

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Saturday 24th February 2018 in Knowle Village Hall

Trustee Directors Present:

Apologies:

Bill Bohanna, Chairman (BB)	
Lilla Baker (LB)	Janet Erzen (JE)
Angela Bird (AB)	Leighton Jones (LJ)
David Bower (DB)	Liz Hulse (EH)
Andrew Marston (AM)	Lilla Baker (LB)
Dave Pinwell (DP)	
Martin Warr (MW)	
David Watson, Treasurer (DW)	
Maria Brown, Minute Secretary (MB)	
Members Present:	Phil Vince
44 members of Knowle Society	Susan Trucchi
	John Hulse
	Peter Ellis

1	Welcome and Apologies for absence: Andrew Marston welcomed all to the 55 th AGM of the Society, thanked them for their attendance and took the above apologies.
2	Minutes of the meeting held 25th February 2017 were approved.
3	Election of President: Peter Ewin was proposed by Bill Bohanna, seconded by Bryan Smart and duly elected. In reply, Peter declared he was honoured to take on the role and looked forward to representing the village and the Society to the best of his ability.
4	<p>Chairman's Report:</p> <p>Bill Bohanna was pleased to present Mike Humphreys with a lifetime membership of the society and a token of thanks in recognition for his time spent in benefitting the Society in creating paintings for Christmas cards to be sold on its behalf. Janet Erzen was also thanked for her help with the printing in this regard.</p> <p>In addition to the formal report submitted with the agenda, Bill highlighted the following: the achievement of the Queen's Award, the saving of the telephone box as an information centre, the owl carving in tribute to Dr Bower and revamping of the space outside the library, the library project itself, the bulb project and the funds raised by the society for such projects as the Village Hall, Solihull Hospital and the Neighbourhood Forum. He thanked Trustee Directors in turn for their contributions and hard work over the year: Martin Warr for his business liaison, Dave Pinwell for the revitalised newsletter, Andrew Marston and his planning committee, Janet Erzen and her history team, David Watson as Treasurer, Liz Hulse and the Natural Environment Committee, Lilla Baker for her ongoing work in keeping the village tidy and liaising with the Airport, David Bower for maintaining the database and involvement in the History section, Angela Bird for her involvement in the History section and her wonderful cakes, Leighton Jones for his work on Membership and Walks and Maria for her minute taking. He was pleased to highlight the work on revitalising the war memorial in readiness for the WW1 anniversary. He thanked all for their support and wished Andrew Marston all the best for his Chairmanship.</p>

5	<p>Treasurer's Report: Andrew referred to the formal annual report submitted with the Agenda and introduced David Watson to present the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2017. The reduction in balances was noted, mainly due to decline in membership and subscriptions. Total resources as at 30.9.2017 stood at £25,125. Total expenditure for the year stood at £17,565, with main expenditure on Village Greens project, Neighbourhood Forum transport survey and renovation of the knot garden. In referring to the breakdown on other charitable activities, it was highlighted that the admin costs were modest but there was a slight drop in regular income generally. With expenditure generally between £9-10,000, there remained a surplus each year and ring-fenced income for the bulb planting had been expanded to include further projects under the re-named Natural Environment Fund. In conclusion, the Treasurer would be happy to receive any donations to the Society and members were invited to consider leaving a legacy.</p> <p>There were no questions following the presentation of accounts.</p> <p>It was proposed by Bill Bohanna, seconded by Peter Ewin, and agreed, that the Accounts be adopted.</p>
6	<p>Election of Officers: Officers were duly elected as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chairman: Andrew Marston b. Deputy Chairman: Dave Pinwell c. Hon Secretary: Maria Brown d. Hon Treasurer: David Watson <p>A vote of thanks was given to Bill Bohanna as outgoing chair.</p>
7	<p>Appointment of Independent Examiner: West & Co Accountants were proposed by Peter Ewin, seconded by David Bower, and agreed.</p>
8	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Abbie Atkins as local community officer for Knowle introduced herself and her colleague to the meeting, informing that she was based at Chelmsley Wood, with restricted opening hours, but would be out and about as part of the neighbourhood team. She would be available at the Library on 2nd March between 1 and 2 p.m. b. David Bower informed the meeting of the recent changes in data protection and necessary compliance with new regulations which would entail the Society communicating with its membership directly to ensure the appropriate levels of consent for holding personal information which would be recorded.
9	<p>That concluded the formal business of the AGM.</p> <p>Following a refreshment interval, Peter Stean and Martin Lander of Stamford Civic Society gave a very informative presentation on how Stamford had approached its own conservation programme over fifty years, which had resulted in the restoration and retention of many of its historic buildings.</p> <p>A vote of thanks was led by Dave Pinwell.</p> <p>A vote of thanks was given to Angela Bird for the wonderful cakes and refreshments and the meeting closed at 4.40 p.m.</p>