

# THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

(a company limited by guarantee)

## Minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2006, in the Village Hall commencing at 8 pm.

**Present:** Colin Smith (in the Chair), and 72 other members.

**1 Apologies**

These were received from a further four members.

**2 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**3 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman referred firstly to the fact that as we are now both a company and a Charity we need to produce two Annual Reports. The first is the formal Report of the Trustees and forms part of our Annual Report and Accounts. Copies of this had been distributed. The second Report is the more informative Chairman's Report. Copies of both Reports are attached to these minutes. The Chairman's report highlighted the growth of the Society in the last 12 months, changes among the Trustee Directors and his forthcoming retirement as Chairman after 3 years in office. He expressed his thanks for the support he had received.

**4 Treasurer's Report and receiving of Accounts for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

Sandra Lea presented the Report & Accounts for the period 20<sup>th</sup> July 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006. The Accounts had been prepared in the required format. She outlined some of the major features. Although there was no direct comparison with previous periods, income from subscriptions and tax recovered were both at very satisfactory levels and expenditure had been contained. The result for the period was a surplus of £2,469 and total Reserves for the Society (including the Eva Wootton Fund) of £11,987.

During questions, Sandra confirmed that the trustee directors would be giving thought as to how these substantial Reserves should be used. There seemed general support for a suggestion from the floor that the Society should no longer seek donations at our meetings. This matter would also be discussed by the trustee directors.

The members unanimously voted to receive the Report and Accounts. They also agreed that there should be no change in the level of the annual subscription.

**5 Election of Officers for the ensuing year**

The Secretary reported that the October Newsletter had contained the Notice of the Meeting and blank nomination forms for the various positions. The following names had been proposed and seconded:

Chairman	Gary Masters
Deputy Chairman	Colin Smith
Hon. Secretary	Peter Johnson
Hon. Treasurer	Sandra Lea

No other nominations had been received and these Officers were elected to the positions shown for the next 12 months. They would also serve as ex-officio Trustee Directors.

**6 Election of Trustee Directors**

Five members had been proposed and seconded to serve as trustee directors. They were:-

Allan Coleman, John Rowley, Leighton Jones, Peter Ellis and Peter Morton.

No other nominations had been received and as this number was less than the number of vacancies, they were declared elected. Four of those elected would serve for three years and one for one. This allocation would be determined by lot at the first meeting of the trustee directors.

**7 Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The Accounts had been Independently Examined by Caroline Stewart F.C.A and the meeting unanimously accepted Sandra Lea's suggestion that Caroline be appointed to Examine the Accounts next year.

**8 Any Other Business**

Councillor Kyles said he wished to acknowledge the work the Society and its Officers. There was good co-operation and agreement between the Society and the Council which worked for the benefit of Knowle. He congratulated Colin Smith on his period as Chairman and wished Gary Masters, every success.

Peter Ellis, on behalf of the members, also thanked Colin for his work as Chairman. He outlined several of the matters which had occupied the trustee directors during the last three years and paid tribute to Colin's skill as Chairman and the efforts he had made to obtain a consensus view wherever possible. A presentation was made to Colin who responded appropriately

There being no further business Colin closed this part of the meeting at 8.40pm.

**Notes on Reports given at the end of the AGM**

**A Chairman**

On taking the Chair, Gary Masters thanked the members for their support and confidence in electing him. He felt somewhat humbled and would need the support of everyone in accomplishing the task he had taken on. He felt that the Society was necessarily reactive in dealing with some issues but also at times needed to be proactive. It was essential that we continued to receive the views of members on those issues which the Society would face and that we continued to recruit new members.

(Full Reports on the activities of most of the sub-committees had been given in the October Newsletter and the respective chairmen now updated or augmented those Reports as necessary)

**B Planning**

Peter Ewin reminded members of the forthcoming General Meeting to discuss the review of the Conservation Area. He also brought the meeting up-to-date on various outstanding matters including the suggested marina on the canal side.

**C Community Services**

John Rowley referred to several matters including the possible redevelopment of the toilet/bus shelter block, refurbishment of the Library and the recent application for a liquor licence by the Jet garage. As regards the airport expansion, discussions and consultations were continuing and the Society was involved in these wherever possible.

**D Environment**

Allan Coleman's Report covered outstanding issues included car parking, shopping trolleys and the memorial to Dr Bower. A questioner from the floor asked about the Society's policy on tree preservation and T.P.Os. Whilst acknowledging that this could be a difficult area, often involving opposing views, Allan said he would ask his sub-committee to consider the point.

**E Local History Centre**

Elaine Warner referred briefly to recent changes in this sub-committee. She confirmed that its former members would continue to involve themselves in local history matters in the village, although under a different name and not as part of the Society.

**F Meetings and Walks**

A comprehensive calendar of the meetings and walks planned for 2007 had been given in the Newsletter and would also be in the Programme Card.

**G Membership**

Derek Mellor was pleased to report that the membership had again risen substantially. It now stood at 2404. He paid particular tribute to the recruiting work of Martin Warr, which the meeting endorsed. He also expressed the Society's gratitude to Walter Birch and his team of distributors.

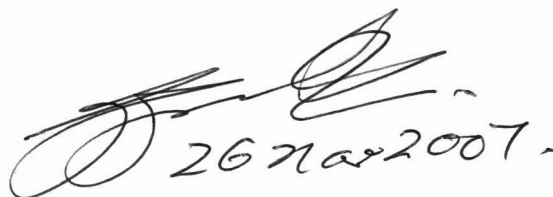
**H Web site and newsletter**

David Bower spoke of the increase in the print run of the Newsletter and of the use of the Web site. Distribution of the Newsletter was now more prompt and he was grateful for the support of our printer, David Deere. A member raised the question of the web site being developed to include an on-line comment facility and David said he would be very happy to look into the possibility of providing this.

**I Publicity**

Dave Pinwell mentioned various areas where we had receive publicity during the year and also referred to the new leaflet which was proving useful in promoting the Society.

As no other matters were raised the Chairman thanked those attending and closed the meeting at 9.40pm.



Handwritten signature and date: 26 Nov 2007.