

## KNOWLE SOCIETY

### Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting held at the Knowle Village Hall on 20th November 1997 at 8pm.

1. Present: Dr R.J.Bower (President), Mrs E.S.Warner (Chairman) and 58 members.

2. Apologies for absence: Mesdames Emsden, Allday, Bower, Hogg, Davies, Attwood, Hopkins, Lewis; Messrs Lewis, Vince, Ellis, Chatterley and Jarman.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th November 1996 were read, approved and signed.

4. Chairman's Remarks: The Chairman reported that the Society had worked with the Knowle Traders' Association and had contributed towards the Christmas Lights in the High Street, which would be switched on by Jasper Carrot on 2nd December.

She noted there had been good working relations with both Councillors and Council Officers, notably over the Water Butts scheme. It was gratifying that Councillors had spoken well of the Knowle Society contributions to discussions of local issues.

The Chairman paid tribute to five long-serving members of the Society; Alan Morrison, who had died during the year, Mrs Parsons, who was now in a nursing home, Matthew Hunter, Esca Allday and Michael Evans, who were retiring from the Executive Committee.

There had been significant changes to the Sub-Committees, which, happily, brought new people into activities as the membership of the Society continued to increase.

The Chairman thanked all who had worked for the Society over the year, especially the ward Councillors, Messrs Kyles and Blake.

5. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year 1996/1997 which showed a credit of £7,562.00. The accounts were duly adopted.

Councillor Blake opined that without the Society's donation of £2,000.00 to the Traders' Association, the purchase of the Christmas Lights might not have been possible.

6. Membership Secretary's Report: Membership stood at 1526.

Thanks were expressed to Desmond Charles and all Newsletter distributors.

7. Election of Officers and Committee for 1998: The following were elected:-

President	Dr R.J.Bower
Chairman	Mrs E.S.Warner
Secretary	Mr C.H.Smith
Treasurer	Mr K.Hornby

Executive Committee: Mesdames S.E.Jarman S.V.Lea, Messrs J.F.Chaloner P.L.Ellis, G.G.S.Masters, R.J.Rear & P.S.Vince.

Hon Auditor: R.A.Lea & Co.

Dr Bower paid tribute to Elaine Warner's leadership of the Society throughout the year.

The AGM was then closed to allow Sub-Committee Chairmen to update members on activities within their briefs.

*Elaine S. Warner*

*23rd November 1998*

## **KNOWLE SOCIETY**

Up-date by Sub-Committee Chairmen on information published in the last Newsletter

### PLANNING

- i) Phileas Fogg, a sit-down restaurant with no take-away facility, was scheduled to open in the premises of the former Post Office.
- ii) Knowle AFC have withdrawn its application for floodlights.
- iii) The Bridgewater Hotel had applied for permission to expand. The Knowle Society has drawn the Council's attention to access and exit problems consequent upon more vehicles using the site.
- iv) In response to points from members, it was reported that no further information was available on the Knowle CE Primary School Millennium Project and that the Society had written to the Council opposing the application to reopen the quarry in Cuttlepool Lane for waste disposal.

### LOCAL HISTORY

- i) In response to a question from the floor concerning the effect on the Knowle Society's Local History Display at Chester House, of the opening of any borough museum in Solihull, the Chairman indicated that the ownership of the Collection lay with the Society. However, it was possible that, for whatever reason, the Council could require the Society to vacate Chester House.

### NATURE CONSERVATION

- i) Photographs of conservation sites were displayed, including young oaks in Elmdon Park, grown from acorns collected in Knowle.
- ii) It was reported that the Water Butt Scheme was going well; that a hedge survey is under way: that ward Councillors are involved in the conservation issues in the Dickens Heath development.

### FOOTPATHS AND LOCAL WALKS

- i) A number of walks have taken place this year.
- ii) The Chairman noted that the Council's Footpaths Officer had been very helpful and that 97% of the footpaths in Solihull are negotiable. The Council is proposing a permissive footpath from Hampton Road to the canal, via the back of Wychwood Avenue.

## AMENITIES

- i) A big issue this year has been the removal of the night club licence from the Venue.
- ii) Councillor Blake has agreed to discuss the Traffic Review Report with the Society, before it goes to the Traffic & Highways Committee of the SMBC.
- iii) Parking facilities in Knowle are under consideration by the Council.
- iv) Buses - Discussions are on-going to try to synchronise buses from Solihull with London trains at Birmingham International station.
- v) Airport - The Environmental Monitoring Group is now actively monitoring air pollution.

The permitted decibel level for night flying has been reduced.

Arising from comments from members, there was discussion of misuse of pavements by both cyclists and horses. The Sub-Committee agreed to consider the comments.

In reply to a questioner about the disappearance of temporary "slow down" signs from the area, Cllr Blake reminded members that their display had been an experiment.

## MEETINGS AND SOCIAL

- i) An appeal for mince pies for Christmas events was made and also an appeal for volunteers to move chairs at general meetings.

The question of coffee at general meetings was raised but the Meeting strongly supported the Sub-Committee's no refreshments policy.

Councillor Blake, on behalf of himself and Councillor Kyles, thanked the Executive Committee for its support to the Councillors and for its professional input into Council issues.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

C.H.Smith  
20th November 1997