



THE KNOWLE SOCIETY
(A Company limited by guarantee)

The 53rd AGM of the Knowle Society (KSoc) members
Saturday 27th February 2016,
held in Knowle Village Hall, commencing at 3.00pm

Trustee Directors (TDs) present: Leighton Jones (LJ), Bill Bohanna (BB) (Chairman), Kate Stables (KS), Martin Warr (MW), David Bower (DB), Charles Robinson (CR), Lilla Baker (LB), Dave Pinwell (DP), Peter Johnson (PJ), Peter Ewin (PE), Janet Erzen (JE), Andrew Marston (AM).

1. Welcome

Bill Bohanna (Chairman) welcomed and thanked the members attending the AGM.

Bill asked the Members in attendance to take a minute's silence in remembrance and thought for Pam Watson (affectionately known as the Poppy Lady) who sadly passed away last weekend.

2. Apologies for Absence

Formal apologies were received from members Mrs Elizabeth Hulse, Mr David Watson, Mr John Hurst and Mrs Rita Brook.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 7th February 2015

The Chairman noted that a summary of the minutes for the last AGM held 7th February 2015 were circulated with the last newsletter and available on the KSoc website and asked if there were any amendments or corrections. None were raised.

Proposal: that the Minutes of the AGM held on 7th February 2015 are signed by the Chairman as a true record. Proposed by Peter Johnson and seconded by Jeff Potts. The vote for approving the Minutes of the AGM held on 7th February 2015 was voted with 60 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions. The vote was carried.

4. Chairman's report

A copy of the formal Report of the Trustee Directors is attached to the Minutes. Bill Bohanna informed the meeting that extracts from the formal Report of the Trustee Directors were published in the January Newsletter and available on the Knowle Society website.

The Chairman noted his thanks to Liz Hulse who has worked hard on the Natural Environment Committee's Bulb Planting project. The Chairman also thanked Leighton Jones for all his work on the Application for the Village Greens Project.

The Chairman offered thanks to Kate Stables who is retiring as Honorary Secretary.

With some sadness, the Chairman noted, the Society are losing Peter Ewin and Peter Johnson, who are stepping down as Trustee Directors after a joint twenty five years of service. Peter Johnson was asked to say a few words about Peter Ewin and vice versa.

Peter Johnson thanked Peter Ewin, who has been involved in the Society since 2003 and joined the planning committee soon after that. After 2 planning meetings, he was elected as Chairman of

the committee, later serving as Chairman of the Society from 2008. Peter has been involved in many of the important events of the Society having arranged 'Any Questions' at Arden Academy (for the Knowle Society's 50th anniversary) and organising the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in his Chairmanship.

Peter Ewin thanked Peter Johnson for his service since joining the Trustee Directors in 2004, as a retired Banker. During his 12 years, he has served as Secretary for 3 years, Treasurer for 5 years and Membership Secretary for the last 3 years.

The Chairman concluded his report by explaining his regret at not being able to attending the Wreath laying on Remembrance Sunday 2015.

5. Treasurer's Report –Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2015

A copy of the accounts were made available in the room, on the website and provided previously in the newsletter.

Peter Johnson presented the Accounts on behalf of the Hon. Treasurer David Watson. Peter referred to the copy of the 3 year summary. The society has had a very successful year; the reserves having increased from £14,621 a year ago to £34,132 at the end of September 2015. Our income for the year included a splendid £14,929 of donations to the bulb appeal fund and a further £1,182 to the Village Greens appeal. The remaining income of the total £31,917 received in the year came mainly from membership subscriptions of £12,702 and gift aid tax recovery of £2,472. Much of the anticipated project spending did not occur during the 2014-15 accounting year, so we move into the current year with a healthy cash balance. However it is expected that expenditure on the Village Greens project will be significant and further expenditure on the bulbs project will be required for the second planting year.

Bill Bohanna asked for a proposal to accept the accounts as presented.

Proposal: that the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2015 be accepted. Proposed by Peter Johnson and seconded by Lilla Baker. The vote for accepting the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2015 was carried with 61 voting in favour, none against and 2 abstentions

Proposal: that the current accountants are retained for the coming financial year. The vote for retaining the current accountants for the coming financial year was carried with 61 voting in favour, none against and 2 abstentions

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Proposal: that the current accountants are retained for the coming financial year. Proposed by Andrew and seconded by Leighton. The vote for retaining the independent examiner for the coming financial year was carried with a unanimous vote in favour.

7. Election of Chairman, Officers and Trustee Directors for the ensuing year:

The Chairman handed over to the Deputy Chairman Andrew Marston for the nominations and election of Chairman, Officers and Trustee Directors for the ensuing year:

a. Chairman

- i. Bill Bohanna received a unanimous vote, with one abstention, in favour that he be elected to be Chairman for the ensuing year. The vote was carried.

b. Deputy Chairman

- i. Andrew Marston received a unanimous vote in favour that he be elected to be Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year. The vote was carried.

c. Honorary Secretary

- i. At present we do not have any nominations for Honorary Secretary.

d. Honorary Treasurer

- i. David Watson received a unanimous vote, with one abstention, in favour that he be elected to be Honorary Treasurer for the ensuing year. The vote was carried.
- e. The Chairman explained that the following Trustee Directors will continue as Trustee Directors as they are not due for re-election:
 - i. Leighton Jones
 - ii. Angela Bird
 - iii. Dave Pinwell
 - iv. Charles Robinson
 - v. Elizabeth Hulse
- f. The following Trustee Directors are standing for re-election:
 - i. David Bower received a unanimous vote in favour that he be elected as a Trustee Director for the ensuing year. The vote was carried.
 - ii. Martin Warr received a unanimous vote in favour that he be elected as a Trustee Director for the ensuing year. The vote was carried.
 - iii. Lilla Baker received a unanimous vote in favour that she be elected as a Trustee Director for the ensuing year. The vote was carried.
 - iv. Janet Erzen received a unanimous vote in favour that she be elected as a Trustee Director for the ensuing year. The vote was carried.

8. Report on progress of the Village Green Applications and the committees of the Knowle Society

- a. **Andrew Marston** – reported on behalf of the Planning Committee that the Neighbourhood Forum will help the planning committee be more proactive rather than reactive to planning. The Planning committee objected to the plans on the recent application for 100 new homes off Grove Road due to the size and design of the houses within the development.
- b. **Charles Robinson** – reported on behalf of the Meetings and Walks committee– the schedule for this year is now available on the website.
- c. **Lilla Baker** – reported on behalf of the Community Services committee– Thursday 12th May will be the “clean up for the Queen” event organised by the committee – involving local schools, Scouts and also hoping for some member Volunteers. With help from the Council Rural Neighbourhood Officer Kerry Mountjoy, the committee are working on cleaning up the flowerbeds and painting the lamp posts in Knowle village centre. Lilla also reported on other activities of the committee, which will also be included in the Newsletter.
- d. **Leighton Jones** – reported on behalf of the Village Greens Applications – Leighton reported that the Council withdrew its objection to Registration of Areas C & D - those alongside the Park. The Inspector therefore decided that a Public Hearing into those Areas was not necessary and he would decide on them based on the written evidence. The public hearing for the Village Green application for “Area A” started. A good number of users of the land had written statements expanding on their use of the land and being willing to appear at the Hearing to give oral evidence. We did not need all of them, so submitted a selection as written evidence and eighteen people eventually gave evidence in person. The Society awaits the result The Council will make the formal decision. Leighton thanked everyone who has been involved in the process since 2011.

Close of AGM

The formal business meeting is closed at 15.49