

## Constitution of Energy Communities Tipperary clg

Approved at the AGM on Wednesday, 8th November 2023

Adopted at the AGM on the same date

### COMPANIES ACT 2014 COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL

#### CONSTITUTION of Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative clg

#### MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

1. **Name**

The name of the Company is *Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative* company limited by guarantee.

2. **Company type**

The Company is a company limited by guarantee, registered under Part 18 of the Companies Act 2014.

3. **Main Object**

The main object for which the Company is established (the "Main Object") is:  
the long term social transformation of member communities in Tipperary and beyond, by carrying out energy conservation and generation projects, both large scale and micro, using community development processes, to build member capacity, create local investment and employment, and achieve regional energy self-sufficiency

4. **Subsidiary Objects**

As objects incidental and ancillary to the attainment of the Main Object, the Company shall have the following subsidiary objects:

- i) Secure funding to carry out retrofit work countywide (and further), allowing for deeper retrofit where possible.
- (ii) Create investment & jobs for member communities through the Better Energy Communities Scheme and other relevant community energy schemes.
- (iii) Support the development of marketing/information/research roles of local energy teams
- (iv) Create a survey of Local Energy Resources, in all member communities, to provide basic information on which to develop new projects.
- (v) Explore and Develop Energy Generation Projects on a community and umbrella group level.
- (vi) Provide support through initiatives involving the allocation of grant monies
- (vii) Engage in research, consulting, mentoring, and development work in relation to, or in connection with, energy self-sufficiency, and to provide such services as the directors consider appropriate.
- (viii) Liaise and coordinate with relevant local and national agencies, and work as a non-exclusive body in seeking to achieve its objectives.
- (ix) Promote information sharing and learning from the project through a group website including project database, surveys, and information on how other communities can be involved.
- (x) Enter into arrangements, including participation in limited liability or other companies, to exploit any research, consulting, mentoring and development work undertaken by ECTC either separately or jointly.
- (xi) Ensure an ethos of cooperation, community and local ownership runs through all of its activities, along the lines of the seven cooperative principles outlined by the International Cooperative Alliance. These principles are those of voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, member economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training and information, cooperation among Cooperatives and concern for the community. Along with these principles, the following **ethos, philosophy, and core values** should underpin the activities of the company **as a cooperative of communities** in the achievement of the main object:
  - (a) Consensus decision making is a feature of communications within the company and is the preferred and desired approach to policy formulation and management. Any differences or conflict which arise between contributors are resolved in a spirit of fairness, respect and trust.

(b) The development of the company is through a process of education and a structure of interdependence. 'Open discussion', 'everyone is contributing', 'all opinions are helpful' are key features of meetings and communications. Principles of 'constantly reflecting', 'learning', 'changing' or doing things differently as a result, are a basis of growth; as is the interdependence emerging from open interaction with supporting agencies, stakeholders and partners.

(c) Energy citizens have only limited impact, unless they work as a group - the local community team areas are seen as the core units/building blocks on which the company stands. The community representatives and their

local teams are encouraged to mobilise and motivate increased participation in their committees, with the wider objective of spreading energy knowledge, analyzing and identifying their own requirements, carrying out local research, initiating micro projects and representing their public democratically at company meetings and community development events.

(d) Local value creation is a key driver for the company and its local teams. ECTC understands that the drive to live locally, have work, a healthy environment and a safe future for their families can kickstart self help projects which lead to wider social, environmental and financial capital.

(e) The company believes in balancing commercial objectives with social responsibility. The company commits to act as an influencer in this issue in its dealings with third parties; spreading social values and making them more acceptable to those who provide services to the public.

(f) The company believes that Partnership arrangements are a key to long term development of the community energy sector. Parties to agreements must respect each other as equal contributors in delivering the main objective. Commercial partners are entitled to expect professional standards, while the company can in return, seek recognition of its cooperative principles, as well as its focus on the public good and long term societal benefits.

(g) The company believes that the community development approach with the ethos, philosophy and core values of the co operative movement, can transform communities, empowering members to collectively change energy supply and use. This can be a basis for a new movement enabling multiple benefits to flow to local contexts.

## **5. Powers**

The Company shall in addition to the powers conferred on it by law have the following powers which are exclusively subsidiary and ancillary to the Main Object and which powers may only be exercised in promoting the Main Object. Any income generated by the exercise of these powers is to be applied to the promotion of the Main Object:

5.1 To solicit and procure by any lawful means and to accept and receive any donation of property of any nature and any devise, legacy or annuity, subscription, gift, contribution or fund, including by means of payroll giving or other similar arrangements, and including (but so as not to restrict the generality of the foregoing) the holding of lotteries in accordance with the law for the purpose of promoting the Main Object, and to apply to such purpose the capital as well as the income of any such legacy, donation or fund.

5.2 To undertake, accept, execute and administer, without remuneration, any charitable trusts.

5.3 To establish and support or aid in the establishment and support of any charitable association or institution, trust or fund, and to subscribe or guarantee money for any charitable purpose which the Company shall consider calculated to promote its Main Object.

5.4 To collect and to receive voluntary contributions, donations or bequests or money for any of the purposes aforesaid.

5.5 To make application on behalf of the Company to any authority, whether governmental, local, philanthropic or otherwise, for financial funding of any kind.

