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Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014

Registration of new society

The following society has today been registered by us under Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 as a Community Benefit Society:

Society: **Ridsdale Community Group Limited**

Registration number: **8282**

Registration date: 17 December 2019

Address: Sarelaw House, Sarelaw Cottages, Ridsdale, NE48 2TB

Financial year-end date: 31 March

Date: **17 December 2019**

Registered as a Limited Company in England and Wales No. 1920623. Registered office as above.

Plunkett Foundation

Plunkett Foundation

Model Rules for Community Ownership

Version 5

June 2019

Rules sponsored by the Plunkett Foundation

Table of Contents

Clause	Contents
1	INTRODUCING THE SOCIETY AND THE RULES
2	GOVERNANCE
3	MEMBERS
4	MEMBERS' MEETINGS
5	MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
6	REPORTING
7	CHANGE
8	SHARE CAPITAL
9	ADMINISTRATIVE
10	START-UP PROVISIONS
11	TRANSITION PROVISIONS
12	SIGNATURES
	APPENDIX

1. INTRODUCING THE SOCIETY AND THE RULES

Name

1.1. The society is called Ridsdale Community Group Limited and it is called "the Society" in these Rules.

Registration

1.2. The Society is registered under the law as a society for the benefit of the community with the ***Financial Conduct Authority***. Its registered office is Sarelaw House, Sarelaw Cottages, Ridsdale, NE48 2TB.

Why the Society exists

1.3. The Society exists in order to carry on business for the benefit of the community. This is the Society's Purpose.

Commitments

1.4. The Society is committed to:

1.4.1. trading for the benefit of the community, and not for anyone's private benefit;

1.4.2. retaining profits and applying profit to advance the Society's Purpose.

Governing documents

1.5. These Rules set out the way in which the Society is owned, organised and governed.

1.6. In addition to the Rules, the Management Committee may make other provisions concerning how the Society operates, such as a code of conduct for the Management Committee. Such provisions must not be inconsistent with the Rules.

1.7. In the Rules

1.7.1. words starting with a capital letter (like Rules) refer to something specific, and the Appendix at the end of the Rules identifies the rule which makes this apparent; and

1.7.2. words which are highlighted in italics (like ***partner***) have a special meaning and the Appendix lists all of these words and explains what they mean.

2. GOVERNANCE

Overview

2.1. The Society has Members, a Management Committee, and a Secretary.

Members

2.2. Membership is the means by which the Society is owned by the community. Membership provides Members with access to information, a voice in the Society, and the opportunity to be elected to a representative role in its governance.

Information

2.3. Members are entitled to receive information, about the Society, and its business as provided for in the rules. Information may be sent or supplied by electronic means to those members providing prior consent to the Society to receive information in this way.

Voice

2.4. Members have a voice in the Society's affairs as provided in the Rules, by

2.4.1. attending, speaking and submitting motions to be considered at Members' Meetings;

2.4.2. voting at Members' Meetings;

2.4.3. electing representatives to the Management Committee at Members' Meetings.

Representation

2.5. Subject to qualification criteria, Members may stand for election to the Management Committee.

Management Committee

2.6. Subject to the Rules, the Management Committee manages the affairs of the Society and may exercise all of its powers.

2.7. The Management Committee is collectively responsible for everything done by or in the name of the Society, but on that basis it may

2.7.1. delegate any of the powers which are conferred on it under these rules, to any person or committee consisting of members of the Society, on such terms and conditions as they think fit;

2.7.2. delegate to any employee responsibility for day-to-day management of some or all of the Society's business;

2.7.3. authorise members of the Management Committee to deal with specific matters;

2.7.4. make use of the services of volunteers.

2.8. The Management Committee may, with the approval of a resolution of the Members at a Members' Meeting, arrange for the management of the business of the Society to be carried out by a third party.

Secretary

2.9. The Secretary is secretary to the Society, and acts as secretary to the Management Committee.

3. MEMBERS

3.1. The Society shall encourage people to become Members, and to that end, the Management Committee shall

3.1.1. maintain a Membership Strategy for that purpose;

3.1.2. report to the Members at the Annual Members' Meeting on the state of the Society's membership and on the Membership Strategy.

3.2. The Members of the Society are those whose names are listed in its Register of Members.

3.3. Membership is open to any person (whether an individual, a corporate body or the nominee of an unincorporated organisation) who completes an application for membership in the form required by the Management Committee and:

3.3.1. is over 18 (eighteen) years of age;

3.3.2. supports the Society's Purpose;

3.3.3. pays for the minimum number of shares required by the Rules;

3.3.4. agrees to pay an annual subscription (if there is one); and

3.3.5. whose application is accepted by the Management Committee.

3.4. The Management Committee may refuse any application for membership at its absolute discretion.

3.5. A Member which is a corporate body shall appoint a representative to attend Members' Meetings on its behalf, and otherwise to take part in the affairs of the Society. Such appointment shall be made in writing, signed on behalf of the governing body of the corporate body.

3.6. The Management Committee may divide Members into constituencies, based on geography, the nature of their interest in the society, or any other relevant factor. If Members are divided into constituencies:

3.6.1. the Members in each constituency will be able to elect at least one representative from amongst their number to the Management Committee;

3.6.2. no person may be a Member within more than one constituency; and

3.6.3. the Secretary shall make any final decision about the constituency which a Member belongs to.

