

notice by any owner shall not invalidate the proceedings at a general meeting.

24. The expenses of all general meetings, including the expenses of the meeting summoned under Clause 17 of the Scheme, shall be regarded as expenses of the Board and shall be paid out of the District Fund.

25.—(1) At the first and each subsequent annual general meeting, the owners present shall appoint a Chairman and Deputy Chairman of general meetings who shall hold office until the next following annual general meeting when they shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election.

(2) Such Chairman, or in his absence, the Deputy Chairman, shall preside at all general meetings, and in the absence of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, the owners present at the meeting may appoint a Chairman for that meeting from those present thereat.

26. No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum of twenty owners or their representatives are personally present:

Provided that if at any meeting a quorum is not present within half-an-hour after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the Chairman of the meeting may adjourn the same until such date as he may decide, being not less than seven days or more than 14 days later, and at the adjourned meeting the owners or their representatives actually present shall form a quorum.

27. Each owner shall by notice in writing to the Secretary nominate a representative being an owner or where the owner is a Corporation, a Director, Secretary, or other principal officer of such Corporation to attend and vote at general meetings and (if an individual) may nominate himself. Each owner may further in like manner nominate a substitute to attend and vote at any meeting when the first nominated representative is unable to attend and vote thereat, and such substitute shall be entitled to attend any meeting with the first nominated representative without taking any part in the proceedings of the meeting. Any such nomination may be revoked by similar notice by the nominator who may in like manner make a new nomination.

28. At any general meeting:—

(1) Any matter put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided by show of hands unless a poll is demanded at the meeting and on such show of hands each representative or substitute present shall have one vote;

(2) In the event of equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote;

(3) Unless a poll is demanded, the declaration by the Chairman of the meeting that a Resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or lost and an entry to the effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded for or against the Resolution;

(4) The decision of the Chairman of the meeting as to the result of the voting on any Resolution shall be final.

29. On a poll, which shall be taken at the meeting, every owner of a coal mine or undertaking as the case may be present or who has appointed a proxy for the meeting shall have

one vote and one further vote for each complete 5,000 tons of the annual standard tonnage of his coal mine or undertaking as the case may be:

Provided that at any general meeting held during the first year of operation of the scheme before standard tonnages have been determined, every owner present or who has appointed a proxy for the meeting shall have one vote and one further vote for each complete 5,000 tons of the output of his coal mine or undertaking in the period of twelve months ended 31st December, 1929.

30. Votes on a poll at any general meeting may be given either personally or by proxy such proxy being an owner or his representative or where the owner is a Corporation a duly authorised Director or Secretary or other principal officer of such Corporation, and in the latter event the instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing and shall be sent to the Secretary not less than two days before the meeting takes place.

31.—(1) A minute book of the proceedings at general meetings shall be kept by the Secretary and all Resolutions and the result of voting thereon shall be entered therein.

(2) The minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the Chairman of the meeting at which they are approved and such signature shall be sufficient evidence of their accuracy.

Notice of Decisions of the Board and other Notices.

32. The Board shall, through the Secretary, give notice in writing of their decisions, and of the decisions of any of their Sub-Committees, to all owners immediately after the decisions have been reached. Such notices and any other notices to be given by the Board to any owners individually under the provisions of the Scheme shall be addressed either to the registered office of the owner, to his principal place of business, or to such address as he may furnish to the Secretary as appropriate for the service of such notices, and they may be served either personally or by prepaid post, and if posted shall be deemed to have been received by the owner within 24 hours of the posting thereof.

Amendment of Scheme.

33. The owners may, by Resolution in general meeting from time to time, authorise the Board to submit to the Board of Trade any alteration in the provisions of the Scheme or a new scheme in substitution therefor, and the Board shall thereupon submit such alteration or new scheme in writing to the Board of Trade:

Provided that—

(a) The method of voting on the Resolution authorising any such submission shall be that prescribed in Clauses 28 and 29 of the Scheme;

(b) The Resolution in order to have effect must be supported by at least 51 per cent. of the total number of votes that could be recorded under those Clauses by all the owners;

(c) In the event of the Board failing to submit the alteration or new scheme in writing to the Board of Trade within seven days of the passing of an effective Resolution hereunder, any owner may so submit the same; and