

# SPAXTON COMMUNITY STORES

## COMMUNITY SHARE OFFER

Your investment in the future of your village

*There are now over 300 community shops in the UK including 22 in Somerset. They are non-profit making, owned by the community, run by the community, for the benefit of the community.*

The Spaxton Community Shop opened in Jan 2015 and the post office opened a year later. It is proving a great facility and a friendly meeting point in the village. It is a not-for-profit business, run primarily with the aim of providing the village with the kind of products and services that you, the village, want.

The responsibility for and the running of Spaxton Community Stores is undertaken by the Management Committee, with a maximum of 12 members who are all directors. To be nominated for election to the Management Committee at the AGM, you must first be a shareholder.

### **The Share Offer**

We have over 300 shareholders, who between them bought just over £30,000 worth of shares. This share capital provided about a fifth of the cost of the original project. Equally important, the commitment it demonstrated was an important factor in persuading grant-givers that this project was fully supported by the community.

We do welcome new shareholders. We no longer need more share capital but we do want and need participation from the community, and becoming a shareholder offers you the chance to attend and vote at the Annual Members Meeting and to put yourself forward to becoming a member of the Management Committee.

### **How the share offer works**

- The shares are allocated in units of £5 and anyone over the age of 16 may buy a share.
- It is a long term investment for the benefit of the community.
- By buying a share you automatically become a member of the society and will be eligible to vote at its annual general meeting.
- You have only 1 vote no matter how many shares you have bought.
- The size of each shareholding will be confidential but membership of the society will be a matter for public record.
- The shares will not increase in price beyond their original value; however it is generally recognised that having a village shop adds value to your home.
- The shares will not attract financial interest –any surplus will be reinvested in the shop.
- Shares cannot be sold but can be transferred on death to a representative.
- You may withdraw your shares after 5 years but see the legal statement on p.5.
- If the business fails the most you stand to lose is the value of your shares. (96% of community shops have succeeded)

## **Frequently Asked Questions.**

### **1) Why should this shop succeed when the previous post office shop has been forced to close?**

Willing volunteers provide the key to success. 97% of community shops are successful businesses. Since our original share offer 5 new shops have opened in Somerset.

### **2) Who started the organisation of this venture?**

The community shop venture was started and organised by a group of volunteers who believe in the importance of preserving a village store and post office for the benefit of the whole community.

### **3) Can I rely on the integrity of the people administering the Shares Offer?**

All the people in a position to handle the money live in the village and are known to the community or are engaged as professionals. Their names are published in our documents. Elections to the Management Committee take place at the AGM. This should ensure that the committee members are accountable to the shareholders.

### **4) Who runs the shop?**

The shop is run by a part-time manager who is supported by a team of volunteers. We also employ a part-time bookkeeper. All are accountable to the Management Committee, the members of which are elected by the shareholders at successive AGMs.

### **5) How do we recruit sufficient volunteers to serve customers and service the shop?**

We have around 50 volunteers who work in the shop. We are always keen to gain more volunteers to work a regular shift a week or just be available to cover the occasional gaps each week

**Data Protection Information.** See also the privacy statement on our web site

Please note that we take data protection seriously and we observe all the recent regulations on this matter. We keep your contact details secure. We will use them only to communicate with you as a share holder. We are obliged to send you notice of the shareholders' AGM and from time to time we may need to send all shareholders other information.

In addition we would like to send you a newsletter two or possibly three times a year.

We do not pass your details on to any third parties. We will not send you marketing newsletters.

We are asking for email addresses to help reduce our on- going costs and trust that you will be happy to provide this.

## **Useful contacts:**

**Committee members** as of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

Josh Schwieso: Chairman

Cath Macadam

Simon Haswell: Treasurer

Patricia Edwards

Sally Foxhall

Sonia Hulejczuk

Szilvi Hardwick

Alison Goldie: Hon Secretary

Lee Spreadbury

Sarah Upfield

Anthony Burgess-Parker

Please feel free to contact any of us on particular issues concerning our community store. If you think you may be able to offer a few hours of your time to help the committee in any way please contact our manager Karen Dennett on the shop telephone 01278 671487 or email. [mgr.spaxtonstores@gmail.com](mailto:mgr.spaxtonstores@gmail.com)

To find out more about community shops [www.plunkett.co.uk](http://www.plunkett.co.uk)

# Spaxton Community Shop Society Ltd. - Share Offer

## Share Application Form

As a resident of the parish of Spaxton or a person who has a strong connection with the village, you are invited to join the above named society. The shares are allocated in units of Five Pounds and anyone over the age of 16 may buy a share.