Cessation of Membership

3.7. A person ceases to be a Member of the Society in the following circumstances:

3.7.1. they resign in writing to the Secretary;

3.7.2. being an individual, they die;

3.7.3. being a corporate body, they cease to exist;

3.7.4. being a nominee of an unincorporated organisation, the organisation replaces them as its nominee;

3.7.5. they are expelled from membership under the Rules;

3.7.6. the Secretary removes them from the Register of Members, after completing procedures approved by the Management Committee on the grounds that:

3.7.6.1. the Society has lost contact with the Member; or

3.7.6.2. the person no longer wishes to continue to be a Member.

3.8. A Member may be expelled by a resolution approved by not less than two-thirds of the members of the Management Committee present and voting at a Management Committee Meeting. The following procedure is to be adopted.

3.8.1. Any Member may complain to the Secretary in writing that another Member has acted in a way detrimental to the interests of the Society.

3.8.2. If a complaint is made, the Management Committee may itself consider the complaint having taken such steps as it considers appropriate to ensure that each Member's point of view is heard and may either:

3.8.2.1. dismiss the complaint and take no further action; or

3.8.2.2. for a period not exceeding twelve months suspend the rights of the Member complained of to attend Members' Meetings and vote under the Rules;

3.8.2.3. arrange for a resolution to expel the Member complained of to be considered at the next Management Committee Meeting.

3.8.3. If a resolution to expel a member is to be considered at a Management Committee Meeting, details of the complaint must be sent to the Member complained of not less than one calendar month before the meeting with an invitation to answer the complaint and attend the meeting.

3.8.4. At the meeting the Management Committee will consider evidence in support of the complaint and such evidence as the Member complained of may wish to place before them.

3.8.5. If the Member complained of fails to attend the meeting without due cause, the meeting may proceed in their absence.

3.8.6. A person expelled from membership will cease to be a member upon the declaration by the Chairperson of the meeting that the resolution to expel them is carried.

3.9. No person who has been expelled from membership is to be re-admitted except by a resolution carried by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Management Committee present and voting at a Management Committee Meeting.

4. MEMBERS' MEETINGS

4.1. Every year, the Society shall hold an Annual Members' Meeting, within six months of the close of the financial year.

4.2. Any other Members' Meetings are Special Members' Meetings.

4.3. The Management Committee (except where otherwise provided in the Rules) convenes Members' Meetings, and decides the date, time and place of any Members' Meeting and of any adjourned meeting.

Annual Members' Meeting

4.4. The functions of the Annual Members' Meeting shall include:

4.4.1. receiving from the Management Committee the Annual Accounts for the previous financial year; a report on the Society's performance in the previous year, and plans for the current year and the next year;

4.4.2. receiving from the Management Committee a report on the state of the membership and the Membership Strategy;

4.4.3. appointing any financial Auditors, and external Auditors of any other aspect of the performance of the Society;

4.4.4. declaring the results of elections of those who are to serve on the Management Committee;

4.4.5. Any other business included in the notice convening the meeting.

Special Members' Meetings

4.5. Special meetings are to be convened by the Secretary either by order of the Management Committee, or if a written requisition signed by not less than 12 Members or 10% of all Members (whichever is less) is delivered, addressed to the Secretary, at the Society's registered office.

4.6. Any requisition must state the purpose for which the meeting is to be convened. If the Secretary is not within the United Kingdom or is unwilling to convene a special meeting, any member of the Management Committee may convene a Members' meeting.

4.7. A special meeting called in response to a Members' requisition must be held within 28 days of the date on which the requisition is delivered to the registered office. The meeting is not to transact any business other than that set out in the requisition and the notice convening the meeting.

Notice of Members' Meetings

4.8. Notice of a Members' Meeting is to be given at least 14 clear days before the date of the meeting, by notice prominently displayed at the registered office of the Society's places of business, and such other places or in such other manner as the Management Committee decides.

4.9. The notice must state whether the meeting is an Annual Members' Meeting or Special Members' Meeting, give the time, date and place of the meeting, and set out the business to be dealt with at the meeting.

Procedure at Members' Meetings

4.10. Members' Meetings are open to all Members. The Management Committee may invite particular individuals or representatives of particular organisations to attend a Members' Meeting.

4.11. Before a Members' Meeting can do business, a minimum number of Members (a quorum) must be present. Except where these Rules say otherwise a quorum is present if 5 Members or 10% of the Members entitled to vote at the meeting (whichever is greater) are present.

4.12. If no quorum is present within half an hour of the time fixed for the start of the meeting, the meeting shall be dissolved if it has been requisitioned by the Members.

Any other meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, or to such time and place as the Management Committee determine. If a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time fixed for the start of the adjourned meeting, the number of Members present during the meeting is to be a quorum.

4.13. The Chairperson, or in their absence another member of the Management Committee (to be decided by the members of the Management Committee present), shall chair a Members' Meeting. If neither the Chairperson nor any other member of the Management Committee is present, the Members present shall elect one of their number to be Chairperson.

4.14. The Chairperson may, with the consent of the 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. But no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place. No notice of an adjourned meeting needs to be given unless the adjournment is for 21 days or more.

Voting at Members' Meetings

4.15. Subject to these Rules and to any Act of Parliament, a resolution put to the vote at a Members' Meeting shall, except where a poll is demanded or directed, be decided upon by a show of hands.

4.16. The Management Committee may introduce arrangements for Members to vote by post, or by using electronic communications.

4.17. On a show of hands and on a poll, every Member present is to have one vote. Where postal or electronic voting arrangements have been introduced, every Member who has voted by such method shall also have one vote. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting is to have a second or casting vote.

4.18. Unless a poll is demanded, the Chairperson of the meeting will declare the result of any vote, which will be entered in the minute book. The minute book will be conclusive evidence of the result of the vote.

