



The Knowle Society

Established to maintain the character of the Village

Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting held on 22nd November 2004 at the Village Hall.

Present The Chairman and 81 members.

Apologies Apologies for absence were received from 6 members.

Minutes of the previous AGM The minutes of the AGM held on 24th November 2003 were approved.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked the members of the Executive Committee, sub-committees, Ward Councillors and others for all the help and hard work during his first year of office. He pointed out that about 80 people regularly perform tasks for the Society to maintain the high level of activity that goes on. There will be a reorganisation of the Amenities and Nature Conservation sub-committees. This had occurred following the Nature Reserve being handed over to the Council and the retirement of Stella Jarman.

The Chairman described the style and mode of operation of The Society and commented that some very robust work is done without the need to post notices around the village.

Developments in the Park have been on-going all year and are now in the final stages. The Society has been at the consultations at all levels as well as other village groups.

There were several major events in Knowle during the year all covered by the newsletter and there are to be two events of note so far for 2005. A repeat of the B93 awards as this was deemed very successful and a celebration of the end of World War Two – 60 years on

The Chairman paid tribute to John Chaloner and Stella Jarman who were retiring after long service on the Committee.

The Chairman concluded by saying it was important to preserve the independence, integrity and credibility which have been built up over the years and reserve protests and objections for issues which merit objections and have a clear impact on the residents of Knowle.

Treasurer's Report

Sandra Lea presented the audited accounts for the year which showed a credit balance of £7,270. The accounts were detailed and then approved by the meeting.

Honorary Membership

The Society had only one Honorary Member – Eva Wootton. It had been proposed that Dr Bower be given this membership but the Constitution would need to be altered. The proposal was

“ On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Society may appoint, at an AGM, as Honorary Member, any member who has rendered long and meritorious service”

The Chairman then proposed that Dr Bower be made an Honorary Member and this was carried by the meeting.

Election of the President, Executive Committee and Officers

The following elections were made

President Dr R J Bower

Chairman C H Smith

Deputy Chairman P L Ellis

Treasurer Mrs S V Lea

Secretary Ms C Keeley

Executive Committee Members Dr P Morton, Mr A Emsden, Mr L Edwards, Mr P Ewin, Mr D Pinwell.

Appointment of Auditor

Mr Andrew Chadwick was appointed as Auditor

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Notes on reports following the AGM on 24th November 2004.

Membership

Membership Secretary Derek Mellor reported that there were 1743 members. Subscriptions were over 98% paid up for the current year. There is a proposal to put a standing order request in the June 05 newsletter but so far take up for this service remained low.

Local History Elaine Warner reported on the following;

There was still a lot of work to do on care and conservation of the local history records including digital imaging of the photographs. The operation to involve the Junior School was deemed a success and they will be provided with copies of the digital images. The displays in the showcase were always a success and the 2005 programme will include Johnson's Garage, VE/VJ celebrations, Knowle in Trafalgar year and Chester House.

There had been an enquiry from ITV television for old films for a television series. A copy of the Ratcliffe video had been sent.

The B93 arts award was presented to Margaret Fulford of Knowle Parish Church. KS having held it for a third of the year.

Nature Conservation - Stella Jarman reported on the following;

On retiring from this sub- committee after more than 30 years Stella reflected on the changes she had seen in and around Knowle during this long time. She commented on the progress of intensive practices and the impact on the environment in cost and on the wildlife, flora and fauna. She and her committee had been able protect the area of ground now known as the Nature Reserve from building developers and to care for it over the years for the enjoyment of Knowle residents. When the work on the site proved too much for the volunteers, Stella had been instrumental in persuading Solihull Council to take on this task and in October 2004 the Nature Reserve was handed over. Other tasks over the years included taking part in the National Barn Survey 1988, observing the many tree species around Knowle for diseases and advising on replacements and protection of the Green Belt areas.

Amenities - Gary Masters reported on the following;

Three car parks on the western side of the High Street will be re-laid during January 2005 after his committee had investigated conditions following concerns on the existing surfaces. A further meeting was to be held in December 04 with the Council to discuss the outcome of the public consultation week on Job's Close Park and to confirm the way forward. Councillor Blake reminded the gathering that the work done by The Friends Of Knowle Park should be acknowledged . This view was endorsed, and thanks also went to the efforts made by the Allotment Society, Longdon Residents Association and Lodge Residents Association. It was confirmed that the Solihull Council Chief Executive Officer Katherine Kerswell would like to address Society members and that Monday 23rd May 2005 had been agreed for this.

Meetings & Social - Leighton Jones reported on the following;

There had been a very successful meetings and walks programme in 2004. He outlined some of these in detail and drew attention the plans so far for 2005.

Planning Peter Ewin reported on the following;

There was in the region at the present time 130 flats waiting to be built in Knowle. He reported concern around the village at the number of applications for this type of dwelling and his committee took these concerns to the Council. The Council was told that there was a perception that there seemed little or no hard examination to these planning applications. This suggestion was strenuously denied but concern was expressed that there was this perception. In view of this a public meeting was offered to explain the way that PPG3 (windfall development) was interpreted by the Council. This meeting will take place on 3rd February in the Village Hall. Priority will be given to written questions.

Pathfinder - Malcolm Brain reported on the following;

The proposals under consideration on the St John's Close area project concerned the following area's

St Johns Close to Lodge Road (Scout Hut area)
The Green
Pedestrian Crossing Lodge Road
St John's Close Lodge Road junction
Car parking
Car parks and traffic congestion
Traffic flows around the green

The recycling facility.

Discussions are scheduled within the Society and with SMC to come to some decisions on the already published documents concerning these areas.

Retirement of Stella Jarman from the Nature Conservation Committee

The Chairman announced the retirement of Stella and acknowledged her work on nature conservation around Knowle for over 30 years. Stella is to be presented with a book on trees to mark this achievement.

Councillor Blake spoke of the approach of the Knowle Society being appreciated by the council. He commented on the KS being involved on every important issue and having a professional approach.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

A. H. Smith

28th November 2005