5.6 To apply, petition for or promote any Act of the Oireachtas or other legislation relating directly to the advancement of the Main Object.

5.7 Subject to clause 6, to employ such staff, and on such terms, as are necessary or desirable for the proper promotion of the Main Object.

5.8 To grant pensions, gratuities, allowances or charitable aid to any person who may have served the Company as an employee, or to the wives, husbands, children or other dependents of such person provided that such pensions, gratuities, allowances or charitable aid shall be no more than that provided by a pension scheme covered by Part 30 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 and provided that such pension scheme has been operated by the company and the beneficiary of the pensions, gratuities, allowances or charitable aid, or their spouse or parent, has been a member of the pension scheme while employed by the Company; and to make payments towards insurance and to form and contribute to provident and benefit funds for the benefit of any persons employed by the Company and to subscribe or guarantee money for charitable objects.

5.9 To purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property, patents, copyrights, licences, rights and privileges or any estate or interest whatsoever and any rights, privileges and easements over or in respect of any property which may be considered necessary for the purposes of the Company and to develop and turn to account any land acquired by the Company or in which it is interested and in particular by laying out and preparing the same for building purposes, constructing, altering, pulling down, decorating, maintaining, fitting up and improving buildings and conveniences and by planting, paving, draining, farming, cultivating, letting or building leases or building agreement and by advancing money to and entering into contracts and arrangements of all kinds with builders, tenants and

others.

5.10 To acquire, hold, sell, manage, lease, mortgage, exchange or dispose of all or any part of the property of the Company with a view to the promotion, protection or encouragement of its Main Object and to vary investments.

5.11 To co-operate with any other society or institution in carrying out any investments hereby authorised in furtherance of the Main Object.

5.12 To borrow and raise money in such manner as may be considered expedient, and to issue debentures, debenture stock and other securities, and for the purpose of securing any debt or other obligation of the Company to mortgage or charge all or any part of the property of the Company, present or future, and collaterally or further to secure any securities of the Company by a trust deed or other assurance.

5.13 To invest and deal with monies and property of the Company not immediately required in such manner as will most effectively provide funds for the advancement and promotion of the purposes aforesaid and this power shall include power from time to time to vary any investments made thereunder.

5.14 To invest in such ways as shall seem desirable to the Directors any moneys of the Company not immediately required for the use in connection with its Main Object and to place any such moneys on deposit with bankers and others; subject nevertheless as regards the making of investments to such conditions (if any) and such consents (if any) as may for the time being be imposed or required by law and subject also as hereinafter provided; prior permission to be obtained from the Revenue Commissioners where the Company intends to accumulate funds over a period in excess of two years for any purposes.

5.15 To guarantee, support or secure, whether by personal covenant or by mortgaging or charging all or any part of the undertaking, property and assets (present and future) of the Company, or all such methods, the performance of the obligations of and the repayment or payment of the principal amounts and interest of any person, firm or company or the dividends or interest of any securities, including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) any company which is the Company's holding company or a subsidiary or associated company.

5.16 To draw, accept, make, endorse, discount, execute, issue and negotiate bills of exchange, promissory notes, bills of lading, warrants, debentures and other negotiable or transferable instruments.

5.17 To insure the property of the Company against any foreseeable risk in its full value and take out other insurance policies to protect the Company when required.

5.18 To insure any or all of the Directors against personal liability incurred in respect of any act or omission which is or is alleged to be a breach of trust or breach of duty, provided he or she acted in good faith and in the performance of his or her functions as charity trustee (as defined in the Charities Act, 2009).

5.19 To apply for, purchase or otherwise acquire any patents, brevets d'invention, licences, concessions and the like conferring any exclusive or non-exclusive or limited rights to use or any secret or other information as to any invention which may seem capable of being used for any of the purposes of the Company or the acquisition of which may seem calculated directly or indirectly to benefit the Company, and to use, exercise, develop or grant licences in respect of or otherwise turn to account the property, rights or information so acquired.

5.20 To adopt such means of making known the products and/or services of the Company as may seem expedient and in particular by advertising in the press, by circulars, by purchase and exhibition of works of art or interest, by publication of books and periodicals and via the internet and by granting prizes, rewards and donations.

5.21 To maintain, improve or provide public amenities including recreational facilities, childcare, public health, home, welfare and youth facilities generally.

5.22 To enter into any arrangements with any governments or authorities, supreme, municipal, local or otherwise, that may seem conducive to the Main Object and to obtain from any such government or authority any rights, privileges and concessions which the Company may think it desirable to obtain and to carry out, exercise and comply with any such arrangements, rights, privileges and concessions.

5.23 To enter into a partnership or into any arrangement for sharing profits, union of interest, co-operation, joint venture, reciprocal concession or otherwise with any person, company, society, trust or other partnership whose objects are solely charitable, carrying on or engaged in, or are about to carry on or engage in, any business or transaction capable of being conducted so as directly or indirectly to benefit the Company and which prohibits the distribution of income and assets to at least as great a degree as the Company by virtue of Clause 6 hereof and to guarantee the contracts of, otherwise assist any such person, company, society, trust or other partnership, and to take over or otherwise acquire shares, stock, debentures, or debenture stock and securities of any such person, company, society, trust or other partnership, and to sell, hold, reissue with or without guarantee or otherwise deal with same.