4.19. A poll may be directed by the Chairperson of the meeting or demanded, either before or immediately after a vote by show of hands, by not less than one-tenth of the Members present at the meeting. The Chairperson of the meeting shall decide how a poll is taken.

4.20. Unless these Rules or an Act of Parliament say otherwise, all resolutions are to be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast.

4.21. A resolution in writing signed by all the Members for the time being entitled to vote at a Members' Meeting shall be valid and effective as if it had been passed at a Members' Meeting duly convened and held. Such a resolution may consist of several documents in the same form each signed by one or more Members.

5. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Composition of the Management Committee

5.1. The Management Committee shall comprise not less than three and not more than nine persons, who shall mainly be elected by and from the Members. Not more than one quarter of the Management Committee may comprise persons co-opted by the Management Committee.

5.2. If Members are divided into constituencies, the Management Committee shall include persons elected by and from the Members in each constituency, and the Management Committee shall strive to ensure that its composition appropriately reflects the various constituencies.

5.3. If the size of the Management Committee falls below three, it may act only for the purpose of calling a Members' Meeting, the business of which shall be the election of new members to the Management Committee, and not for any other purpose.

Elections, appointments and removals

5.4. Elected members of the Management Committee hold office for a period commencing immediately after the Members' Meeting at which their election is declared, and ending at the conclusion of the third Annual Members' Meeting after that.

5.5. Co-opted members of the Management Committee serve until the next Annual Members' Meeting.

5.6. A person retiring from office shall be eligible for re-election or re-appointment.

5.7. Elections shall be carried out in accordance with procedures determined by the Management Committee.

5.8. Only a Member over the statutory minimum age may be elected or appointed to serve on the Management Committee.

5.9. The Management Committee will adopt a code of conduct, and every member of the Management Committee must comply with the terms of such code of conduct.

5.10. A member of the Management Committee shall immediately vacate their office if they:

5.10.1. resign their office in writing to the Secretary;

5.10.2. cease to be a Member;

5.10.3. become bankrupt or subject to a disqualification order made under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986

5.10.4. are removed from office by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those voting at a meeting of the Management Committee, on the grounds that in the opinion of the Management Committee, they are in serious breach of the Management Committee's code of conduct or have not performed the duties which they agreed to perform or which they could reasonably have been expected to perform and it is not in the interests of the Society that they should continue in office.

5.10.5. are removed from office by a simple majority of the Members in a Special Members Meeting, the notices for which specified that the question of the Director's removal was to be considered

5.11. The Management Committee shall elect from amongst themselves a Secretary, Chairperson Vice-Chairperson and a Treasurer. These officers shall have such functions as the Rules or the Management Committee specify, and they shall serve until they are removed or replaced by the Management Committee, or until they resign.

Meetings of the Management Committee

5.12. The Management Committee shall hold such meetings as it considers appropriate to discharge its roles and responsibilities.

5.13. Every meeting of the Management Committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson, or in their absence the Vice-Chairperson, or in their absence another member of the Management Committee chosen by those present.

5.14. Three members of the Management Committee shall comprise a quorum.

5.15. Members of the Management Committee may be counted in the quorum, participate in and vote at meetings of the Management Committee by telephone, video or other electronic means.

5.16. Unless the Rules provide otherwise, in the event of a decision to be made by a vote at meetings of the Management Committee, the decision shall be decided by a majority of votes. Each member of the Management Committee shall have one vote, and in the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

5.17. A resolution signed by all the members of the Management Committee has the same effect as a resolution validly passed at a meeting of the Management Committee. Each member of the Management Committee may sign a separate copy of the resolution and send a signed copy to the Secretary by email or other electronic means.

Disclosure of Interests

5.18. A member of the Management Committee shall declare an interest and shall not vote in respect of any matter in which they, or their spouse or ***partner*** or immediate relative, have a personal financial or other material interest. If they do vote, their vote shall not be counted.

Remuneration

5.19. Members of the Management Committee are not entitled to any remuneration, but they may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the Society's business.

Secretary

5.20. The Management Committee appoints and may remove the Secretary, and decides the terms of the appointment and whether any remuneration is to be paid.

5.21. A person does not have to be a Member in order to be appointed Secretary, and a member of the Management Committee may be appointed Secretary. However a person employed to carry out other services may not be appointed Secretary.

5.22. The Secretary

5.22.1. has the functions set out in the Rules and any other functions which the Management Committee assigns;

5.22.2. acts as Returning Officer at and is responsible for the conduct of all elections described in the Rules;

5.22.3. has absolute discretion to decide any issue or question which the Rules require the Secretary to decide.

6. REPORTING

Preparation of Accounts

6.1. In respect of each year of account, the Management Committee shall cause Annual Accounts to be prepared which shall include:

6.1.1. a revenue account or revenue accounts which singly or together deal with the affairs of the Society as a whole for that year and which give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure of the Society for that year; and

6.1.2. a balance sheet giving a true and fair view as at the date thereof of the state of the affairs of the Society.

Auditors and Audit

6.2. At the Annual Members' Meeting where, as a result of the provisions of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 the Society has the power to decide not to appoint an Auditor or Auditors to audit its Annual Accounts, a resolution shall be put to the Members to decide whether or not they wish to exercise the power.

6.3. Where required by law or the decision of the Members, the Society shall appoint in each year a qualified Auditor or Auditors to be the Auditors, and the following provisions shall apply to them.

