



Present:

Chair **Mr D Cowell**

President **Ms C Nel**

Directors: **Ms N Berry, Ms J Moate, Mr J Scott, Mrs J Romney,
Mr I Haldenby, Mr R Wills, Ms J Munn, Mr S Hughes**

Chief Executive: **Mrs A Hands**

Group Secretary & General Counsel: **Mr R Allen**

Members present in person: 402

Non-Members present in person: 7

Members present online: 173

Non-Members present

Online: 4

Guests: 26

Item 1: To receive the minutes of the Annual Members' Meeting held on 8 December 2022

The minutes of the annual members' meeting held on 8 December 2022 were approved by the members.

322 votes for (98.77%), 4 votes against (1.23%), 28 votes withheld.

Item 2: To receive the Directors' Half Yearly Report

The Chair introduced Alison Hands, the Society's recently appointed Chief Executive Officer, to deliver the first update in the Directors' Half Yearly Report to 4 March 2023.

The Chief Executive Officer presented the key aspects of the Society's trading activities, the steps that had been taken to give effect to the Society's purpose, and summarised the financial performance for the half year. She then introduced the Chair to deliver the second update in the Directors' Half Yearly Report.

The Chair highlighted the investment in services made by the Society, including new food stores and refurbishments, property regeneration activity across the trading area, and the success of member campaigns.

The Chair introduced the Society's President, Claudia Nel, to deliver the final update in the Directors' Half Yearly Report.

The President reflected on the awards won across the Society, and the success of community-led projects such as warm spaces, community flu clinics, and ten years of the Community Champions Scheme.

She then introduced a presentation on how to make Lincolnshire Co-op Membership go further, and re-introduced the Chair.

The Chair thanked Claudia Nel for her commitment as President over the last year.

The Chair invited questions from members in relation to the Directors' Half Yearly Report. He explained that several questions had been submitted prior to the start of the meeting by Members and that Members attending the meeting virtually could also submit questions if they wished to do so. Members asked about:

- Plans for the newly acquired Waterside Shopping Centre.
- Lincolnshire Co-op events, including logistics and travel arrangements for attendees, and the Society's future presence at the Lincolnshire Show.
- In relation to the food business – plans for the Grimsby and Skellingthorpe stores, use of Amex cards, product ranging, best before dates on milk, and renewable energy sources.
- Employee remuneration, and the policies and practices supporting disabled employees.
- Development of the new membership digital application.

Each matter was addressed as appropriate by a member of the Society's executive team or Board of Directors.

The Chair proposed the resolution to receive the Director's Half Yearly Report for the year ending 3 September 2022.

359 votes for (99.45%), 2 votes against (0.55%), 11 votes withheld.

Item 3: To approve a change to the Society Rule Book concerning Young Members (Special Resolution)

The Chair introduced the special resolution to approve a change to the Society Rule Book (and Rules 11 and 12 specifically) concerning young members. Before putting the resolution to vote, he explained that the Society is exploring the future use of digital services to provide some of its membership benefits. Privacy laws and guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office make clear that the current effective age for consenting to receive digital services is 13 and not 12 as currently stated in the Society's Rule Book.

The Chair asked the members to approve the change to the Society Rule Book.

325 votes for (95.31%), 16 votes against (4.69%), 28 votes withheld.

Item 4: To declare the results of the election for three members of the Board of Directors

The Chair invited Robert Allen, the Society's Group Secretary & General Counsel, to declare the results for the election. The Group Secretary & General Counsel expressed gratitude to all candidates and members eligible to vote for their participation in this year's election process. Julia Romney, Mark Fields, and Nicola Berry were noted as receiving the highest number of votes (6,666, 6,366 and 6,132 votes respectively) and duly elected to the Board of Directors. The Group Secretary & General Counsel concluded the item by confirming that a total of thirteen thousand, seven hundred and forty six pounds (£13,746) would be donated to the Society's current Community Champions schemes, equating to one pound (£1) for every valid vote submitted during the election.