By buying a share you automatically become a member of the Society and will be issued with a share certificate. You will be eligible to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Name.....

Address .....

.....

Post code..... Tel no: .....

E-mail address .....

**I wish to purchase one share at the value of £5. I enclose a cheque for this amount.**

Payable to: 'The Spaxton Community Shop Society Ltd'.

I have read all the attached documents and agree to be bound by the Rules of the Society.

I am over 16 years old.

I wish to receive the newsletter (please see above under Data protection)      Yes    or    No

Signed

Date

*Additional forms may be copied from this one or found on the website <https://spaxtonstores.co.uk/>*

Please return this form with your cheque to:

The secretary

Spaxton Community Stores  
High Street, Spaxton,  
Bridgwater,  
Somerset,  
TA5 1BS

### **Legal Statements of the Society's Rules Regarding Share Capital**

- 1) The value of a share is £5.
- 2) Application for shares shall be made to the Management Committee and is subject to any maximum permitted by law. Shares shall be paid for in full on application.
- 3) The minimum shareholding shall be one share. The Society may from time to time make a public share offer and any such share offer may specify the minimum number of shares.
- 4) Shares are not transferable except on death or bankruptcy and are may be withdrawn in accordance with the following rules:
  - 4.1) Shares may be withdrawn by members who have held them for a minimum of five years or such other period as the Management Committee decides;
  - 4.2) Application for withdrawal shall be made on not less than three months' notice on a form approved by the Management Committee;
  - 4.3) The Management Committee may specify a maximum total withdrawal for each financial year;
  - 4.4) All withdrawals must be funded from trading surpluses or new share capital raised from members and are at the discretion of the Management Committee having regard to the long-term interests of the Society, the need to maintain prudent reserves, and the Society's commitment to community benefit.
  - 4.5) All withdrawals shall be paid in the order in which the notices were received up to any maximum total withdrawal specified for the financial year, following which no further withdrawals may be made;
  - 4.6) Except where a member intends to terminate their membership, they shall not be permitted to withdraw shares leaving them with less than the minimum required by the rules;
  - 4.7) The Management Committee may waive the notice required for a withdrawal and may make a direct payment to be made without notice or on such short notice as it considers appropriate;
  - 4.8) The Management Committee may suspend the right to withdraw either wholly or partially and either indefinitely or for a fixed period. The suspension shall apply to all notices of withdrawal which have been received and remain unpaid at the time. Where suspension is for a fixed period it may be extended from time to time by the Management Committee;
  - 4.9) During any period when the right to withdrawal has been suspended the shares of a deceased member may, if the Management Committee agrees, be withdrawn by their personal representatives on giving such notice as the Management Committee requires;
  - 4.10) The Society may deduct such reasonable sum to cover administration costs of withdrawal from the moneys payable to a member on the withdrawal of shares.
- 5) The Society may (but is under no obligation to) pay interest to holders of shares as compensation for the use of such funds subject to the following:
  - 5.1) Any payment of interest must be from trading surpluses and is at the discretion on the Management Committee having regard to the long term interests of the Society, the need to maintain prudent reserves and the Society's commitment to community benefit;
  - 5.2) The rate of interest to be paid in any year is to be approved by resolution of the members at the Annual Members' Meeting and shall not exceed 2% above the base rate of the Co-operative Bank PLC from time to time;
  - 5.3) The Management Committee may decide that interest shall not be paid in relation to holdings of shares below a minimum level.
- 6) On the solvent winding up of the Society holders of shares will have no financial entitlement beyond the payment of outstanding interest and repayment of paid up share capital;
- 7) In the event that a member resigns from membership, is removed from the register of Members, or is expelled in accordance with the rules, shares held by them at the date of resignation, removal or expulsion shall thereupon become a loan, repayable to the former member by the Society. The terms of repayment shall be those applying to the withdrawal of share capital set out in the Rules and notice of withdrawal shall be treated as having been given at the point of resignation, removal or expulsion.

A full copy of the full Rules of the Society (The Governing Document) is available on the web-site.