5.24 To procure the registration or incorporation of the Company in or under the laws of any place outside Ireland.

5.25 To pay all expenses of and incidental to the incorporation and establishment of the Company.

5.26 To carry on alone or in conjunction with others any other trade of business which may in the opinion of the Directors be advantageously carried on by the Company in connection with or as ancillary to any of the

above businesses or the general business of the Company in pursuance of the Main Object.

5.27 To found, subsidise, and assist any charitable funds, associations or institutions calculated to promote or assist the Main Object.

5.28 To establish and maintain links with international and national organisations having similar objectives.

5.29 To do all such other lawful things as the Company may think incidental and conducive to the foregoing Main Object.

5.30 To do all or any of the things and matters aforesaid in any part of the world and as principals, agents, contractors, trustees or otherwise and by or through trustees, agents or otherwise and either alone or in conjunction with others.

**PROVIDED THAT:**

(a) in case the Company shall take or hold any property which may be subject to any trusts, the Company shall only deal with or invest the same in such manner as allowed by law having regard to such trusts;

(b) nothing hereinbefore contained shall be construed as including in the purposes for which the Company has been established any purposes which are not charitable according to law.

**6. Income and Property**

6.1 The income and property of the Company shall be applied solely towards the promotion of Main Object(s) as set forth in this Constitution. No portion of the Company's income and property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to members of the Company.

6.2 No Director shall be appointed to any office of the Company paid by salary or fees, or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Company. However, nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Company of:

(a) reasonable and proper remuneration to any member or servant of the Company (not being a Director) for any services rendered to the Company;

(b) interest at a rate not exceeding 1% above the Euro Interbank Offered Rate (Euribor) per annum on money lent by Directors or other members of the Company to the Company;

(c) reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by any member of the Company (including any Director) to the Company;

(d) reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses incurred by any Director in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the Company;

(e) fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any company of which a Director may be a member holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of such company.

(f) Nothing shall prevent any payment by the Company to a person pursuant to an agreement entered into in compliance with section 89 of the Charities Act, 2009 (as for the time being amended, extended or replaced).

(g) To make donations for charitable purposes either in cash or assets which the company may deem expedient, in line with the Main Object(s).

(h) Fees, costs, outlays and expenses properly incurred and duly vouched necessary for the proper management and operation of the company.

**7. Additions, alterations or amendments**

7.1 Any of these Rules may be rescinded or amended, or a new Rule made, by consensus, or failing that by a vote of a simple majority of the members of the Company voting at a General Meeting whether present in person or by proxy or by postal or by electronic votes cast, if a postal or electronic ballot has been approved for the resolution of this question of which fourteen clear days' notice has been given, such notice to include details of the change(s) to be made at that General Meeting.

7.2 The Company must ensure that the Charities Regulator has a copy of its most recent Constitution. If it is proposed to make an amendment to the Constitution of the Company which requires the prior approval of the Charities Regulator, advance notice in writing of the proposed changes must be given to the Charities Regulator for approval, and the amendment shall not take effect until such approval is received.

**8. Winding Up**

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Company there remains, after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Company. Instead,

such property shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having main objects similar to the main objects of the Company. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of their income and property among their members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Company under or by virtue of Clause 6 hereof. Members of the Company shall select the relevant institution or institutions at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object with the agreement of the Charities Regulator. Final accounts will be prepared and submitted that will include a section that identifies and values any assets transferred along with the details of the recipients and the terms of the transfer.

**9. Limited Liability**

The liability of the members is limited.

**10. Undertaking to Contribute**

Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company, if the Company is wound up while he or she is a member or is wound up within one year after the date on which he or she ceases to be a member, for

- (a) payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before he or she ceases to be a member, and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
  - (b) the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves,
- such amount as may be required, not exceeding €1.

# ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

## PRELIMINARY

1. In these Articles, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent herewith:

The "**Act**" means the Companies Act, 2014.

The "**Company**" means the above named Company.

The "**Directors**" means the members for the time being of the board of directors of the Company and "Director" shall be construed accordingly.

The "**Secretary**" means any person appointed to perform the duties of the Secretary of the Company.

The "**Seal**" means the Common Seal of the Company.

Expressions referring to writing shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as including reference to printing, lithography, photography and any other modes of representing or reproducing words in visible form.

## MEMBERS

2. The Directors may from time to time determine the terms and conditions on which persons shall be admitted to membership of the Company and the classes (if more than one) of members and the privileges, rights and obligations of the members of each such class.

3. The members of the Company shall be (i) the subscribers to the Memorandum of Association, (ii) the current directors, and (iii) such other persons as the Directors shall from time to time admit to membership and as shall sign a written consent to become a member.

4. Every member shall be bound to further to the best of his ability the objects and interests of the Company. Membership of the Company is not transferable and shall cease:-

(a) on the member's death;

(b) if the member resigns by serving notice in writing to the Directors of the Company at its registered office.

(c) if he/she shall be in default for a period of three months in the payment of any subscription or other contribution payable by him to the Company;

(d) if he/she is disqualified from being a charity trustee of any charitable organisation by the Charities Regulator

(e) if he/she becomes incapable of discharging his/her duties as a Member in the opinion of the other Members;

(f) if he/she should be expelled from membership in accordance with the provisions of 4(f)(i) and 4(f)(ii)

(f)(i)

The Directors shall, subject to the provisions of 4(f)(ii) have power by resolution approved by not less than two-thirds of the Directors present and voting at a meeting specially convened for the purpose to expel from membership of the Company any member who refuses or wilfully neglects to comply with any of these Articles or who have been guilty of such conduct as in the opinion of the Directors either has rendered him unfit to remain a member or whose continued membership would be injurious to the Company or where the Directors consider that expulsion would be in the best interests of the Company.

