

Minutes of the Half Year Members' Meeting  
held at Lincolnshire Showground  
on 11 June 2022 at 1.00pm and electronically via Lumi



**Present as Directors on the Rostrum:**

Mr D. Cowell (Society Chair), Mrs J. Moate (Society President), Mrs C. Nel (Society Vice-President), Mr S. Hughes, Mr I. Haldenby, Ms J. Munn, Mr J. Scott and Mrs N. Berry.

**Also Present on the Rostrum:**

Ms U. Lidbetter (Chief Executive Officer) and Mr M. Borrill (Interim Group Secretary).

**Apologies:**

Mrs M. Tranter, Mrs J. Romney and Mr R. Wills

**Present at the meeting:**

219 eligible members (including 26 Members present electronically) and 9 guests.

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting attending in person and electronically.

**Minutes of the Annual Members' Meeting held on 9th December 2021**

The Chair explained that a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th December 2021 were made available to Members on arrival at the meeting and were available online for those attending the meeting electronically. The Chair proposed the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2021 should be received. Members approved the resolution as follows: 181 votes for (92.35%) 1 vote against (0.51%), 14 abstentions (7.14%).

**Directors' Half Year Report**

The Chair introduced the item and introduced the Chief Executive Officer who presented an update on the Society's performance and community activities during the half-year period ending 5th March 2022. In particular, she highlighted that: work was continuing to meet the new regulatory requirements which would govern the future sale of funeral plans from 29 July 2022; overall, sales in the first half year rose from £170.7m to £195.4m. This is mainly down to the improved performance of the travel business; the group's trading surplus rose 8.2 per cent from £8.2m to £8.9m; and that economic conditions had become less certain with inflation and rising costs meaning that there were more difficult times to come for the public and businesses. The Society was continuing to respond to this change in the environment.

The Chair went on to provide an update on a number of colleague and community initiatives and explained that the Society had recently found recruitment more challenging due to tighter conditions in both the national and local labour markets. The Chair introduced Jane Moate who provided an update on a number of Member related matters. In particular she reported that 8,630 members signed up for dividend cards this half year, including 747 junior members and that the Society had recently celebrated achieving a new milestone for Membership with the number of Society Members exceeding 300,000 for the first time. In addition, the Society had appointed a Sustainability Advisor to help the Society set meaningful goals in-line with the Science Based Targets initiative.

The Chair invited questions from Members on the Director's Half Year Report. A number of Members asked questions in relation to operational matters relating to the Society's food store chain (which were addressed by Matt Wilkinson (Store Development Manager) and the Pharmacy chain which were addressed by Alastair King (Pharmacy Operations Manager).

The Chair invited members to vote on the resolution to Receive the Directors Half Year Accounts. Members approved the resolution as follows: 176 (96.17%) in favour, 4 votes against (2.19%) and 3 abstentions (1.64%).

The Chair thanked Jane Moate for her service as the Society's President and went on to say that she would be succeeded in that role by Claudia Nel and wished her success in that role. He also said that the Society's Chief Executive Officer would be retiring at the end of the year and went on to thank her on behalf of the Board for her 37 years of service to the Society including over 18 years in the role of Chief Executive Officer. He also went onto thank Margaret Tranter who was now retiring from the Society's Board of Directors for her contribution to the affairs of the Society and to extend the Board's thanks to all Society colleagues for their work and continuing commitment and the Society's Members for their continued support.

**Close of meeting.**