6.3.1. The accounts of the Society for that year shall be submitted to them for audit as required by the law.

6.3.2. They shall have all the rights and duties in relation to notice of, and attendance and right of audience at Members' Meetings, access to books, the supply of information, reporting on accounts and otherwise, as are provided by the law.

6.3.3. Except where provided in the Rules, they are appointed by the Annual Members' Meeting, and the provisions of the law shall apply to the re-appointment and removal and to any resolution removing, or appointing another person in their place.

6.3.4. Their remuneration shall be fixed by the Management Committee in accordance with the Act.

6.4. The Management Committee may fill any casual vacancy in the office of Auditor until the next following Members' Meeting.

Presentation of Accounts

6.5. The Management Committee shall present the Annual Accounts and reports of the business and affairs of the Society to the Annual Members' Meetings.

6.6. The Management Committee shall lay Annual Accounts before the Annual Members' Meeting showing respectively the income and expenditure for and the state of the affairs of the Society as at the end of the Society's most recent financial year (or of such other period as the Management Committee may decide).

Publication of Accounts and Balance Sheets

6.7. Subject to the law, the Management Committee must not cause to be published any revenue account or balance sheet unless it has previously been audited by the Auditors unless the power in 6.2 not to appoint Auditors has been exercised and in its place an audit has been substituted by an accountant's report or lay auditors' report. Every revenue account and balance sheet published must be signed by the Secretary and by two Members acting on behalf of the Management Committee.

Copy of Balance Sheet to be Displayed

6.8. The Society must keep a copy of the last balance sheet for the time being, always displayed in a conspicuous place at its registered office together with the report of the Auditors if appointed.

Annual Return to be sent to Financial Conduct Authority

6.9. The Society must, within the time allowed by legislation in each year, send to the ***Financial Conduct Authority*** a general statement in the prescribed form, called the annual return, relating to its affairs during the period covered by the return, together with a copy of:

6.9.1. the Society's financial statements for the period included in the return; and

6.9.2. the report of the Auditors thereon if Auditors have been appointed.

and the most recent annual return of the Society shall be made available to any Member by the Secretary on request in writing free of charge.

7. CHANGE

Alterations to Rules

7.1. No new rule shall be made, nor shall any of the Rules be amended, unless it is approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at a Special Members' Meeting.

7.2. Notice of such a Special Members' Meeting shall specify the Rules to be amended, and set out the terms of all amendments or new rules proposed.

7.3. No amendment to any of the Rules and no new rule shall be valid until registered.

7.4. The Management Committee may change the situation of the Society's registered office. The Society will send notice of any such change to the ***Financial Conduct Authority***.

Restriction on use

7.5. Pursuant to regulations made under section 29 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014:

7.5.1. All of the Society's assets are subject to a restriction on their use.

7.5.2. The Society must not use or deal with its assets except:

7.5.2.1. where the use or dealing is, directly or indirectly, for a purpose that is for the benefit of the community;

7.5.2.2. to pay a Member of the Society the value of their withdrawable share capital or interest on such capital;

7.5.2.3. to make a payment pursuant to section 39 (proceedings on death of nominator), 40 (provision for intestacy) or 36 (payments in respect of mentally incapable persons) of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014;

7.5.2.4. to make a payment in accordance with the Rules of the Society to trustees of the property of bankrupt Members or, in Scotland, Members whose estate has been sequestrated;

7.5.2.5. where the Society is to be dissolved or wound up, to pay its creditors; or

7.5.2.6. to transfer its assets to one or more of the following:

(a) a prescribed community benefit society whose assets have been made subject to a restriction on use and which will apply that restriction to any assets so transferred;

(b) a community interest company;

(c) a registered social landlord which has a restriction on the use of its assets which is equivalent to a restriction on use and which will apply that restriction to any assets so transferred;

(d) a charity (including a community benefit society that is a charity); or

(e) a body, established in Northern Ireland or a State other than the United Kingdom, that is equivalent to any of those persons.

7.5.3. Any expression used in this Rule which is defined for the purposes of regulations made under section 29 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 shall have the meaning given by those regulations.

Transfers of Engagements

7.6. The Society may, by special resolution passed at a Special Members' Meeting in accordance with the Rules and in the way required by the law, amalgamate with or transfer its engagements to any ***society*** or convert itself into a ***company***. Nothing in this Rule shall entitle the Society to amalgamate with, transfer its engagements to or convert itself into a type of body that is not listed in Rule 7.5.2.6.

7.7. The Society may also accept a transfer of engagements and assets from any ***society*** by resolution of the Management Committee or of a Members' Meeting, as the Management Committee shall decide.

Dissolution

7.8. The Society may be dissolved by an Instrument of Dissolution or by winding up in the way required by the law. If on the solvent dissolution or winding up of the Society there remain, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities and the repayment of the paid-up share capital, any assets whatsoever, such assets shall be transferred in accordance with the provisions above headed "Restrictions on use".

7.9. Subject to those provisions, such assets shall be transferred to one or more community organisations that support the objects of the Society chosen by the Members at a Members' Meeting, which may include any society established by the ***Plunkett Foundation*** for the purpose of the creation, promotion and development of community-owned enterprises.

8. SHARE CAPITAL

8.1. The Society has shares of £1 each.

8.2. Application for shares shall be made to the Management Committee, and is subject to any maximum permitted by law. Shares shall be paid for in full on application or at the discretion of the Management Committee, shares can be paid in tranches over a period of not more than one calendar year. If the shares are not fully paid for at the end of the year the Society may terminate the membership and return all monies to the member.