(f)(ii) A member whose expulsion is to be taken into consideration by the Directors under the provisions of 4(f)(i) shall receive not less than 7 days' notice in writing of such proposed expulsion and short particulars of the grounds thereof and upon his giving notice in writing to the Secretary of his intention to appeal shall be heard by the Directors either in person or through his duly authorised agent but shall not be present at the voting or take further part in the proceedings otherwise than as the Directors shall permit. Alternatively or in addition he may submit a written statement which shall be taken into consideration by the Directors.

(f)(iii) A former member of the Company shall remain liable for all subscriptions (if any) and contributions due or imposed on him up to the date on which he shall cease to be a member and for any sums due by him under this Constitution and shall forfeit all claim to a return of any money paid by him to the Company on his admission as a member or by way of subscription or otherwise.

## **GENERAL MEETINGS**

5. The Company shall hold a general meeting in every calendar year as its annual general meeting at such time and place as may be determined by the Directors and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it provided that every annual general meeting except the first shall be held not more than fifteen months after the holding of the last preceding annual general meeting and that so long as the Company holds its first annual general meeting within eighteen months of the date of incorporation, it need not hold it in the year of its incorporation.
6. All general meetings other than annual general meetings shall be known as extraordinary general meetings.
7. Directors may, whenever they think fit, convene an extraordinary general meeting.
8. If, at any time, there are not sufficient directors capable of acting to form a quorum, any Director of the Company or any two members of it may convene an extraordinary general meeting in the same manner as nearly as possible as that in which meetings may be convened by the Directors.
9. The Directors of the Company shall, on the requisition of one or more members holding, or together holding, at the date of the deposit of the requisition, not less than 10% of the total voting rights of all the members having, at the date of the deposit, the right to vote at general meetings of the Company, forthwith proceed duly to convene an extraordinary general meeting of the Company.
10. The requisition shall state the objects of the meeting and shall be signed by the requisitionists and deposited at the registered office of the Company and may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more requisitionists.
11. If the Directors do not within 21 days after the date of the deposit of the requisition proceed duly to convene a meeting to be held within 2 months after that date (the "requisition date"), the requisitionists, or any of them representing more than 50% of the total voting rights of all of them, may themselves convene a meeting but any meeting so convened shall not be held after the expiration of 3 months after the requisition date.
12. Any reasonable expenses incurred by the requisitionists by reason of the failure of directors duly to convene a meeting shall be repaid to the requisitionists by the company and any sum so repaid shall be retained by the company out of any sums due or to become due from the Company by way of fees or other remuneration in respect of their services to such of the Directors as were in default.
13. For the purposes of Articles 9 to 12, the Directors shall, in the case of a meeting at which a resolution is to be proposed as a special resolution, be deemed not to have duly convened a meeting if they do not give such notice of it as is required by Section 181 of the Act.
14. A meeting convened under Articles 9 or 12 shall be convened in the same manner as nearly as possible as that in which meetings are to be convened by directors.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

15. The chairperson of the board of directors shall preside as chairperson at every general meeting of the Company, or if there is no such chairperson, or if he or she is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unwilling to act, the directors present shall elect one of their number to be chairperson of the meeting.
16. If at any meeting no director is willing to act as chairperson or if no director is present within half an hour after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the members present shall choose one of their number to be chairperson of the meeting.
17. The chairperson may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present and shall if so directed by the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place. However, no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place. 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, subject to that, it shall not be necessary to give any notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.

18. Unless a poll is demanded in accordance with Article 38, at any general meeting:
- (a) a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands; and
  - (b) a declaration by the chairperson that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of the proceedings of the Company 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.
19. Where there is an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chairperson of the meeting at which the show of hands takes place or at which the poll is demanded, shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.
20. Subject to section 193 of the Act (as modified by section 1208 of the Act) a resolution in writing signed by all the members of the Company for the time being entitled to attend and vote on such resolution at a general meeting (or being bodies corporate by their duly appointed representatives) shall be as valid and effective for all purposes as if the resolution had been passed at a general meeting of the Company duly convened and held and if described as a special resolution shall be deemed to be a special resolution within the meaning of the Act. Any such resolution in writing may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more members. It shall be deemed to have been passed at a meeting held on the date on which it was signed by the last member to sign, and, where the resolution states a date as being the date of his or her signature thereof by any member, this statement shall be prima facie evidence that it was signed by him or her on that date.

