

**THE KNOWLE SOCIETY**  
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society held on  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010, in the Village Hall commencing at 8 pm.**

**1. Welcome**

Peter Ewin (in the Chair) welcomed the 57 other members and Mike Trigg and Ernest Petrie, representing the potential Lawsonford Conservation Society.

**2. Apologies**

These were received from Norman Stanley and Cllr Diana Holl-Allen.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**4. Chairman's Report**

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

**5. Treasurer's Report and receiving of Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

Peter Johnson presented the shortened version of the Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, a copy which had been attached to the Agenda and handed to all present. He advised that this paper was that as agreed by those present at the last AGM as the full document of the Report & Accounts, once again, ran to 15 pages. This was to meet current legislation of the Companies Acts and charity law. Copies of the full set of Report & Accounts were available on request. The Objectives and Activities on Pages 2 and 3 of the Report had also been attached to the Agenda and made an accurate assessment of the Society's activities

Funds committed last year of £7,000 for new storage cabinets for the History Group's Library activities had been expended and were a credit to the Society. This cost was included under the item of Fixed Assets on the Balance Sheet at the written down figure of £4,980.

In addition, there is still £5,000 for the Knowle Green Community Project committed against the total of funds held by the Society.

The reduction in income received was mainly due to the reduced sum of interest received on monies held on deposit, interest rates continuing to be at historic low rates. Expenditure was increased over previous years due in part to the cost of meetings, Newsletter and other income generating costs. The single largest item of additional expenditure over previous years however, was the cost to the Society created by the Detailed Planning Application submitted by Kimberley Developments for the proposed new Waitrose supermarket. The Society had organised a public meeting for which flyers had been distributed to every home in Knowle together with the hire of the Arden School Hall.

Charitable activities included Solihull Environmental Champions and continuing sponsorship of the flower tubs in the High Street.

The members present unanimously agreed to receive the Report and Accounts. They also unanimously agreed to maintain the current levels of subscription - £3 for individuals, £5 for couples and £25 for corporate members – for another year.

**6. Election of Chairman for the ensuing year**

The Chairman yielded the floor to the President, Peter Ellis, to advise the members that Peter Ewin's name had been duly proposed and seconded by members to continue to act as Chairman and there had been no other nomination received. He went on to say that he considered that Peter had executed his office magnificently under what had become a very busy year with many different items requiring much time and effort to resolve on behalf of members. The members present voted unanimously for Peter's re-election as Chairman.

**7. Election of Officers for the ensuing year**

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

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**

Three members, having completed their term and being willing to continue as Trustee Directors, had been duly proposed and seconded to serve by members. The members are:-

Dave Pinwell, Charles Robinson and Anne Smith.

No other nominations were received and as this number was less than the number of vacancies, they were each declared elected. All three would serve for three years.

**9. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Peter Johnson announced that the Knowle-based firm of West & Co, has agreed to continue to act as Independent Examiner 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. Special Resolution to amend future AGM dates**

Peter Johnson reminded members of the short time that was available between the end of the Financial Year and the November date of the AGM during which it was necessary to complete, finalise and approve the Accounts for the immediately preceding year to the AGM. It had been brought to the attention of members at the last AGM that a proposal would be prepared for consideration by members at this AGM for future AGM's to be held no later than six months after the end of the Society's Financial Year (30 September) but most likely in late January or early February of the following year, thus the AGM for 2010/11 will be held early in 2012, with future AGMs held at approximately 12 monthly intervals thereafter. The proposed Resolution had also been attached to the Agenda for the consideration by members. Two points were raised - first as to the reason for the six-month period to which the response given was that this was felt to be the maximum period of extra time that may be required by the Auditors in which to complete the Accounts, and second would future AGMs always be held in February to which the response was given that the date could change from year to year. The proposal was carried unanimously by the Members present.

## 11. **Any Other Business**

Peter Ewin informed all present it was his pleasant duty that Trustee Directors have been considering those members who have consistently assisted Knowle Society over the years. Three members, in particular, were felt by the Trustee Directors who should receive Honorary Life membership.

First, Stella Jarman who was a founder member of the Society from 1962, but not until later she became a Committee member from 1976. She then formed and chaired the Nature Reserve Sub-Committee from 1980. Stella resigned from what had become the Nature Conservation Sub-Committee in 2004 although her exceptional knowledge of wild flowers, trees and nature in general has not been lost to Knowle as she continued to be very active with the Knowle Conservation Volunteers and as a tree warden for Solihull Council.