8.3. The minimum shareholding shall be 500 (five hundred) shares. The Society may from time to time make a public share offer, and any such offer may specify a minimum number of shares.

8.4. Shares are not transferable except on death or bankruptcy, and are withdrawable at the sole discretion of the Management Committee in accordance with the Rules as follows:

8.4.1. shares may be withdrawn by Members who have held them for a minimum period of three years or such other period as the Management Committee decides;

8.4.2. application for withdrawal shall be made on not less than three months' notice, on a form approved by the Management Committee;

8.4.3. the Management Committee may specify a maximum total withdrawal for each financial year;

8.4.4. All withdrawals must be funded from trading profits, reserves or new share capital raised from Members, and are at the absolute discretion of the Management Committee having regards to the long term interests of the Society, the need to maintain prudent reserves, and the Society's commitment to community benefit. If any withdrawal is to be funded from reserves, the Management Committee must be satisfied that:

8.4.4.1. as a result of such withdrawal there will be no ground upon which the Society could then be found to be unable to pay (or otherwise discharge) its debts; and

8.4.4.2. the Society will be able to pay (or otherwise discharge) its debts as they fall due during the year immediately following the withdrawal.

8.4.5 all withdrawals shall be paid in accordance with the Society's policy on share withdrawals. If no such policy exists, all withdrawals shall be paid in the order in which the notices were received, up to a maximum total withdrawal specified for the financial year, following which no further withdrawals may be made until the following financial year;

8.4.6. except where a Member intends to terminate their membership, they shall not be permitted to withdraw shares leaving them with less than the minimum required by the Rules;

8.4.7. the Management Committee may in its absolute discretion waive the notice required for a withdrawal and may direct payment to be made without notice or on such shorter notice as it considers appropriate;

8.4.8. the Management Committee may suspend the right to withdraw either wholly or partially, and either indefinitely or for a fixed period. The suspension shall apply to all notices of withdrawal which have been received and remain unpaid at the time. Where the suspension is for a fixed period, it may be extended from time to time by the Management Committee;

8.4.9. during any period when the right of withdrawal has been suspended, the shares of a deceased Member may, if the Management Committee agrees, be withdrawn by their personal representatives on giving such notice as the Management Committee requires;

8.4.10. the Society may deduct such reasonable sum to cover administrative costs of withdrawal from the monies payable to a Member on the withdrawal of shares.

8.5. The Society may (but is under no obligation to) pay interest to holders of shares, as compensation for the use of such funds, subject to the following:

8.5.1. any payment of interest must be from trading profits and is at the discretion of the Management Committee having regard to the long term interest of the Society, the need to maintain prudent reserves and the Society's commitment to community benefit;

8.5.2. the rate of interest to be paid in any year is to be approved by resolution of the Members at the Annual Members' Meeting, and shall not exceed 5% or 2% above the base rate of the Bank of England whichever is the greater;

8.5.3. the Management Committee may decide that interest shall not be paid in relation to holdings of shares below a minimal level.

8.6. On the solvent winding-up of the Society, holders of shares will have no financial entitlement beyond the payment of outstanding interest and repayment of paid up share capital.

8.7. In the event that a Member resigns from membership, is removed from the Register of Members, or is expelled in accordance with the Rules, shares held by them at the date of resignation, removal or expulsion shall thereupon become a loan, repayable to the former Member by the Society. The terms of repayment shall be those applying to the withdrawal of share capital set out in the Rules, and notice of withdrawal shall be treated as having been given at the point of resignation, removal or expulsion.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE

Purpose, objects and powers

9.1. The Society's Purpose is to carry on business for the benefit of the community.

9.2. The Objects of the Society are, in accordance with its Purpose:

To purchase and run, as a profitable business, The Gun Inn, the last remaining amenity/public building in the village. To make the Gun Inn a community hub, offering facilities - eg children's play area, IT provision, meeting rooms - for the benefit of local residents.

9.3. The Society has the power to do anything which appears to it to be necessary or desirable for the purposes of or in connection with its Objects.

9.4. In particular it may:

9.4.1. acquire and dispose of property;

9.4.2. enter into contracts;

9.4.3. employ staff;

9.4.4. make use of the services of volunteers;

9.4.5. receive donations or loans free of interest for its Objects.

9.5. Any power of the Society to pay remuneration and allowances to any person includes the power to make arrangements for providing, or securing the provision of pensions or gratuities (including those payable by way of compensation for loss of employment or loss or reduction of pay).

9.6. The Society shall not accept deposits or conduct any activity that constitutes a 'regulated activity' for the purposes of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and 2012 without first applying for, and obtaining, authorisation for the conduct of any such activity.

Borrowing

9.7. Subject to the approval of the Management Committee, the Society may borrow money from its members and others for the purposes of or in connection with its Objects, providing that the amount outstanding at any one time shall not exceed £10,000,000.

9.7.1. The Society shall have the power to mortgage or charge any of its property, assets and undertakings, and to issue loan stock, debentures and other securities for money borrowed or for any contracts of the Society or its customers or persons or corporations having dealings with the Society under whatever security or conditions the Management Committee determine are necessary to obtain the capital required to fulfil the society's objects.

9.7.2. The rate of interest on money borrowed, except on money borrowed by way of bank loan or overdraft or from a finance house or on

mortgage from a building society or local authority, shall not exceed a reasonable rate necessary, in the opinion of the Board, to obtain and retain the capital required to carry out the objects of the Society, nor shall it risk the Society's status as a Community Benefit Society.