#### **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

21. A meeting of the Company, other than an adjourned meeting, shall be called:
- (a) in the case of the annual general meeting or an extraordinary general meeting for the passing of a special resolution, by not less than 21 days' notice;
  - (b) in the case of any other extraordinary general meeting, by not less than 7 days' notice.
22. A meeting of the Company shall, notwithstanding that it is called by shorter notice than that specified in Article 22, be deemed to have been duly called if it is so agreed by:
- (a) all the members entitled to attend and vote at the meeting; and
  - (b) unless no statutory auditors of the Company stand appointed in consequence of the Company availing itself of the audit exemption, the statutory auditors of the Company.
23. Notice may be sent by electronic means to a member's electronic address. Where notice of a meeting is given by posting it by ordinary prepaid post to the registered address of a member, then, for the purposes of any issue as to whether the correct period of notice for that meeting has been given, the giving of the notice shall be deemed to have been effected on the expiration of 24 hours following posting.
24. In determining whether the correct period of notice has been given by a notice of a meeting, neither the day on which the notice is served nor the day of the meeting for which it is given shall be counted.
25. The notice of a meeting shall specify:
- (a) the place, date and time of the meeting;
  - (b) the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting;
  - (c) in the case of a proposed special resolution, the text or substance of that proposed special resolution; and
  - (d) with reasonable prominence a statement that:
    - (i) a member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy using the form



set out in Section 184 of the Act or, where that is allowed, one or more proxies, to attend, speak and vote instead of him or her

- (ii) a proxy need not be a member;
- (iii) the time by which the proxy must be received at the Company's registered office or some other place within the State as is specified in the statement for that purpose.

26. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at the meeting.

#### **VOTES OF MEMBERS**

27. Where a matter is being decided (whether on a show of hands or on a poll), every member present in person and every proxy shall have one vote, but so that no individual member shall have more than one vote.
28. No objection shall be raised to the qualification of any voter except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is given or tendered, and every vote not disallowed at such meeting shall be valid for all purposes. Any such objection made in due time shall be referred to the chairperson of the meeting, whose decision shall be final and conclusive.
29. Votes may be given either personally or by proxy. Where there is an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chairperson of the meeting at which the show of hands takes place or at which the poll is demanded, shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.

#### **PROXIES**

30. A member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at a meeting of the Company shall be entitled to appoint another person (whether a member or not) as his or her proxy to attend and vote instead of him or her. A proxy so appointed shall have the same right as the member to speak at the meeting and to vote on a show of hands and on a poll.
31. The instrument appointing a proxy (the "**Instrument of Proxy**") shall be in writing –
- (a) under the hand of the appointer or of his or her attorney duly authorised in writing;
  - or
  - (b) if the appointer is a body corporate, either under seal of the body corporate or under the hand of an officer or attorney of it duly authorised in writing.
32. The Instrument of Proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority, shall be deposited at the registered office of the Company or at such other place within the State as is specified for that purpose in the notice convening the meeting, and shall be deposited not later than the following time:-
- (a) 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote; or
  - (b) in the case of a poll, 48 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll.
33. The depositing of the Instrument of Proxy may, rather than its being effected by sending or delivering the instrument, be effected by communicating the instrument to the Company by electronic means (as defined in section 2 of the Act) and this Article likewise applies to the depositing of anything else referred to in the preceding Article.
34. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be in the following form or a form as near to it as circumstances permit –

[Name of Company] (the "**Company**")

[Name of member] (the "**Member**") of [Address of Member] being a member of the Company hereby appoint/s [name and address of proxy] or failing him or her [name and address of alternative proxy] as the proxy of the Member to attend, speak and vote for the Member on

behalf of the Member at the (annual or extraordinary, as the case may be) general meeting of the Company to be held on the [date of meeting] and at any adjournment of the meeting.

The proxy is to vote as follows:-

**Voting instructions to proxy**  
(Choice to be marked with an "X")

Number or description of resolution:   In Favour   Abstain   Against

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy will vote as he or she thinks fit.

Signature of Member.....

Dated [date] .....

**VOTING ON A POLL**

35.        At a meeting, a poll may be demanded in relation to a matter (whether before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands in relation to it).
36.        A demand for a poll may be made by:
- (a)        the chairperson of the meeting;
  - (b)        at least three members present in person or by proxy;
  - (c)        any member or members present in person or by proxy and representing not less than 10% of the total voting rights of all the members of the Company concerned having the right to vote at the meeting.
37.        A demand for such a poll may be withdrawn by the person or persons who have made the demand. Subject to Article 39, if a poll is demanded it shall be taken in such manner as the chairperson of the meeting directs, and the result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution, in relation to the matter concerned, of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.
38.        A poll demanded with regard to the election of a chairperson or on a question of adjournment shall be taken forthwith.
39.        A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken at such time as the chairperson of the meeting directs, and any business other than that on which a poll is demanded may be proceeded with pending the taking of the poll.
40.        The instrument appointing a proxy to vote at a meeting of the Company shall be deemed also to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll, and for the purposes of Articles 37 and 38, a demand by a person as proxy for a member shall be the same as a demand by the member.
41.        On a poll taken at a meeting of the Company or a meeting of any class of members of the Company, a member, whether present in person or by proxy, entitled to more than one vote need not, if he or she votes:-
- (a)        use all his or her votes; or
  - (b)        cast all the votes he or she uses in the same way.

**DIRECTORS**

- 42.1       The number of the Directors shall be not less than five (5) and unless and until

determined by the Company in general meeting, not more than eleven (11). The first Directors shall be the persons named in the statement delivered to the Registrar of Companies pursuant to Section 22 of the Act.

42.2 Every person who is appointed as a Director to the Company shall automatically become a Member of the company.

43. No remuneration shall be payable under any circumstances to any of the Directors in respect of his services as Director, or on any Committee of the Directors to which the Directors may delegate powers under Article 64. The Directors may be paid all travelling, hotel and other expenses properly incurred by them in attending and returning from meetings of the Directors or any committee of the Directors or general meetings of the Company or otherwise in connection with the business of the Company.

