

KNOWLE SOCIETY

Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting held at the Knowle Village Hall on 23rd November 1998 at 8pm.

1. Present: Dr R.J.Bower (President), Mrs E.S.Warner (Chairman) and 62 members.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr L.W.Kyles, Mr & Mrs Walden, Mr & Mrs Allday, Mr & Mrs Knight, Mr Warner, Mrs Bower, Mrs Griffiths & Mrs Emsden.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th November 1997 were read, approved and signed.

4. Chairman's Report: The Chairman began by recording a tribute to Alan Moore, who had died during the year. He had served the Society well and will be sadly missed. Changes in personnel on various committees were noted and the Chairman took the opportunity to emphasise the need for more members to become active in the affairs of the Society.

She highlighted the Unitary Development Plan as an issue which would require much attention in the coming months. It was noted that little positive action, to the direct benefit of Knowle, was likely to emerge from the substantial Knowle & Dorridge Traffic Survey, which had been completed recently.

Membership now exceeded 1600 and it was hoped to achieve 2000 by the millennium.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the Ward Councillors and all members who had played an active role in the Society during the past year.

[Secretary's note: As a result of the Chairman's appeal, a number of additional Newsletter distributors were recruited at the Meeting.]

4. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented the annual financial statement showing a healthy financial situation with the balance standing at £8,723.00.

5. Membership Secretary's Report: The Membership Secretary confirmed that membership now exceeded 1600. He thanked the Newsletter distributors for their work, including the collection of subscriptions.

6. Election of Officers and Committee Members for 1998/99:

President: Dr R.J.Bower

Chairman: Mrs E.S.Warner

Secretary: C.H.Smith

Treasurer: K.Hornby

Committee Members: Dr R.J.Bower, K.Richards, E.J.Walden.

The President expressed the Society's gratitude to Elaine Warner for her sterling work for the Society during the past year.

7. Appointment of Auditors

R.A.Lea & Co. were re-appointed.

The AGM closed at 8.30pm

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Up-date by Sub-committee Chairmen on information in the last Newsletter.

Planning

There was little to add to information already published in the Newsletter but a lively discussion ensued over recent developments at the Wilson Arms and the Heron's Nest (formerly the Bridgewater Hotel), both owned by Bass. Concern was expressed over signage and lighting, both of which the Society will monitor, as far as resources permit.

It was noted that a proposal had been made that a public clock should be installed in the village to mark the Millennium. A decision of the Millenium Committee is awaited on this matter.

Local History

Elaine Warner reminded the Meeting of ongoing activities and reported that work was in hand to arrange a Canal Exhibition.

The Meeting was informed that Valerie Morton was writing additional material to include in a republication of Eva Wootton's History of Knowle, which will probably be financed by a pre-subscription list.

Meetings and Social

Immediate events were noted and the Chairman emphasised the change of day to Thursday, for General Meetings in 1999.

Nature Conservation

The Chairman commented on the ongoing pond survey and the Council's proposal to survey veteran trees in the borough.

A discussion took place on possible developments in Jobs Close Park. It was generally agreed that the park should contain features attractive to residents of all ages.

Footpaths and Local Walks

The Chairman commended the SMBC Footpaths Officer's efforts within the borough and reported well-supported Society walks. One interesting suggestion from the floor was to encourage walkers to park their cars in pub car parks, where convenient.

Amenities

The Chairman re-affirmed the Society's disappointment at the lack of positive outcome, as far as Knowle is concerned, from the Knowle & Dorridge Traffic Survey. The Sub-committee will continue to seek action on all issues of concern to the residents.

Cllr Blake reported that the police and the Council were addressing problems of safety, such as obstructed footpaths.

Before the Meeting closed at 9.55pm, Cllr Blake, on behalf of the Ward Councillors, thanked the Knowle Society for their continued, constructive support, which was much appreciated by the Council.

November 1998

Elaine S. Wane

25th November 1999