



**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
OF EAST OF ENGLAND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
LIMITED HELD AT 10.30 A.M ON SATURDAY, 11TH
MAY 2013 AT WHERSTEAD PARK,
IPSWICH, IP9 2BJ**

Present: Mr J R Pendle President
 Mr C E Mann Vice-President
 14 Other Directors
 159 Other Members of the Society
 18 Associate Members (non-participating)

In Attendance Mr S Ormiston, PWC, auditors

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from 1 Director and 8 other Members of the Society.

Appointment of Scrutineers

RESOLVED: That the following Members be appointed scrutineers for the meeting:

 Lesley Frost
 Patricia Woods

Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th May 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the President.

Obituary – Les Double

The meeting observed a silence in respect of Mr Les Double, a Director of the Society who had died in service in January 2013. An obituary for Mr Double had been included in the Annual Report.

Report and Accounts – Year Ended 26th January 2013

The President and Executive Officer, Finance and Technology, presented the Report and Accounts for the year ended 26th January 2013. Profit before tax was £2.2 million, an expected fall of £9.5 million, due to a reduction in property values and reduced trading profits. However, underlying profit, though reduced, had not fallen by as much as had been expected and had amounted to £9.7 million. As reported at the 2012 Annual Meeting, to address the difficult economic situation, tough competition and continuing changes in consumer behaviour the Board and the Leadership Team had identified the need for significant investment in personnel, retail activities and the property portfolio. This investment programme was expected to result in reduced profits and cash balances in the short term but would steer the Society to long-term success.

Audit Report

Mr Colin Barrett, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the report of the Audit Committee.

Audit Opinion

Mr Simon Ormiston, Partner of PwC Chartered Accountants presented the unqualified audit opinion for the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 26th January 2013.

Remuneration Report

Mrs Sally Chicken, Chair of the Remuneration Committee, presented the Remuneration Report, highlighting work in connection with pension auto-enrolment and Executive appraisals.

Membership and Community Committee

Mr Phil Hartwell, as Chair of the Membership and Community, reported on the work of the committee during the year under review including the support for communities and charities throughout the area and in particular the funding of 100 defibrillators to be installed at sites agreed with the ambulance service across the Society's trading area.

Questions and Comments from Members

Questions and comments raised by Members referred to the following matters:

- The future of the Society's operations at Oxford Road, Clacton
- The future of the Education Centre, Fore Street, Ipswich
- The application of the Living Wage
- Consultancy fees
- Underlying Trading Profit
- Competition – particularly in Walton, Felixstowe
- Board size and financial knowledge and co-option of Directors

The President or the appropriate Committee Chair or Officer responded in each case.

The President then put the Board's recommendations to the meeting and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Remuneration Report for the year ended 26th January 2013 be received.

RESOLVED: That the Report and Accounts for the year ended 26th January 2013 be received.

RESOLVED: That the formula for the calculation of Directors' fees that had been in place since 2006 be retained for 2012-13, namely that:

i) Half the 2006 base fee of £6,000 be increased in line with Society wage inflation; and

ii) The other half be increased in proportion to the increase in the Society's disposable profit when compared with that for the accounting year ended 28th January 2006.

RESOLVED: That PwC be re-appointed Auditors for 2013-14.

RESOLVED: That a Dividend of £3,280,000, equivalent to a rate of 2.0%, be paid to Members upon the value of qualifying purchases made from the Society during the year ended 26th January 2013.

RESOLVED: That:
a) The Society maintain its affiliation to the Co-operative Party for 2013-2014: and
b) An overall Society subscription to the Party for 2013-14 be agreed at £31,848, an increase of 3.2% on the previous year in line with the increase in fees payable to Co-operatives UK and the International Co-operative Alliance.

Election Results – Board of Directors

The President reported that there had been 11 candidates standing for the 5 vacancies on the Board of Directors and that the results of the election were as follows:

<u>Elected for 4 years:</u>	<u>Votes cast:</u>
Christopher Newbury	1,675
Sally Chicken	1,621
John Pendle	1,575
Colin Barrett	1,462
 <u>Elected for 1 year:</u>	
Beverley Perkins	1,409
 <u>Unsuccessful Candidates</u>	
Karen Corley	1,067
Gareth Phillips	1,010
Lucy Allen	1,008
Danny Douglas	848
Cyril Liddy	790
Scott Grimmer	670

Close

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting, thanking Members for their attendance and participation.

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President

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Date