Investments

9.8. Subject to any restriction imposed by resolution of any Members' Meeting, the Management Committee may invest any part of the capital and funds of the Society in any manner which the Management Committee may from time to time determine, taking investment advice where appropriate and in accordance with the Society's policy on investments..

Books of Account

9.9. The Management Committee shall cause to be kept proper books of account with respect to the transactions of the Society, its assets and liabilities, and shall establish and maintain a satisfactory system of control of the books of account, the cash holdings and all receipts and remittances of the Society in accordance with the law.

Treatment of Profits

9.10. The profits of the Society shall not be distributed either directly or indirectly in any way whatsoever among Members, but shall be applied:

9.10.1. to maintain prudent reserves;

9.10.2. social payments furthering the objects of the Society;

9.10.3. on expenditure in carrying out the Society's Objects.

Minutes

9.11. The Management Committee shall cause proper minutes to be made of all Members' Meetings, meetings of the Management Committee and of any sub-committees. All such minutes shall be open to inspection by any Member at all reasonable times.

Settlement of Disputes

9.12. Any dispute, between the Society or an officer of the Society on the one hand and a Member or a person who has for not more than six months ceased to be a Member on the other hand, as to the interpretation of or arising out of the Rules shall (except as otherwise provided in the Rules) be referred, in default of agreement between the parties to the dispute, to a person appointed by the Chief Executive of the Plunkett Foundation, on application by any of the parties. The person so appointed shall act as sole arbitrator in accordance with the Arbitration Act 1996 or the Arbitration (Scotland) Act 2010 and such person's decision shall (including any decision as to the costs of the arbitration) be final.

Register of Members

9.13. The Society shall keep at its registered office a register of Members as required by the law. Any Member wishing to inspect the register (or any part of it) shall provide the Society with not less than 14 days' prior notice given in writing to the Secretary at the Society's registered office.

Copies of Rules and Regulations

9.14. The Secretary will provide a copy of the Rules to any person who demands it, and may charge a sum (not exceeding the maximum allowed by the law) for providing such a copy. Unless that person is a member who has not previously been provided with a copy of the rules.

Management Committee's and Officers' Indemnity

9.15. Members of the Management Committee and the Secretary who act honestly and in good faith will not have to meet out of their personal resources any personal civil liability which is incurred in the execution or purported execution of their functions, save where they have acted recklessly. Any costs arising in this way will be met by the Society. The Society may purchase and maintain insurance against this liability

for its own benefit and for the benefit of members of the Management Committee and the Secretary.

Deceased and bankrupt members

9.16. Upon a claim being made by the personal representative of a deceased Member or the trustee in bankruptcy of a bankrupt Member, any property to which the personal representative or trustee in bankruptcy has become entitled may be used as the personal representative or trustee in bankruptcy may direct.

9.17. A Member may in accordance with the law nominate any person or persons to whom any of their property in the Society at the time of their death shall be transferred, but such nomination shall only be valid to the extent for the time being provided by the law. On receiving satisfactory proof of the death of a Member who has made a nomination the Society shall, in accordance with the law, either transfer or pay the full amount of such property to the person so nominated.

10. START-UP PROVISIONS

10.1. The first Members of the Society shall be those who signed the application for registration.

10.2. The first Members shall appoint the first Management Committee who shall serve until the first Annual Members' Meeting.

10.3. At the conclusion of the first Annual Members' Meeting, all the members of the first Management Committee shall retire but shall be eligible for election to the Management Committee.

10.4. Those elected to the Management Committee shall take office immediately after the conclusion of the first Annual Members' Meeting, and the following provisions shall apply to them.

10.4.1. One third of those so elected, who obtained the highest number of votes, shall serve until the conclusion of the fourth Annual Members' Meeting.

10.4.2. One third who obtained the next highest number of votes shall serve until the conclusion of the third Annual Members' Meeting.

10.4.3. The remainder of those elected shall serve until the conclusion of the second Annual Members' Meeting.

11. TRANSITION PROVISIONS

11.1. If these model rules are adopted on a complete amendment of rules, the following provisions shall apply.

11.2. Those holding office as elected members of the Management Committee immediately prior to the adoption of these model rules shall continue in office until the next Annual Members' Meeting, and the following will then apply:

11.2.1. if, under the rules applying before the adoption of these model rules, members of the Management Committee were elected for a three year term of office, then the elected members of the Management Committee shall serve out the term of office for which they had been elected;

11.2.2. if, under the rules applying before the adoption of these model rules, members of the Management Committee were elected for any other term of office, all elected members of the Management Committee shall retire from office at the conclusion of the next Annual Members' Meeting; elections shall be held before the Annual Members' Meeting to fill the vacancies arising; and the following provisions shall apply:

11.2.2.1. one third of those elected, who polled the highest number of votes, shall serve a three year term of office ending at the conclusion of the fourth Annual Members' Meeting following the adoption of these model rules;

11.2.2.2. one third of those elected, who polled the next highest number of votes, shall serve a two year term of office ending at the conclusion of the third Annual Members' Meeting following the adoption of these model rules;

11.2.2.3. the remainder of those elected, who polled the lowest number of votes, shall serve a one year term of office ending at the conclusion of the second Annual Members' Meeting following the adoption of these model rules.

11.3. Those holding office as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Treasurer immediately prior to the adoption of these model rules shall continue in office until the first meeting of the Management Committee after the next Annual Members' Meeting. At the commencement of that Management Committee meeting, they shall retire from office and the Management Committee shall elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer.

11.4. The person holding office as Secretary immediately prior to the adoption of these model rules shall continue in office unless or until replaced by the Management Committee.

