him/her from office;
or
- f) he/she is removed from office by ordinary resolution (special notice having been given) in pursuance of section 168 of the Act.

Register of directors

55. The directors shall maintain a register of directors, setting out full details of each director, including the date on which he/she became a director, and also specifying the date on which any person ceased to hold office as a director.

Officebearers

56. The directors shall elect from among themselves a chair, a secretary and a treasurer, and such other office bearers (if any) as they consider appropriate.

57. All of the office bearers shall cease to hold office at the conclusion of each annual general meeting but shall then be eligible for re-election if they remain as directors or are re-elected as directors at that meeting.

58. A person elected to any office shall cease to hold that office if he/she ceases to be a director or if he/she resigns from that office by written notice to that effect.

Powers of directors

59. Subject to the provisions of the Act, and these articles, and subject to any directions given by special resolution, the company and its assets and undertaking shall be managed by the directors, who may exercise all the powers of the company.

60. A meeting of the directors at which a quorum is present may exercise all powers exercisable by the directors.

Personal interests

61. A director who has a personal interest in any transaction or other arrangement which the company is proposing to enter into, must declare that interest at a meeting of the directors; he/she will be debarred (in terms of article 73) from voting on the question of whether or not the company should enter into that arrangement.

62. For the purposes of the preceding article, a director shall be deemed to have a personal interest in an arrangement if any spouse or civil partner, parent or child or other close relative of his/hers, or any firm of which he/she is a partner, or any limited company of which he/she is a substantial shareholder or director (or any other party who/which is deemed to be connected with him/her for the purposes of the Act), has a personal interest in that arrangement.

63. Provided:-

- a) he/she has declared his/her interest;
- b) he/she has not voted on the question of whether or not the company should enter into the relevant arrangement; and
- c) the requirements of article 64 are complied with;

a director will not be debarred from entering into an arrangement with the company in which he/she has a personal interest (or is deemed to have a personal interest under article 62) and may retain any personal benefit which he/she gains for his/her participation in that arrangement. No director may serve as an employee (full time or part time) of the company, and no director may be given any remuneration by the company for carrying out his/her duties as a director.

64. Where a director provides services to the company or might benefit from any remuneration paid to a connected party for such services, then:-

- a) the maximum amount of the remuneration must be specified in a written agreement and must be reasonable;
- b) the directors must be satisfied that it would be in the interests of the company to enter into the arrangement (taking account of the maximum amount); and
- c) less than half of the directors must be receiving remuneration from the company (or benefit from remuneration of that nature).

65. The directors may be paid all travelling and other expenses reasonably incurred by them in connection with their attendance at meetings of the directors, general meetings, or meetings of committees, or otherwise in connection with the carrying out of their duties.

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

Procedure at directors' meetings

66. Any director may call a meeting of the directors or request the secretary to call a meeting of the directors.

67. Questions arising at a meeting of directors shall be decided by a majority of votes; if an equality of votes arises, the chairperson of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

68. No business shall be dealt with at a meeting of the directors unless a quorum is present; the quorum for meetings of the directors shall be 3.

69. If at any time the number of directors in office falls below the number fixed as the quorum, the remaining directors may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.

70. Unless he/she is unwilling to do so, the chair of the company shall preside as chairperson at every directors meeting at which he/she is present; if the chair is unwilling to act as chairperson or is not present within 15 minutes after the time when the meeting was due to commence, the directors present shall elect from among themselves the person who will act as chairperson of the meeting.

71. The directors may at their discretion allow any person who they reasonably consider appropriate to attend and speak at any meeting of the directors; for the avoidance of doubt, any such person who is invited to attend a directors meeting shall not count in the quorum or be entitled to vote.

72. A director shall not vote at a directors meeting (or at a meeting of a committee) on any resolution concerning a matter in which he/she has a personal interest which conflicts (or may conflict) with the interests of the company; he/she must withdraw from the meeting while an item of that nature is being dealt with.

73. For the purposes of article 72, a person shall be deemed to have a personal interest in a particular matter if any partner or other close relative of his/hers or any firm of which he/she is a partner or any limited company of which he is a substantial shareholder or director, has a personal interest in that matter.

74. A director shall not be counted in the quorum present at a meeting in relation to any resolution on which he/she is not entitled to vote.

75. The company may by ordinary resolution suspend or relax to any extent – either generally or in relation to any particular matter – the provisions of articles 72 to 74.