44. The business of the Company shall be managed by the Directors, who may pay all expenses incurred in promoting and registering the Company, and may exercise all such powers of the Company as are not, by the Act or by these Articles required to be exercised by the Company in general meeting, subject nevertheless to the provisions of the Act and of these Articles and to such directions, not being inconsistent with the aforesaid provisions, as the Company in general meeting may (by special resolution) give. No such direction given by the Company in general meeting shall invalidate any prior act of the Directors which would have been valid if that direction had not been given.

45. Without prejudice to Section 40 of the Act, the Directors may delegate any of their powers to such person or persons as they think fit, including committees; any such committee shall, in the exercise of the powers so delegated, conform to any regulations that may be imposed on it by the Directors.

46. All cheques, promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments, and all receipts for moneys paid to the Company shall be signed, drawn, accepted, endorsed or otherwise executed as the case may be, by such person or persons and in such manner as the Directors shall from time to time by resolution determine.

47. The Company shall cause minutes to be entered in books kept for the purpose:-

- (a) of all appointments of officers made by the Directors;
- (b) of the names of the Directors present at each meeting of the Directors and of any committee of the Directors;
- (c) of all resolutions and proceedings at all meetings of the Company and, of the Directors and of committees of the Directors.

#### **POWERS OF ATTORNEY**

48. The Company may empower any person, either generally or in respect of any specified matters, as its attorney, to execute deeds or do any other matter on its behalf in any place whether inside or outside the State. A deed signed by such attorney on behalf of the Company shall bind the Company and have the same effect as if it were under its common seal.

#### **DISQUALIFICATION OF DIRECTORS**

49.1 In addition to the circumstances set out in section 148(2) of the Act, the office of Director shall be vacated if a Director ceases to be qualified for the position of charity trustee under section 55 of the Charities Act, 2009.

49.2. The office of Director shall be vacated automatically if the Director:

- (a) becomes prohibited from being a director of any company by reason of any order made under the Acts; or
- (c) resigns his office by notice in writing to the Company; or
- (e) is convicted of an indictable offence, unless the Directors otherwise determine; or
- (f) if he/she be absent from three consecutive meetings of the Directors without leave, and his proxy (if any) shall not during such period have attended in his stead and the Directors resolve that his office be vacated; or
- (g) if he/she is directly or indirectly interested in any contract with the Company and fails to declare the

nature of his/her interest in a manner required by the Article 81 of this Constitution and other relevant statutory requirements.

### **ROTATION OF DIRECTORS**

50. At the first Annual General Meeting of the Company, all the Directors shall retire from office and at the Annual General Meeting in every subsequent year, one-third of the Directors for the time being, or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest one-third, shall retire from office
51. The Directors to retire in every year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election, but as between persons who became Directors on the same day, those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree amongst themselves) be determined by lot. Dates are measured from the time of their appointment at the relevant board meeting.
52. A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election.
53. The Company, at a meeting at which a Director retires in manner aforesaid, may fill the vacated office by electing a person thereto, and in default of the Company doing so, the retiring Director shall, if offering himself for re-election, be deemed to have been re-elected, unless (a) at such meeting it is expressly resolved not to fill such vacated office; or (b) a resolution for the re-election of such Director has been put to the meeting and lost.
54. No person other than a Director retiring at the meeting shall, unless recommended by the Directors, be eligible for election to the office of Director at any general meeting unless, not less than three nor more than twenty one days before the date appointed for the meeting, there has been left at the Company's registered office (a) notice in writing, signed by a member duly qualified to attend and vote at the meeting for which such notice is given, of his intention to propose such a person for election, and (b) notice in writing signed by the person concerned of his willingness to be elected.
- 55.1 The Company may from time to time by ordinary resolution increase or reduce the number of Directors, and may also determine in what rotation the increased or reduced number is to go out of office.
- 55.2 The Company shall seek Directors from the following bodies:
- (a) The participating community partners in the Company's area of operation recognised from time to time by the board shall be entitled to nominate 1 (one) person to become members of the company. This person may be eligible to be proposed as Director, either by co-option by the Board of Directors or appointed by the Members in General Meeting. Directors from this group will at all times constitute no fewer than 51% of the total number of directors on the board.
  - (b) The Local Development Companies in the Company's area of operation recognised from time to time by the board shall be entitled to nominate 1 (one) person to be Directors, who will be either co-opted by the Board of Directors or appointed by the Members in General Meeting.
  - (c) Other people with specific skills may be co-opted by the Board of Directors or appointed by the Members in General Meeting, as required.
56. The Company may by ordinary resolution of which extended notice has been given in accordance with section 146 of the Act remove any Director before the expiration of his period of office, notwithstanding anything in these articles or in any agreement between the Company and such director. Such removal shall be without prejudice to any claim such director may have for damages for breach of any contract of service between him and the Company.
57. The Company may by ordinary resolution appoint another person in place of a Director removed from office under Article 56. Without prejudice to the powers of the Directors under Article 58, the Company in general meeting may appoint any person to be a Director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional Director.
58. The Directors may at any time appoint any person to be a Director of the Company, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing Directors, but so that the total number of

Directors of the Company shall not at any time exceed the number, if any, provided for in these Articles. Any Director so appointed shall hold office only until the next annual general meeting, and shall then be eligible for re-election.

