

# THE KNOWLE SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

## Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Society Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 in Knowle Village Hall

### Trustee Directors Present:

### Apologies:

Andrew Marston, Chairman	
David Pinwell, Deputy Chairman	Lilla Baker
David Watson, Treasurer	Janet Erzen
Gavin Allan	
Angela Bird	CLlr Diana Holl-Allen
David Bowe	
Dave Fraley	
Liz Hulse	
Leighton Jones	
Martin Warr	
Maria Brown, Minute Secretary	
<b>Members Present:</b>	
57 members of Knowle Society	Mary Ing
	Sylvia Humphries
	Jeremy Seel

1	<b>Welcome and Apologies for absence:</b> Andrew Marston as Chairman welcomed everyone to the 57 <sup>th</sup> AGM of the Society, thanked all for their attendance and took the above apologies.
2	<b>Minutes of the AGM held 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019</b> were proposed by Phil Vince, seconded by Dave Baxter and approved.
3	<p><b>Chairman's Report:</b> Andrew Marston referred to the hard copy of the report available which detailed the activities of the various committees and activities of The Society over the year.</p> <p>In addition, he paid tribute to Liz Hulse for her sterling service as she would be stepping down from her role as a Trustee Director from this meeting – although he was pleased to report that she would continue with her Natural Environment Committee work. He referred to her sterling service over the years, in particular the feat of organisation required to achieve the planting of 135,000 bulbs over four years.</p> <p>He then referred to the chequered history of the Planning Committee and his admiration for two gentlemen in particular who had outperformed his expectations with their continuing stalwart service. Norman Stanley and Phil Vince were therefore awarded Life Membership of The Society and duly presented with certificates.</p>
4	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b> David Watson presented the accounts for the year ending September 2019 and referred to the three-year summary available in hard copy – the full accounts being available on the website. Income had dropped a little, reflecting the falling membership, with the bulk coming from subscriptions and gift aid and the rest from fundraising events. However, as Expenditure was also down on the previous year, this gave a surplus of £3,274. Christmas card sales had raised £620 profit, donated to Fisher House, and the Quiz Night had raised £700 which had been donated to the War Memorial project. Total income for 2019 was £16,863, with expenditure at £13,589. A healthy balance sheet showed total funds at £27,776, an increase of £3,274 on previous year. Although membership had declined, there were signs of stability showing. Any donations and/or legacies were always much appreciated as these contributed to funds for general wellbeing and</p>

	<p>funding for village. The approval of the Treasurer's Report and accounts was proposed by Ann Smith, seconded by John Hulse and agreed.</p>
5	<p><b>Appointment of Independent Examiner:</b> West &amp; Co Accountants were proposed by David Bower, seconded by Peter Ewin, and agreed.</p>
6	<p><b>Election of Officers:</b>  Peter Ewin as President took the Chair for this item and the following Officers were duly re-elected:  Chairman: Andrew Marston  Deputy Chairman: David Pinwell  Secretary: Maria Brown  Treasurer: David Watson</p> <p><b>Election of Trustee Directors:</b>  The following new Trustee Directors were elected for a 3-year term of office:  Gavin Allan  Dave Fraley  Rachel Marston</p> <p>Dave Fraley would be joining the Natural Environment Committee and Rachel Marston would be organising the rota for Library volunteers.</p>
7	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Thanks and appreciation were recorded to Mike Humphreys for once again providing the painting for the Christmas cards.</li> <li>b. Bill Bohanna was concerned that The Society needed to publicise what was happening in the Village and consulting with members. He was assured that MailChimps went out regularly and members were asked to ensure that the Membership Secretary had their up to date email addresses.</li> </ol>
8	<p>That concluded the formal business of the AGM at 3.23 p.m. and there was then a refreshment interval before Mr Saqib Bhatti was introduced to talk to those present about his experiences as a newly elected MP.</p>
	<p>Dave Pinwell then informed those present of the change in time for Monday evening meetings from April onwards; the launch of a questionnaire for views on bus services and the Visit Knowle initiative, informing of a fundraiser on 27<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>Concerns were raised from the floor and the following matters were discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Concern about empty shops and buying up of precinct lease – leading to the initiative of Visit Knowle to support businesses and retailers</li> <li>b. Bus services – differing views on inconsistencies of timings, peak time services</li> <li>c. Funding of Visit Knowle and clarification on how it will start its own fundraising to support its activities</li> <li>d. Confirmation of 2-hour parking to start in April</li> </ol>