Conduct of directors

76. Each of the directors shall, in exercising his/her functions as a director of the company, act in the interests of the company and in particular must:-

a) seek, in good faith, to ensure that the company acts in a manner which is in accordance with its objects;

b) act with the care and diligence which it is reasonable to expect of a person who is managing the affairs of another person;

c) in circumstances giving rise to the possibility of a conflict of interest between the company and any other party:- i) put the interests of the company before that of the other party, in taking decisions as a director, and ii) where any other duty prevents him/her from doing so, disclose the conflicting interest to the company and refrain from participating in any discussions or decisions involving the other directors with regard to the matter in question.

ADMINISTRATION

Delegation to committees

77. The directors may delegate any of their powers to any committee consisting of one or more directors and such other persons (if any) as the directors may determine; they may also delegate to the chair of the company (or the holder of any other post) such of their powers as they may consider appropriate.

78. Any delegation of powers under article 77 may be made subject to such conditions as the directors may impose and may be revoked or altered.

79. The rules of procedure for any committee shall be as prescribed by the directors.

Operation of bank accounts

80. The signatures of two out of the signatories appointed by the directors shall be required in relation to all operations (other than lodgement of funds) on the bank and building society accounts held by the company; at least one out of the two signatures must be the signature of a director.

Secretary

81. The directors shall (notwithstanding the provisions of the Act) appoint a company secretary, and on the basis that the term of the appointment, the remuneration (if any) payable to the company secretary and the conditions of appointment shall be as determined by the directors; and the company secretary may be removed by them at any time. The company secretary need not be a member of the company.

Minutes

82. The directors shall ensure that minutes are made of all proceedings at general meetings, directors' meetings, and meetings of committees; a minute of any meeting shall include the names of those present and (as far as possible) shall be signed by the chairperson of the meeting.

Accounting records and annual accounts

83. The directors shall ensure that proper accounting records are maintained in accordance with all applicable statutory requirements.

84. The directors shall prepare annual accounts, complying with all relevant statutory requirements; if an audit is required under any statutory provisions or if they otherwise think fit, they shall ensure that an audit of such accounts is carried out by a qualified auditor.

85. No member shall (unless he/she is a director) have any right of inspecting any accounting or other records, or any document of the company, except as conferred by statute or as authorised by the directors or as authorised by ordinary resolution of the company.

Notices

86. Any notice which requires to be given to a member under these articles shall be given either in writing or by electronic means; such a notice may be given personally to the member or be sent by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at the address last intimated by him/her to the company or (in the case of a member who has notified the company of an address to be used for the purpose of electronic communications) may be sent to the member by electronic means.

87. Any notice, if sent by prepaid first-class post, shall be deemed to have been given on the 3rd working day after the day of posting; for the purpose of proving that any notice was given, it shall be sufficient to prove that the envelope containing the notice was properly stamped, addressed, and posted.

88. Any notice sent by electronic means shall be deemed to have been given on the next working day after it is sent; for the purpose of proving that any notice sent by electronic means was given, it shall be sufficient to provide any of the evidence referred to in the relevant guidance issued from time to time by the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Administrators.

MISCELLANEOUS

Winding up

89. If, on the winding up of the company, any property remains after satisfaction of all the company's debts and liabilities, such property shall be transferred to such body or bodies (whether incorporated or unincorporated) as may be determined by the members of the company at or before the time of dissolution (or failing such determination by such court as may have or acquire jurisdiction) to be used solely for a charitable purpose or charitable purposes.

90. For the avoidance of doubt, a body to which property is transferred under article 89 may be a member of the company.

91. to the extent that effect cannot be given to article 89 (as read with article 90), the relevant property shall be applied to some charitable purposes or purposes.

Indemnity

92. Every director or other officer or auditor of the company shall be indemnified (to the extent permitted by sections 232, 234, 235, 532 and 533 of the Act) out of the assets of the company against any loss or liability which he/she may sustain or incur in connection with the execution of the duties of his/her office; that may include, without prejudice to that generality (but only to the extent permitted by those sections of the Act) any liability incurred by him/her in defending any proceedings (whether civil or criminal) in which judgment is given in his/her favour or in which he/she is acquitted, or any liability in connection with an application in which relief is granted to him/her by the court from liability for negligence, default or breach of trusts in relation to the affairs of the company.

93. The company shall be entitled to purchase and maintain for any director insurance against any loss or liability which any director or other officer of the company may sustain or incur in connection with the execution of the duties of his/her office, and such insurance may extend to liabilities of the nature referred to in section 232(2) of the Act (negligence, etc of a director).

END