

KNOWLE SOCIETY

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held at the Knowle Village Hall on 28th November 1996.

- 1. Present: Dr R.J.Bower (President), Mrs S.E.Warner (Chairman) and 43 members.
- 2. Apologies for absence: Mr & Mrs Allday, Mrs Asbury, Mr Evans, Mr & Mrs Walden, Mrs Lea, Mr & Mrs Jarman, Mrs Bower, Mr Stanley, Mrs Hopkins & Mr Morton.
- 3. Minutes of previous Meeting: The Minutes of the 1995 AGM were read, approved and signed.
- 4. Chairman's remarks: The Chairman noted that there had been a number of personnel changes on the Executive and other Committees during the year. She thanked all who had supported the Society during the past year, in whatever capacity, in particular, the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr & Mrs Kyles, and Cllr Blake. At the time of the AGM there were still vacancies on committees, which, it was hoped, would soon be filled.
- 5. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented the audited accounts which showed an overall credit of £8,913.00. The surplus on the year's workings was £529.00. It was reported that the owners of the Felon and Firkin Public House still owed money to the Knowle Society for photographs.

6. Membership:

On 28th November 1996 membership stood at 1501. The Chairman expressed thanks to all who assisted in producing and distributing the Newsletter and in recruiting so successfully.

7. Election of Officers: The following were elected for the year 1996-1997:-

- President: Dr. R.J.Bower
- Chairman: Mrs E.S.Warner
- Secretary: C.H.Smith
- Treasurer: K.Hornby
- Executive Committee Members: A.J.C.Emsden, Dr P.H.Morton, L.Edwards.

Hon Auditor: R.A.Lea & Co

8. A.O.B.: Refreshments. A brief discussion took place on the issue of refreshments during a two hour meeting. The matter was referred to the Meetings & Social S/C.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the AGM and invited Chairmen of the Sub-Committees to report any information subsequent to that published in the last Newsletter and discussion ensued.

Eleanor S. Warner

REPORTS

1. PLANNING

Indian Brasserie, High St. The outcome of an appeal against the Council's refusal to permit a hot-food delivery service is awaited.

Bridgewater Hotel. Permission to operate a public house at the hotel has been refused.

Old Post Office, High St. An application to operate a restaurant with a hot take-away service has been refused.

Hedges on the former Middlefield site. Members raised concerns over the state of the hedges which the developer was obliged to retain in good order. Members were advised to keep the Councillors informed of problems.

The Sub-Committee is likely to be strengthened by the addition of 3 new members.

2. LOCAL HISTORY

A small exhibition on Walter Cook is now at the Knowle Library. A larger one will be mounted in the Central Library in January 1997.

3. NATURE CONSERVATION

The Nature Conservation report referred to a number of activities related to the butterfly, bird and tree populations of Knowle. The Sub-Committee is actively considering the Council's interim report on Agenda 21. Members were alerted to a suggestion that the former West Midlands County area might be required to accommodate 300,000 new homes in the next 20 years, with all that would imply for the green belt. The Chairman paid tribute to the co-operation of SMBC officers,

Members were urged to monitor the cable laying operation in the area, particularly to protect trees from damage.

4. FOOTPATHS & LOCAL WALKS

The Chairman commended the work of the Council footpaths officer. He reported that discussions were in progress concerning restoration work on ponds at Knowle Locks and that the Knowle Society was in contact with the Council over its cycle path strategy. Pam Elliott and Angela Bateman have indicated their intention to resign as Walks co-ordinators after 1997. During 1996, the Walks were supported by an average of 14 people.

5. AMENITIES

Venue Night Club. The Knowle Society maintains its view that the centre of Knowle is an unsuitable place for a nightclub and the Chairman urged members, who could provide evidence in support of the Society's view, to attend any hearings concerned with the future of the Venue.

Traffic Survey. The Knowle Society is in contact with the Council and the consultants conducting the Knowle Traffic Survey. Reports are expected early in 1997. Meanwhile, it is anticipated that, as a safety measure, hatching will be painted in the middle of the carriageway on the A4141 between Knowle High St. and the Langfield Rd. roundabout.

Relations with the police. The Chairman noted good relations with the police, both at local constable level and also at Chief Superintendent level. He assured members that the West Midlands Police were anxious to provide the service which the community wanted.

Members raised concerns over the increase in vehicles stopping on the yellow lines in Knowle High St. and speeding over the shallow roundabout in Grove Rd. The Amenities S/C was requested to consider these issues.

6. MEETINGS & SOCIAL

The Chairman drew members' attention to the Newsletter for details of Christmas activities.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm