

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Saturday 25th February 2017 in Knowle Village Hall

Trustee Directors Present:

Apologies:

Bill Bohanna, Chairman (BB)	
Lilla Baker (LB)	Janet Erzen (JE)
Angela Bird (AB)	
David Bower (DB)	
Leighton Jones (LJ)	
Andrew Marston (AM)	
Dave Pinwell (DP)	
Charles Robinson (CR)	
Martin Warr (MW)	
David Watson, Treasurer (DW)	
Maria Brown, Minute Secretary (MB)	
Members Present:	Chris & John Hurst
40 members of Knowle Society	Ian Kay, Neil McDougall, Norman Stanley

1	Welcome and Apologies for absence: Andrew Marston welcomed all to the 54 th AGM of the Society, thanked them for their attendance and took the above apologies.
2	Minutes of the meeting held 27th February 2016 , previously included in the Newsletter, were proposed by Phil Vince, seconded by Peter Ewin and agreed.
3	Chairman's Report: A copy of the formal report of the Trustee Directors being attached to the agenda, Bill Bohanna as Chairman referred to his "memory box" of items and reported on the following activities of the year, thanking Trustee Directors for their hard work and support. Leighton Jones had been busy with a programme of walks and much time-consuming work on the Village Greens project which had now been brought to fruition; Dave Pinwell had been instrumental in the design of a new look Newsletter in colour which was much appreciated – and thanks were given to all distributors. The book reminded him of the Library where volunteers had welcomed 8000 visitors on a Saturday in the last five years. Maria was thanked for her recording of meetings and the History section led by Janet Erzen for its programme of interesting exhibitions. A spider picture reminded him of the website and thanks were given to David Bower and his son for setting it up in the first place, with news to come on its revamp. Martin Warr was thanked for his indomitable work on business liaison, bringing to the attention of TDs the happenings of the business community. The Christmas tree and lights had contributed to a good turnout for the switch-on and Liz Hulse was thanked for her continuing work on the bulb project, making Knowle an even more colourful place, along with her team. The subject of planning involved tremendous work and thanks were recorded to Andrew Marston and his committee for their hard work in protecting the village and keeping an eye on applications, referring particularly to the considerable documentation involved in response to the Council's current planning proposals. A plea was made for business sponsorship to enable the refurbishing of the telephone box as a potential information centre for the village. David Watson was thanked for continuing to balance the accounts and thanks recorded to Lilla Baker for her liaison work on the airport and keeping Knowle tidy, including the maintenance of the Knot Garden. Bill referred to meetings with local traders and council representative regarding parking issues and welcomed views/comments of all concerned. The prestigious Queen's Award recently awarded to the Society had been earned over many years by members past and present - an award for everyone and for which all should be proud. Charles Robinson, in standing down as a Trustee Director, was thanked for all his work on organising the regular talks to the Society and a presentation was made. In conclusion, Trustee Directors and their committees were thanked for their hard work over a very good year.

4	<p>Treasurer's Report: Andrew referred to the formal annual report submitted with the Agenda and introduced David Watson to present the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2016. It was noted that the Society Income was lower than last year due to bulb donation although subscriptions had been bolstered by gift aid. The considerable increase in expenditure this year was due to legal costs, a one-off anticipated charge related to the Village Greens project. An overall deficit of £8000 existed, in contrast to the surplus of the previous year. The Queen's birthday event had resulted in a profit of £1460 which had been donated to the Village Hall Fund. £500 Civic Voice subscription was included in the overall expenditure. The bulb project showed a balance of £14,200. Total funds were noted as £26,157 and a full set of accounts available on the website, with a few hard copies available at the meeting for information.</p> <p>There were no questions following the presentation of accounts.</p> <p>It was proposed by Lilla Baker, seconded by Anne Smith, and agreed, that the Accounts be adopted.</p>
5	<p>Election of Officers: Officers were duly elected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chairman: Bill Bohanna b. Deputy Chairman: Andrew Marston c. Hon Secretary: Maria Brown d. Hon Treasurer: David Watson
6	<p>Election of Trustee Directors: Dave Pinwell was re-elected as a Trustee Director, being the only post holder due for re-election</p>
7	<p>Appointment of Independent Examiner: West Accountants were proposed by Peter Johnson, seconded by David Bower, and agreed.</p>
8	<p>Any Other Business: Andrew Marston proposed the continuation of affiliation of The Knowle Society to WestMASA, seconded by Leighton Jones, and this was agreed. It was noted that the next meeting would be held in Bewdley the following month.</p>
9	<p>That concluded the formal business of the AGM at 3.25 p.m.</p> <p>Following a refreshment interval, Roger Sutton of Civic Voice gave a presentation on the benefits of affiliation, after which individual Trustee Directors reported on History, Walks, Membership, Publicity, Village Greens, Community Services, Natural Environment, Newsletter, Website and Planning.</p> <p>A vote of thanks was given to Angela Bird for the wonderful cakes and refreshments and the meeting closed at 5 p.m.</p>