

THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Saturday 21st February 2019 in Knowle Village Hall

Trustee Directors Present:

Apologies:

Andrew Marston, Chairman (AM))	
Lilla Baker (LB)	Janet Erzen (JE)
David Bower (DB)	Leighton Jones (LJ)
Liz Hulse (EH)	
Andrew Marston (AM)	
David Pinwell (DP)	Angela Bird (AB)
Martin Warr (MW)	
David Watson, Treasurer (DW)	
Maria Brown, Minute Secretary (MB)	
Members Present:	
75 members of Knowle Society	Chris Kirk
	Mike & Elaine Winterbottom
	Carolyn Siddle

1	Welcome and Apologies for absence: Andrew Marston as Chairman welcomed everyone to the 56 th AGM of the Society, thanked all for their attendance and took the above apologies.
2	Minutes of the AGM held 24th February 2018 were proposed by Phil Vince, seconded by Ann Hunt and approved.
3	Chairman's Report: Andrew Marston thanked all Trustee Directors and their Committees for their support throughout the year, highlighting the tremendous work that had been achieved in so many areas: the wonderful daffodils, the litter picks and flower bed tidying organised by Natural Environment; the liaison work with the Council – particularly with regard to parking issues; the critical eye kept on local planning applications; the regular exhibitions held at the Local History Centre. He paid tribute to the work of Bill Bohanna for his remarkable achievements in keeping the library open with its team of volunteers; to the organisation of Newsletter deliveries and subscription collections as well as walks; the varied monthly meeting programme. He referred to the achievement of the Neighbourhood Plan and highlighted its significance for local residents. Lastly he reported on the Library Courtyard plans which would be going forward for a heritage grant, to benefit widely. He again paid tribute to Bill Bohanna for his involvement in this aspect particularly and his time as Chairman and duly presented him with a gift on behalf of The Society.
4	Treasurer's Report: David Watson presented the accounts for the year ending September 2018 and referred to the 3-year summary and availability of full report both in hard copy and on the website. The balance sheet showed total funds of £24,502, slightly down on last year. Membership continued to drop year on year, reflected in the income figures. The main income remained membership subscriptions, supported by gift aid tax recovery, with some donations helping to increase total income to £18,500. Normal expenditure, taking out project and one-off costs, showed a slight increase. The Society had been pleased to make donations this year to Civic Voice, Knowle Football Club and Solihull Hospital which had been achieved through fundraising. Governance costs remained in line with previous years. Main specific expenditure this year had been towards the renovation of the High Street telephone kiosk, the Owl project and improvements to the Knot Garden (which had been supported by additional donations). The Tesco "bags of help" scheme had also supported the Natural Environment projects

5	<p>Election of Officers: Peter Ewin as President took the Chair for this item and the following Officers were duly re-elected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chairman: Andrew Marston b. Deputy Chairman: David Pinwell c. Secretary: Maria Brown d. Treasurer: David Watson <p>Election of Trustee Directors: The following Trustee Directors were re-elected for a further term of office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lilla Baker, Angela Bird, Elizabeth Hulse, Leighton Jones for 2-year term b. David Bower, Janet Erzen, Martin Warr for 3-year term
6	<p>Appointment of Independent Examiner: West & Co Accountants were proposed by the Treasurer, seconded by Peter Ewin, and agreed.</p>
7	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Appreciation was recorded for the achievement of the 1-hour free parking for Knowle and the joint approach with Councillors, local traders and Council officers working together with the Society commended b. It was confirmed that the Society would be pursuing the now inadequate bus service levels to Knowle, especially in light of previous assurances that no changes would be made
8	<p>That concluded the formal business of the AGM at 3.40 p.m.</p> <p>Following a refreshment interval, Kalen Wood, Head of Waste & Recycling at Solihull Council, presented “Getting Recycling Right” and treated the audience to a fascinating insight into the mechanics of recycling, with a lively Q&A session to finish.</p> <p>A vote of thanks was led by Dave Pinwell and the meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.</p>