

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF EAST OF ENGLAND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED HELD AT 18:00 ON THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2022 – AT WHERSTEAD PARK, IPSWICH, IP9 2BJ, AND ONLINE (HYBRID MEETING)

Present:

Directors: Frank Moxon President
 Belinda Bulsing Vice-President
 Beverley Perkins Chair, Remuneration and Search Committee
 Richard Youngs Chair, Audit and Risk Committee

9 other Directors (in person)
 3 other Directors (on-line)

Executives: Nick Denny, Joint CEO, Property
 Doug Field, Joint CEO, Finance and Technology
 Niall O’Keeffe, Joint CEO, Membership and Marketing
 Jonathan Carey, Secretary

121 other Members of the Society (91 on-line, 30 in-person)

In Attendance Anup Sodhi, EY (External Auditors)

Welcome

The President provided the opening statement.

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence reported.

Community and Engagement – A Year in Review (video)

Niall O’Keeffe provided an overview on the work of the Society’s Community and Engagement Teams during 2021 – highlighting that over £200k had been provided to projects, events and charities, via the Community Cares Fund and that over £22k had been provided to support local Food Banks.

Election Results – Board of Directors

The Secretary reported that there had been 5 candidates standing for 4 vacancies on the Board of Directors. The results of the election were as follows:

	<u>Votes Cast:</u>
<u>Elected</u>	
Beverley Perkins (3-year term due to reaching 12 consecutive years-service in 2025)	3,608
Belinda Bulsing (4 years)	3,193
Sally Chicken (4 years)	3,070
Frank Moxon (4 years)	2,943
<u>Unsuccessful Candidates</u>	
Steven Shaw	1,728

Total number of ballot papers received:	4,515
By Post:	1,747
Online:	2,768
Spoilt papers:	9
Total number of valid ballot papers counted:	4,506

Minutes:

2021 AMM

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Members Meeting held on the 13 May 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the President.

Report and Financial Statements – Year Ended 22nd January 2022

Finance Update (video)

Doug Field and Lyndsie Goodwin (Head of Finance) presented the Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 22 January 2022.

Key matters raised included:

- Turnover had fallen back slightly from £349.6m to £348.6m (on a like-for-like basis) – this was to be expected as shopping habits return to normal following the national lockdowns. Positive note that turnover was however ahead of 2019/20 by £13.2m
 - Food stores sales reduced by £11m - but £5.9m ahead of pre-pandemic levels. This is due in part to a reduction in the average basket spend.
 - Forecourts – sales increased by £9.6m
 - Income from residential portfolio grew by over 10%
 - Travel sales remain significantly down on pre-pandemic levels but pleasingly starting to recover.
 - Sales in funeral business grew by £0.2m
- Trading profits have fallen by £6.1m to £1.5m:
 - Contribution from Food business fell by £4.8m – due in part to shopping habits changes and challenges with supply in the second half of the year.
 - Funeral business increased contribution by £0.9m
 - Travel business increased contribution by £0.5m
 - Central costs – increased in part due to higher insurance costs and a transition to a new pension fund governance model.
- Profit before tax and distributions increased from £1.0m to £9.6m
- Members' funds remained strong at £234.9m (up from £199.5m in 2020/21).

Audit & Risk Committee Report

Richard Youngs, Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, presented an overview of the Committee's work during the year – highlighting that due to the pandemic additional disclosures have been included within the annual report relating primarily to the going concern position of the business.

Audit Opinion

Anup Sodhi, Partner of EY presented the unqualified audit opinion for the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 22 January 2022.

Remuneration Report

Beverley Perkins, Chair of the Remuneration and Search Committee, presented the Remuneration Report for the year ended 22nd January 2022 along with the Board's proposal regarding Directors' fees for 2022-23.

Questions and Comments from Members

Members had had the opportunity to raise questions prior to the meeting along with submitting questions online during the meeting. Questions/comments raised covered the following matters:

- Food availability/supply chain challenges
- Future structural review
- Member engagement
- Too Good to Go scheme
- Own-brand value product range/food price rises
- EV charging potential at Society locations
- Defined benefit pension scheme update
- Cost of living support for Members
- Soft plastic collection points
- Future food store opportunities

In each case the appropriate Joint Chief Executive or Committee Chair responded accordingly. Members were advised that questions that were unable to be answered during the meeting would be collated and responses posted on the Society's website shortly after the meeting.

Motions:

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

- RESOLVED: That the Report and Accounts for the year ended 22 January 2022 be received.
- RESOLVED: That the Remuneration Report for the year ended 22 January 2022 be received.
- RESOLVED: That the Directors' fees for 2022-23 be increased by 2.5% to £9,346 per annum.
- RESOLVED: That a sum not exceeding £12,000 in total for the financial year 2022-23 be approved to remunerate directors for undertaking

activities on behalf of the Society which are outside of their core role.

RESOLVED: That EY be re-appointed as the Society's External Auditor for the year ended 28 January 2023.

RESOLVED: That the distribution of a Dividend of £1,221,000 in June 2022, equivalent to 1% of qualifying spend, be paid on the value of Members' qualifying purchases made from the Society during the year ended 22 January 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Society maintains its affiliation to the Co-operative Party for the 12 months ended June 2023 at a subscription of £34,000.

Sustainability Approach (video)

Members received a video update presented by Nick Denny setting out details of the Society's approach to sustainability.

Vote of Thanks

On behalf of the Board the President thanked colleagues involved in arranging the AMM.

Close

The President closed the meeting.

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President

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Date