### **PROCEEDINGS OF DIRECTORS**

59. The Directors may meet together for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In case of equality of votes the chairperson shall have a second or casting vote. A Director may, and the Secretary on the requisition of a Director shall, at any time summon a meeting of the Directors. If the Directors so resolve it shall not be necessary to give notice of a meeting of Directors to any Director who, being resident in the State, is for the time being absent from the State.
60. The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Directors may be fixed by the Directors and unless so fixed shall be five provided three persons are personally present and two persons shall be community representatives. A meeting of the Directors at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all powers and discretion for the time being exercisable by the Directors.
61. The continuing Directors may act notwithstanding any vacancy in their number but, if and so long as their number is reduced below the number fixed by or pursuant to the Act as the necessary quorum of Directors, the continuing Directors or director may act for the purpose of increasing the number of Directors to that number or of summoning a general meeting of the Company, but for no other purpose.
62. If at any meeting the chairperson is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding it, the Directors present may choose one of their number to be chairperson of the meeting.
- 63.1 The Directors may delegate any of its powers to Committees consisting of such member or members of the Directors and such other persons as they think fit, and any Committee so formed shall, in the exercise of the powers so delegated, conform to any regulations imposed on it by the Directors.
- 63.2. The Directors may establish working groups composed of persons who are not Directors of the Company for the purpose of considering and making recommendations to the Directors on any matter referred to such working groups by the Directors. The Chair of the working group will be a company Director.
64. The Directors may appoint the chairperson of any Committee; if no such chairperson is elected, or if at any meeting of a Committee the chairperson is not present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding it, the members of the committee present may choose one of their number to be chairperson of the meeting.
65. A committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper. Questions arising at any meeting of a committee shall be determined, by consensus if at all possible, and then by a majority of votes of the members of the committee present, and when there is an equality of votes, the chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.
66. All acts done by any meeting of the Directors or by any person acting as a member of the Directors or any Committee shall, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of any such person acting as aforesaid, or that he or any of the Directors was disqualified, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed.
67. A resolution in writing, signed by all the Directors for the time being entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the Directors, shall be as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Directors duly convened and held. Any such resolution in writing may consist of several documents in the like form, each signed by one or more of the Directors and for all purposes shall take effect from the time when it was signed by the last director.
68. A meeting of the Directors or of a committee established by the Directors may consist of a conference between some or all of the Directors or, as the case may be, members of the committee who are not all in one place, but each of whom is able (directly or by means of telephonic, video or other electronic communication) to speak to each of the others and to be heard by each of the others and –

- (a) a Director or member of the committee taking part in such a conference shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be entitled to vote and be counted in a quorum accordingly; and
- (b) such a meeting shall be deemed to take place –
  - (i) where the largest group of those participating in the conference is assembled;
  - (ii) if there is no such group, where the chairperson of the meeting then is;
  - (iii) if neither sub-paragraph (i) or (ii) applies, in such location as the meeting itself decides.

### **SECRETARY**

69. The Secretary shall be appointed by the Directors for such term and at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit; and any Secretary so appointed may be removed by them.
70. A provision of the Act or these Articles requiring or authorising a thing to be done by or to a Director and the Secretary shall not be satisfied by its being done by or to the same person acting both as Director and as, or in place of, the Secretary.

### **SEAL**

71. The seal shall be used only by the authority of the Directors or of a committee of Directors authorised by the Directors in that behalf, and every instrument to which the seal shall be affixed shall be
- (a) signed by a Director of it or by some other person appointed for the purpose by its Directors or by a foregoing committee of them; and
  - (b) be countersigned by the Secretary or by a second Director of it or by some other person appointed for the purpose by its Directors or by a foregoing committee of them.

### **ACCOUNTS**

72. The Directors shall cause adequate accounting records to be kept. Adequate accounting records shall be deemed to have been maintained if they comply with Section 282(1) to 282(3) of the Act and explain the Company's transactions and facilitate the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Company.
73. The accounting records shall be kept at the registered office or, subject to Section 283 of the Act, at such other place as the Directors think fit, and shall at all reasonable times be open to the inspection of the officers of the Company and by other persons entitled pursuant to the Act.
74. The Directors shall from time to time determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places and under what conditions or regulations the financial statements and accounting records of the Company or any of them shall be open to the inspection of its members not being Directors. No member (not being a Director) shall have any right of inspecting any financial statement or accounting record of the Company except as conferred by statute, this Constitution or authorised by the Directors or by the Company in general meeting.
75. The Directors shall in accordance with the Act cause to be prepared and to be laid before the annual general meeting of the Company the statutory financial statements of the Company, the Directors' report in relation to it and the statutory auditor's report on those financial statements and Directors' report as are required by the Act to be prepared and laid before the annual general meeting of the Company.
76. A copy of the statutory financial statements of the Company, the Directors' report in relation to it and that statutory auditor's report on those financial statements and Directors' report shall, not less than twenty one days before the date of the annual general meeting, be sent to every person entitled under Section 338(1) of the Act to receive them

