

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting of the Society held on
Monday 23rd November 2009, in the Village Hall commencing at 8 pm.**

1. Present

Peter Ewin (in the Chair) and 63 other members.

2. Apologies

These were received from a further 7 members.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the AGM held on 24th November 2008 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Chairman's proposal for the Election of a President

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the meeting and wished to inform them that there had been no president of the Society since the death of Dr Bower, who had enjoyed considerable standing in the West Midlands. Therefore if there was to be a President of the Society, they would have to reflect such standing. Peter Ellis' past involvement of 20 years in the Society, during which he fulfilled a variety of positions, latterly as archivist, suggested to the Chairman that Peter did reflect such standing as had Dr Bower. The motion the Chairman therefore wished to put to the meeting was to appoint Peter as President for an initial term of 5 years. It was to be an honorary position and those Members who knew him would, he hoped, support the motion. The motion, being formally proposed and seconded, was carried unanimously by the Members present.

Peter Ellis, upon taking his seat, gave his acceptance with a very few words. He was honoured that his proposal of nomination was accepted. Dr Bower was in fact, the Society's first President after 39 years of service. His legacy was to see the continued defence from such developments that would spoil Knowle as well as expanding the activities of the Society and an increasing membership and Peter said he would do his best during his term of office to continue with that legacy.

5. Chairman's Report

A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached to these Minutes.

6. Treasurer's Report and receiving of Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2009

Peter Johnson presented the Report & Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2009. He apologised for the expansion of the document which now ran to 15 pages. This was to meet current legislation of the Companies Acts and charity law. He went on to say that the Objectives and Activities on Page 3 make an accurate assessment of the Society's activities. The Statement of Financial Activities on Page 6 (known previously as the Profit and Loss Account) identified what happened to members' subscriptions. The Balance Sheet on page 7 makes reference to 'Restricted Funds' and these are for specified purposes. The 'Cash at Bank' is in a high interest account. However, the Reserves at the end of the financial year were £20,888 overall.

Funds committed against this sum are £5,000 for the Knowle Green Community Project and £7,000 for new storage cabinets for the History Group's Library archives.

The breakdown of income and expenditure on page 12, whilst noting income from interest received, indicated the biggest sources as subscriptions and tax refunds arising from Gift Aid. Expenditure includes principally the Newsletter, Christmas Lights and the Festival in the Park. These activities reflect the involvement of the Society. Charitable activities include a contribution to the new tables and chairs in the Village Hall, Scout Hut and sponsorship of the flower tubs in the High Street. In addition, the History Group purchased new filing cabinets for their use in the Library.

The Members unanimously agreed to receive the Report and Accounts.

Peter asked the meeting to consider a shortened version of the Accounts be presented in the future, such to include the Objectives and Activities on one sheet with a second sheet on which would be indicated the important contents of the overall accounts. These would be available to all, thus making them much easier to understand and use. Copies of the full accounts would however, be available on request. The Members unanimously agreed to the proposal.

Peter went on to say that with the short period of time available between the preparation of the accounts and the date of the AGM generally being 8/9 weeks later, consideration by the meeting was requested for future AGMs to be held early in the new year, perhaps at the end of February. Again, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposal.

Finally, the annual subscription rates of £3 for individuals, £5 for couple and £25 for corporate Members, were proposed to be retained for the coming year. The Members unanimously agreed to the proposal.

7. Election of Officers for the ensuing year

The following names had been duly proposed and seconded by Members:

Chairman	Peter Ewin
Deputy Chairman	Leighton Jones
Hon. Secretary	Andrew Marston
Hon. Treasurer	Peter Johnson

No other nominations were received and these Officers were elected to the positions shown for the next 12 months. They would also serve as ex-officio Trustee Directors.

8. Election of Trustee Directors

One member, having completed his term and being willing to continue as Trustee Director, had been duly proposed and seconded to serve by Members. The member was:-

John Rowley.

In addition, three members had been duly proposed and seconded to serve as Trustee Directors. They were:-

Bryan Smart, Ian Simmonds and William Bohanna.

No other nominations were received and as this number was less than the number of vacancies, they were declared elected. Each of these four members so elected would serve for three years.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Peter Johnson announced that the firm of West & Co, now based in Knowle, has agreed to continue to act as Independent Examiners and their office can remain as the Society's Registered Office. Their services will be as before, and includes their check of the year's accounts and signing them off. The Members unanimously agreed to the Proposal.

10. Any Other Business

No items were raised under this heading and the Chairman closed this part of the meeting at 8.45pm.

Notes on Notices given at the end of the AGM

The History Group went in some detail regarding the need for new storage cabinets for their archives in the Library and that two quotations had been received but their wording was 'loose' and thus extra detail was required. It was proposed to utilise the monies raised for the Derek Mellor Fund (approximately £700) with the Society to make up the approximate £5,000 balance. There were no objection from the Members and the Trustee Directors anticipate a purchase as soon as possible.

The Planning Committee has concerns as to Knowle by the use of Sainsbury's lorries in their servicing the proposed new Dorridge supermarket.

The Members were advised that not only was Ian Simmonds the new chairman, but also the Environment Committee was in future to be known as the Natural Environment Committee.

The Members were up-dated on the Knowle Green Community Project and a meeting had been held that morning at the Council House between Council Officer Kath Hemmings, Groundwork's Simon Jones and Knowle Society's Gary Masters. Following the initial difficulty of the question of land ownership, now satisfactorily resolved, the operations of Groundwork West Midlands had been delayed by their need to carry out an internal re-organisation. Gary confirmed that work was now underway and the first step would proceed towards lodging a planning application with the Council. Funding applications for the project will probably have to be made by Knowle Society on behalf of the Community although considerable help will be provided by Groundwork.

The current membership requires 78 distribution rounds for the Newsletter to be delivered safely, with at present 20 still to provide their reports as to the current receipt of subscriptions. However, only 82 Standing Orders had been received and the Members are to be encouraged for a greater number to utilise this facility of paying their subscription in the future.

The Website was now publishing a monthly report as an insight of what is happening in the Society by the Trustee Directors. In addition, there had been an up-date of plastic recycling/bus timetable/and accessible archives.

The Chairman's closing remarks included that he hoped the Members present approved the format of the meeting but welcomed any comments from Members.

The meeting finished at approximately 9.40pm.