



The Knowle Society

Established to maintain the character of the Village

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th November 2001 at the Village Hall.

1. Present: Dr R.J.Bower (President), Mr P.L.Ellis (Chairman) and 66 members. Apologies for absence were received from 9 members.

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th November 2000 were read and approved.

3. Chairman's Remarks: The Chairman stated that, in his view, the Society was in good health. Membership was stable, finances were sound and the Society's objectives were being met. The Knowle Society plays an active part in maintaining the character of the village and also monitors developments occurring outside Knowle, for example, at the Airport, which can impact upon the village.

The Chairman thanked members of the Committee and the Ward Councillors for their efforts, the Society members for their support and concluded by encouraging all to recruit to the Society, particularly younger people.

4. Treasurer's Report: In the absence of the Treasurer, Sandra Lea presented the annual accounts which showed a satisfactory outturn of approximately £400 surplus on the year's workings resulting in an Accumulated Fund figure of over £11,000.
The report was adopted.

5. Membership Secretary's Report:

Membership stands at 1680.

Members were encouraged to support the Gift Aid scheme and thanks were offered to the Newsletter distributors. More distributors would be welcome.

6. Election of Officers:

President -	Dr R.J.Bower
Chairman -	P.L.Ellis
Secretary -	C.H.Smith
Treasurer -	Mrs S.V.Lea
Committee Members -	K.Richards, E.J.Walden
Hon Auditor -	Mr A.Chadwick

Elaine Warner paid tribute to Dr Bower who was leaving the Committee after 39 years service. His vision and determination created and sustained the Society. The Chairman thanked Ken Hornby for his service as Treasurer and Richard Lea for his service as auditor.

7. Subscriptions: It was agreed that subscriptions should be a standing item on the agenda of the AGM.

8. Councillor Blake, on behalf of his councillor and borough officer colleagues, paid tribute to the work of the Society and emphasised the value the Council places upon the views of the Society.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.40pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mrs. M. B.', written over a horizontal line.

25th November 2002

Notes on Reports following the AGM on 19th November 2001

Planning - K.Richards, Chairman Planning S/C.

Knowle is in a good position in regard to housing development. No further green belt land will be required in the immediate future. Three sites at Bentley Heath, Hampton Rd. and Grove Rd. have been redesignated for post 2011 use.

Current developments.

Warwick Rd - site opposite Lightwood Close. A tasteful development forming three sides of a quadrangle, with the open side facing the road and with underground parking, has been proposed. The Society maintains an objection in principle that the development could be too obtrusive at a gateway to Knowle.

Station Rd/Widney Rd. 4 apartments are proposed. The Society is concerned about the increase in traffic which will be generated and about a further alteration to the character of the area.

Telecommunications Mast at the BT Exchange, Station Rd. The Society supports the residents' objections.

In discussion, members raised the question of the nature of new retail outlets in the High St. and the conversion of retail premises to offices. It was pointed out that neither the Society nor the Council had control over commercial decisions taken by entrepreneurs.

Amenities - G.Masters, Chairman Amenities S/C.

A concept drawing for Jobs Close Park has been prepared for discussion by the Park Action Group.

A Rural Assembly, including representatives from the Society, is to meet to discuss anti-social behaviour in Knowle, Dorridge and Balsall Common.

Car Parks - A survey showed no mis-use of the public car park behind the Library. A further survey of parking will be conducted after additional spaces have been made near to the Village Hall.

The possibility of public car parking at the Red Lion will be pursued as will complaints to the police about double parking in St John's Way.

Terry Downey was thanked for attending the Airport Users Committee during Ted Walden's absence.

Meetings and Social - Sandra Lea, Chairman Meetings and Social S/C.

Sandra announced that the lights in the High St. and the Christmas Tree will be lit at 4.30pm on 24th November. The Boxing Day walk has also been arranged. A celebration of the Society's 40 years is expected to take place in October 2002.

Sandra thanked Jack Brook and Desmond Charles, who had both left the S/C after several years' service.

Nature Conservation - Stella Jarman, Chairman Nature Conservation S/C.

Stella detailed trees at risk in the area and informed members that the Society had approval to plant 40 trees in the ~~nature reserve~~ *groundland in the park*, to celebrate the Society's 40 years. She also informed members of a plan to build a floral mound and create a conservation verge on the Warwick Rd. near to Wyndley Garden Centre.

Local History - Elaine Warner, Chairman Local History S/C.

Elaine reported that the annual Junior School interviews had taken place and that an exhibition would be mounted at the Guild House during the Jubilee weekend.

Michael Harrison was thanked for his services on the S/C.

Millennium Sign - Adrian Emsden described the concept, execution and installation of the Millennium Sign which was to be unveiled by the Mayor of Solihull on 21st November, outside the Guild House.

Adrian was thanked for undertaking and overseeing the project.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.