12 SIGNATURES OF MEMBERS

Signatures of Members	Full Names	Date
.....	Graham Green	18.11.19.
.....	John Bassett	18.11.19
.....	Jill Fenwick	20/11/19.
Signature of Secretary	Mark Stanton	28.11.19

FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY

Register a community benefit society

Section 1 – About this form

Use this form to register a community benefit society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 or the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969.

Use this form for either a new registration of a community benefit society, or for a conversion to a community benefit society from either a company or society registered under the Friendly Societies Act 1974.

To register a society we need:

- this completed form
- one signed copy of the society's rules (or two copies where not submitting electronically)

This form, including any details provided on the form, will be made available to the public through the Mutuals Public Register: https://mutuals.fca.org.uk..

Before you start completing this form you may find it helpful to read Chapter 5 of our guidance on our registration function under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014: https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/finalised-guidance/fg15-12.pdf

Section 2 – About this application

2.1 What are you applying to do?

Register a new community benefit society	x
Convert a company to a community benefit society	☐
Convert a friendly society into a community benefit society	☐

2.2 Who should we contact about this application?

Name	Mark Stanton
Position	Secretary
Postal address	Sarelaw House, Sarelaw Cottages, Ridsdale, NE48 2TB
Telephone number	07963 833 547
Email address	mark.stanton1301@icloud.com

Section 3 – About the society

3.1 What will be the registered name of the society? (This must be exactly as it appears on the society's proposed rules). Please see page 24 of our guidance for further guidance on society names.

Society name	Ridsdale Community Group Limited

All societies must be carrying out an industry, business or trade. Here we are looking to gain a practical understanding of what that is for your society.

3.2 What is the business of the society? For example, will you be providing social housing, running an amateur sports club, etc.

Running a public house as a community hub.

3.3 What Standard Industrial Classification code best describes the society's main business? Where more than one code applies, please select the code that you feel best describes the society's main business activity. You will find a full list of codes here: **http://resources.companieshouse.gov.uk/sic/**

56302

We need to be satisfied that a community benefit society is conducting its business for the benefit of the community. The conduct of a community benefit society's business must be entirely for the benefit of the community.

3.4 Please describe the benefits to the community the society aims to deliver? Here we are looking to see *what* the intended benefits to the community are. Community can be said to be the community at large. For example, are you relieving poverty or homelessness through the provision of social housing.

Saving the last remaining public building / amenity in the village of Ridsdale (The Gun Inn). To extend the amenities and facilities of The Gun Inn and make it a community hub; and, in so doing, to provide a sense of community and common purpose. The Gun will be much more than a pub: it will be responsive to community needs. A survey of residents has already shown a desire for such things as a safe play area for children, a meeting/function room for local clubs/societies, educational and craft classes and IT provision for residents without access to a computer / the internet.

3.5 Please describe how the society's business will deliver these benefits? The business of the society must be conducted for the benefit of the community. Please describe *how* the society's business (as described in answer to question 3.2) benefits the community.

The pub will be run as a profitable business, in order to fund the aims the Society have for it as a community hub.

3.6 Does the society intend to work with a specific community, and if so, please define it here? For instance, will the society's activities be confined to a specific location; or to a specific group of people? Please note that in serving the needs of any defined community, the society should not inhibit the benefit to the community at large.

The inhabitants of the village of Ridsdale and its environs.

3.7 In what ways does the society intend to raise funds to set up and run its business? For instance, are you intending to apply for grants, seek capital from members, take out a loan.

We are raising funds through a share offer. We hope to take advantage of locally available grants, and to meet any shortfall after this with a loan/mortgage.

3.8 What will the society do with any surplus or profit? For instance, will money be reinvested in the business; put into reserves; used for some other purpose?

Surplus/profit will be reinvested into the business to maintain and improve facilities and to ensure sufficient reserves are in place. Any remaining surplus/profit will be used for the benefit of the local community.

In order to satisfy ourselves that the society is conducting its business for the benefit of the community, we need to understand the society's relationships with other key stakeholders.

3.9 Please state any significant commercial arrangements that the society has, or intends to have, with any other organisation that could create, or be perceived as creating, a conflict of interest. Please tell us how you will ensure

that any such conflicts of interest do not prevent the society from acting for the benefit of the community.

N/A

3.10 Please state any close links which any of the founding members or directors has, or intends to have, with any society, company or authority. 'Close links' includes any directorships or senior positions held by directors or founding members of the society in other organisations.

Current directorships -
Mark Stanton: The North Literary Agency - Company No. 10969639
John Bassett:
Ordnance Test Solutions Limited – Company No. 05194390
Tribrisant Trading Company Limited – Company No. 07890425
Composite I Limited – Company No. 08849437
Jill Fenwick: Cultural Enterprises (Trading) Ltd

3.11 On what date do you want the society's financial year to end? This is the date the society's financial year will end, every year after the society is registered. If you have a preference (e.g. 31 March) please specify that here. If you do not select a date the society will be given the anniversary of the last day of the month it was registered in.

3	1	/	0	3

Asset lock

3.12 Has the society included the community benefit society statutory asset lock in its rules? Please note that a society with a statutory asset lock in its rules cannot remove it. The asset lock is only available to community benefit societies other than regulated housing associations or charities.

Yes ☒

No ☐

Charitable objects

3.13 Are the society's objects intended to be charitable? Whilst we are not responsible for regulating charities, we need to know this because societies whose objects are wholly charitable are subject to a number of requirements in the Act.