### **AUDIT**

77. Auditors shall be appointed and their duties regulated in accordance with Chapters 18 and 19 of Part 6 of the Act.

## NOTICES

78. A notice may be given by the Company to any member either personally or by sending it by post or electronic means (as defined in section 2(1) of the Act) to the member at his or her registered address or email address (or, if not so registered, then to the address or email address of the member last known to the Company). Section 218(5) of the Act shall apply.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

79. The Directors shall be entitled from time to time to determine any Annual Subscriptions to be payable by any member of the Company. Such subscriptions shall be payable in advance of the 1st day of January in each year. A person becoming a member of the Company after the 1st day of January in any year may be required by the Directors to pay the entire Annual Subscription in respect of that year. In the event that any member shall cease to be a member prior to 1st day of January in any year that member shall not be entitled to any rebate of his Annual Subscription paid for that year. The terms and conditions attached to Life Subscriptions shall be determined by the Directors in their absolute discretion from time to time.

## BODIES CORPORATE ACTING BY REPRESENTATIVES

80. Any body corporate which is a member of the Company may by resolution of its directors or other governing body authorise such person as it thinks fit to act as its representative at any meeting of the Company, and the person so authorised shall be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the body corporate which he represents as that body corporate could exercise if it were an individual member of the Company.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 81.1 A Director who is in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in a contract or arrangement or proposed contract or arrangement with the Company shall declare the nature of his interest at any meeting of the Directors at which the question of entering into the contract or arrangement is taken into consideration, if his interest then exists, or in any other case at such meeting of the Directors after he becomes so interested.

- 81.2 A director shall be deemed to have an interest for the purpose of (2) where a person connected with that Director has such an interest and the Director could be expected to be reasonably aware of the existence of that interest and for this purpose a person is connected with a Director if that person is:
1. that director's spouse, parent, brother, sister, child or step-child, other relative or co-habitee;
  2. a body corporate controlled by a director within the meaning of section 26(2), (3) and (4) of the companies act 1990;
  3. a person acting as the trustee of any trust. the beneficiaries of which include the director or the persons at (1) or (2); and
  4. a person acting as a partner of a director or of any of the people at (1) to (3) above.

## APPLICATION OF SURPLUS

82. Surpluses of the Company shall be applied as follows and in such proportions and in such manner as may be decided by the Company at General Meetings:
- (a) firstly, to a general reserve for the continuation and development of the Company and the furtherance of its objectives;
  - (b) secondly, in making payments for social or charitable purposes or for the support of local community energy groups, which are in accord with the Objects of the Company and within the community served by the Company.

## ROLES WITHIN THE BOARD

- 83.1 A **Chairperson** of the Board shall be elected by the Board from among their number at its meeting and may be re-elected to successive terms. The Chairperson shall be the primary representative of the Board and shall see that orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect. The Chairperson shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Board of Directors. The Chairperson shall report to the full Board at each of its meetings on all matters of significance requiring Board consideration and advice. The Chairperson shall hold office for a period of one year.
- 83.2 The **Vice-Chairperson** of the Board shall be elected by the Board from among their number at its meeting and may be re-elected to successive terms. The Vice-Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson and act on the Chairperson's behalf in all case of absence or inability to act. Service as Vice-Chairperson shall not be a condition precedent to service as Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons shall not automatically succeed Chairpersons. The Vice-Chairperson shall hold

office for a period of one year.

### **MANAGER/CO-ORDINATOR**

- 85 The Directors from time to time may appoint any person (not being a director) to the office of "Manager" for such a period and on such terms, as they think fit, and fix, determine and vary his/her duties, powers, and functions. The Directors may revoke such appointment, but without prejudice to any claim such Manager may have for damages for breach of any contract of service between him and the company.

The Manager has the authority and responsibility to operate the Company in all its activities subject to such policies as may be adopted and such orders as may be issued by the members of the Board of Directors from time to time. The Manager shall have the right to attend Board meetings and committee meetings unless an executive session of the Board or Directors Time is called. The Manager, with the approval of the Board, shall appoint and employ such personnel as may be required to conduct the affairs of the Company. The Manager shall make such reports to the Board of Directors and the Members as are necessary to keep them fully informed of the affairs of the Company, and shall have the power to perform all acts and execute all documents necessary to carry out the duties of the position.

### **INDEMNITY**

91. Subject to the provisions of and so far as may be permitted by the Acts and the Charities Act 2009, every Director, Secretary or other officer of the Company shall be entitled to be indemnified by the Company against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by him in the execution and discharge of his duties or in relation thereto including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, civil or criminal, which relate to anything done or omitted to be done or alleged to have been done or omitted by him as an officer or employee of the Company and in which judgment is given in his favour (or the proceedings are otherwise disposed of without any finding or admission of any material breach of duty on his part) or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application under any statute for relief from liability in respect of any such act or omission in which relief is granted to him by the Court.

92. Subject to the provisions of the Acts and the Charities Act, the Directors shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance for or for the benefit of any persons who are or were at any time Directors or officers of the Company including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) insurance against any liability incurred by such persons in respect of any act or omission in good faith in the actual or purported execution or discharge of their duties or in the exercise or purported exercise of their powers or otherwise in connection with their duties, powers or offices.



We, the several persons whose names and addresses are subscribed, wish to be formed into a company in pursuance of this constitution.

Names, Addresses and Descriptions of Subscribers
--

Dated this 8th day of November 2023

Witness to the above signatures: -

Address of the witness