

Approved by Cllrs
28/11/07

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY
(a company limited by guarantee)

**Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Society held on
Monday 26th November 2007, in the Village Hall commencing at 8 pm.**

Present: Gary Masters (in the Chair), and 51 other members.

1 Apologies

These were received from a further 7 members.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the AGM held on 27th November 2006 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3 Chairman's Report

A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached to these Minutes. In it he referred to the activities of the Society during the last 12 months and to the work of its sub-committees and Officers, for which he was very grateful. In particular he singled out for special mention the Local History committee. They had been largely a new group at the beginning of the year and had performed admirably. He referred to the work of Peter Morton who was not seeking re-election as a trustee director. Peter had served the Society in various capacities over the years and we were most grateful to him. He also mentioned the Hon. Secretary who would be relinquishing that post but who would be standing for election as a trustee director. The membership was now in excess of 3,000 and the outlook 'looked bright'.

4 Treasurer's Report and receiving of Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2007

Sandra Lea presented the Report & Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2007. They had been prepared in the required format thereby meeting the requirements of the Companies Acts and charity law. She outlined some of the major features including comparison with the previous year. Income from subscriptions and tax recovered had again increased and expenditure had been contained. The result for the period was a surplus of £3,214 and total Reserves for the Society (including the Eva Wootton Fund) of £15,201. Whilst these appeared large there were a number of items of expenditure which would probably have to be met shortly and it should therefore reduce over the next 12 months

The members unanimously agreed 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 following names had been duly proposed and seconded:

Chairman	Gary Masters
Deputy Chairman	Colin Smith
Hon. Secretary	Andrew Marston
Hon. Treasurer	Sandra Lea

No other nominations were 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 duly proposed and seconded to serve as trustee directors. They were:-

Sharon Wheeler, Anne Smith, Derek Mellor, Dave Pinwell and Peter Johnson.

No other nominations were 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 again been Independently Examined by Caroline Stewart F.C.A and the meeting unanimously accepted the Chairman's proposal, seconded by Peter Ewin, that she be re-appointed for a further year. Sandra mentioned that this would be last year which Caroline would be able to help in this way and that from then on we would be looking for a new Independent Examiner.

8 **Any Other Business**

No items were raised under this heading and the Chairman closed this part of the meeting at 8.41pm.

Notes on Reports given at the end of the AGM

(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)

A Local History

Derek Mellor was pleased to report on much progress in the cataloguing and date base areas. In addition the committee had completed a revision of the 'Short Guide to Central Knowle'. The new edition had been received from the printers only that day and was now available at £3 per copy. The committee were congratulated by the Chairman on this excellent publication.

A member noted that the church clock had been stopped for some months but it was felt that this matter was being dealt with by the PCC.

B Planning

Peter Ewin reported on activities during recent months and mentioned that the Review of the Conservation Area was expected to be completed shortly. He also brought the meeting up-to-date on various outstanding matters and confirmed that, despite the rumours, no Planning Applications had yet been submitted in respect of a marina or redevelopment of the Greswolde.

C Community Services

John Rowley referred to several matters including the continuing plans for the development of the airport. An exhibition showing the latest ideas was being mounted locally. Although no additional runway was proposed, a member expressed the view that there should be no expansion at all.

D Environment

Allan Coleman mentioned some of the ongoing outstanding issues including car parking, shopping trolleys, the Park and the traffic in Lodge Road. He also mentioned the recent improvement to the Scout Hut although it had not yet proved possible to improve the surrounding area. Discussion ensued on the need for further recycling bins and, on a straw poll conducted by the Chairman, the meeting overwhelmingly showed their preference for more bins even if this was at expense of car parking spaces. However it was pointed out that SMBC should either consider alternate sites or alternate schemes as applied elsewhere in the country.

F Meetings and Walks

Leighton Jones referred to the comprehensive calendar of the meetings and walks planned for 2008. He thanked Jenny Evans and Phil Vince for their help at the Meetings and noted the support which the meeting showed for the possibility of an occasional afternoon meeting.

G Membership

Derek Mellor was pleased to report that the membership had again risen substantially. It now stood at 3,027. He paid particular tribute to the recruiting work of Martin Warr.

H Newsletter Distribution

Anne Smith, making her first Report as lead distributor, appealed for more members to serve on a panel of relief distributors.

I 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. Consideration was being given to using some colour printing in the Newsletter and to the establishment of a search facility on our website. Following comments made at the previous AGM consideration had also been given to the establishment of a 'blog' facility but the trustee directors felt that this was not appropriate at the present time.

J Publicity

Dave Pinwell was pleased to report an increase on the amount of publicity which the Society was receiving in the local media and hoped this would continue.

As no other matters were raised the Chairman thanked those attending and closed the meeting at 9.48pm.