Second, Elizabeth Stanley, who joined Knowle Society in 1983 and soon after became a member of the Executive Committee which she served for four years. From her joining the Society, Liz was a member of the Local History Committee and although often asked she always refused the offer of becoming its chairman until eventually Liz agreed to be Chief Steward. This post required her not only recruit suitable stewards but also be involved in their training as well as organising the rota for what became the History Centre in Knowle Library to be manned every Saturday. Liz stayed as a committee member of what has now become the Local History Committee following the difficult time of the formation into another group by previous members of the Society. She then retired from the committee although remained as a Steward until the sad death of Derek Mellor at which point she returned until it had successfully regrouped when for the last time, although still a Saturday morning Steward and still compiling the Society scrapbooks, she retired from its committee.

Third, Martin Warr, who has really been the principal driving force in the Society which has seen its membership increase to 3000-plus residents. In fact, he has recruited more than 1000 new members solely by his own efforts, and his continuing efforts have enabled the Society to maintain that level of membership.

With the grateful thanks from the Trustee Directors on behalf of the Society, each of these three members received from Peter Ewin their Certificate of Honorary Life Membership to enthusiastic applause from the members present.

With there being no further items raised under this heading the Chairman closed this part of the meeting at 8.40pm.

### **Notes on Notices given at the end of the AGM**

The History Group said that they had planned a full and active year for 2011 and advised the members that the new furniture was just about large enough for their archives.

All Walks that were arranged saw a good turnout by members, especially on Boxing Day and this year it was to be held on Boxing Day, despite it being a Sunday. Offers for being a steward and/or to provide/make donations for refreshments would be much appreciated.

The Planning Committee has had a busy year. It considers up to 250 applications in an average year and although the majority enjoy a 'brief' consideration, those that affect the Conservation Area or the Village are fully considered. Both applications for a marina were refused although appeals are lodged with that in Jacobean Lane set for a four-day Public Inquiry between 25 to 28 January.

A new application was awaited from Sainsbury's in Dorridge whilst Kimberley's application for a Waitrose in Knowle is on 'hold' pending a new scheme being completed. This will first be subject to public consultation.

The Emerging Core Strategy, to continue after the current Unitary Development Plan of 2006, is under consultation at the present time and is subject to views from members. It includes three proposed residential developments sites – Hampton Lane between Crabmill Close and the football ground, behind the Middlefield development off Grove Road and between the Bentley Heath Recreation Ground and Four Ashes Road. Also there will be efforts made to try and direct the Council to include a Policy for keeping the retail shops of the Village truly retail - currently the Council has no such policy for Knowle.

Community Services had been continuing to monitor progress with the BIA runway extension with at present, consideration on landing/take-off and night-flight numbers. The Police had reported that Knowle had the lowest crime rate in the area. The new bus service is now substantially as had been required save the Solihull terminus which, it was felt, should be at the railway station.

The Environment Committee, from its small beginnings, had recruited more members and thus progress was now beginning to be made to see positive results over the next 12 months.

The various talks that had been arranged had been well received by members with 50-plus attending most and in particular, the quiz was a sell-out with even last minute attempts to have a table being made but due to lack of space, without success. There is a full list of events for next year with an additional meeting in November as a result of the AGM moving to the following year. It is always necessary to give thought to the choice of speakers and therefore ideas were welcome from members for 2012. The Christmas tree was going to be erected next Saturday and the lights are due to be switched on Monday, 29 November with Publicity to be arranged.

The membership was standing at approximately 3009 and thanks in particular to newsletter distributors who collect subscriptions – more distributors are required – volunteers?

The members were up-dated on the Knowle Green Community Project with the replacement of the architectural firm but not the architect (who had been retained by the new firm) and although Groundwork had to resign from the scheme, their anticipated work on Grant applications had now been taken up by the Hon Sec.

The proposed Jubilee celebration in 2012 of 50 years since the Society's formation was being coupled with that of the Queen's own Jubilee. It was hoped to bring members together with the closure of the High Street for street celebrations – members suggested it would be preferable for such celebration to be held on the specific day but this was still uncertain. It was suggested that further input from members was required as well as coordinating with other Village organisations.

The Chairman's closing remarks included his thanks to the members present.

The meeting finished at approximately 9.50pm.