Yes ☐

No ☒

3.14 If charitable, what is your charitable purpose? Charity law in England and Wales differs to that in Scotland. If in doubt please refer to the charity legislation relevant for the area you are in. Please note that we will not assess whether your stated purpose meets the legal criteria for a charity.

Section 4 – The society's rules

4.1 If you have used a sponsoring body to submit this application please include their details here.

Name of sponsoring body	Plunkett Foundation
Name of model rules	Model Rules for Community Benefit Society June 2019
Signature on behalf of sponsoring body (unless submitted by email by the sponsor)	

Date	7/11/19

The Act requires rules of societies to make provision for all of the matters listed below. If you have not made provision for all of the matters listed below we will not be able to register your society.

4.2 Please complete this table

Provision required by the Act	**Number of the rule(s) covering this E.g. '2.3-2.7'**
The society's name	1.1
The objects of the society	1.3 and 9
Place of the society's registered office, to which all communications and notices may be addressed	1.2
The terms of admission of the members, including any society or company investing funds in the society under the provisions of the Act	3
The method of holding meetings, the scale and right of voting, and the method of making, altering or rescinding rules	2.4, 4 and 7
The appointment and removal of a committee (by whatever name) and of managers or other officers and their respective powers and remuneration	2.7 and 5
The maximum amount of the interest in the shares of the society which may be held by any member otherwise than by virtue of section 24(2) of the Act	8
whether the society may contract loans or receive moneys on deposit subject to the provisions of this Act from members or others, and if so under what conditions, under what security, and to what limits of amount	8.4, 9.6 and 9.7
Whether any or all shares are transferable, and provision for the form of transfer and registration of shares, and for the consent of the committee to transfer or registration Whether any or all shares are withdrawable, and provision for the method of withdrawal and for payment of the balance due on them on withdrawing from the society	8
Provision for the audit of accounts in accordance with Part 7 of the Act	6
Whether members may withdraw from the society and if so how, and provision for the claims of the representatives of deceased members and of the trustees of the property of bankrupt members (or, in Scotland, members whose estates have been sequestrated), and for the payment of nominees	8.4, 9.16 and 9.17
The way in which the society's profits are to be applied	9.10

If the society is to have a common seal, provision for its custody and use	NA
Whether any part of the society's funds may be invested, and if so by what authority and in what way	9.8

Section 5 – Converting to a society

You only need to complete this section if you are converting from a company or friendly society to a community benefit society. If this does not apply to you please move on to section 6.

Requirements

If you are converting a company into a society, three copies of a special resolution to convert the company, with the following information included in the resolution:

- Company name & number
- Date the resolution was passed
- Names of three members appointed to sign the society's rules and to either: accept alterations to the rules made by the FCA without further consulting the company; or lay any such alterations before a general meeting of the company for acceptance

Details

5.1 Please provide details of the friendly society or company you are converting from.

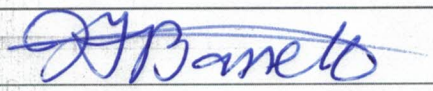
Name	
Registration number	
Registered office address	
Postcode	

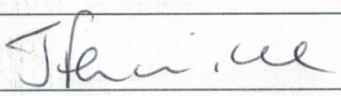
Section 6 – Member details

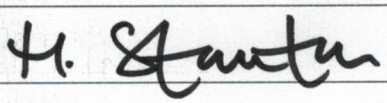
6.1 Please provide the details of the secretary below. All societies must have someone fulfilling the role of secretary.

Name	Mark Stanton
Month of birth	July
Year of birth	1970
Signature	
Date	7/11/19

6.2 Please provide the details of 3 members below.

Name	John Bassett
Month of birth	April
Year of birth	1945
Signature	
Date	7/11/19

Name	Jill Fenwick
Month of birth	January
Year of birth	1954
Signature	
Date	7/11/19

Name	Helen Stanton
Month of birth	October
Year of birth	1970
Signature	
Date	7/11/19

6.3 Societies are within the scope of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 (CDDA). Please confirm that no proposed director is disqualified under that Act:

No proposed director is disqualified x

Section 7 – Submission details

7.1 Please complete the submission checklist below.

Items		Options
The society's rules signed by three members and the secretary	☐	Two copies attached - submitting by post
	x	One copy attached - submitting by email
Marked-up copy of rules showing what changes the society is making to the model rules	☐	One copy attached
	☐	Not attached - not using model rules
	x	Not attached – using model rules with no changes
Special resolution to convert the company to a society, including the following information: • Company name & number • Date the resolution was passed • Names of three members appointed to sign the society's rules and to either: accept alterations to the rules made by the FCA without further consulting the company; or consult the company about any such alterations	☐	Three copies attached - submitting by post
	☐	One copy attached - submitting by email
	x	Not attached - not a company converting to a society
Cheque for registration fee made payable to the Financial Conduct Authority Please indicate below which fee is applicable to you, then select a box on the right to show how you are paying it: ☒ £40 - using model rules with no changes ☐ £120 - using model rules with 1-6 changes ☐ £250 - using model rules with 7-10 changes ☐ £950 - using model rules with 11 or more changes ☐ £950 - not using model rules ☐ No fee - Friendly society converting to a society	☐	Cheque attached – submitting this form by post
	x	Cheque posted separately – submitting this form by email
	☐	No fee - Friendly society converting to a society

Section 8 – Submitting this form

Please submit a signed, scanned version of your application by email to:
mutual.societies@fca.org.uk

Or please submit by post to:

Mutual Societies
Financial Conduct Authority
12 Endeavour Square
London
E20 1JN

This form is available on the **Mutuals Society Portal**: https://societyportal.fca.org.uk

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