

# Girton Parish Council

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The Pavilion  
Girton Recreation Ground  
Cambridge Road, Girton  
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## **Minutes of the meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton, at 7.30 p.m.**

*Residents in the parish were invited to attend this meeting and to speak at Item 16/40.1*

**Present:** Cllrs: Williams (Chairman), Barnes, Buckler, Bygott (from item 16/40.1 onwards), de Lacey (until item 16/43.8), Godby, Harrington, Kettle, Ranken, M Taylor (until end of item 16/43.12) and Whittle.

Cllr L Harford (Cambridgeshire County Council) (from item 16/43.12 onwards)

**In attendance:** S Cumming (Clerk), M Mckay (RFO)

- 16/37 Welcome from the Chairman** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 16/38 Apologies and reasons for absence** Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Griffin and L Taylor, and the Chairman accepted their reasons for absence. Cllr Harford had apologised that she would be late for the meeting, as she had a prior meeting to attend.
- 16/39 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** Cllr Barnes declared a personal interest in items 16/43.2 to 16/43.6 as one of the Girton Feast organisers. Cllrs de Lacey and Godby declared interests in item 16/43.8 as residents of Woodlands Park.
- 16/40 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:**  
Cllr Bygott joined the meeting at this point.
1. Members of the Public. There were no members of the public present at the meeting. Cllr de Lacey spoke as a private resident of Woodlands Park, on agenda item 16/43.8. He explained that since the agenda had been published, the Tree Officer had asked another tree surgeon to look at the Woodlands Park trees, and at least six need to be removed. The removal of trees would be an issue for the whole village. The County Council Tree Officer has an interest because the trees are planted on the highway so other quotations may be needed so all the criteria are matched. Generous monetary offers have already been received from Woodlands Park residents. Girton Town Charity has also been applied to, as the trees have community value. The trees were initially planted by public subscription and were the responsibility of the County Council who will now only remove trees not replace them. It was queried whether the Woodland Trust can help with community tree donations.
  2. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) The Council received the report, and the Chairman thanked Cllr Harford for her report. Regarding footpaths, Cllr Harford suggested that the Council looks at the Rights of Way strategy and ask for better engagement from the County Council. Cllr Harford agreed to look in to what is allowed by rolling road closures during the forthcoming Wings for Life running event.
  3. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr de Lacey reported that the Wing development had been passed for 13,000 homes north of Newmarket Road. Marshalls will have to relocate their engine testing bay. The only grounds for taking this land out of the greenbelt are that 40% affordable homes are to be offered. However, Marshalls are offering 30% affordable housing and 30% of these will be affordable built houses. Further to his report, Cllr Bygott was asked if Community Chest grants cover tree and hedge-planting schemes.
  4. Police Report (*Appendix C*) Cllr Godby had attended the Neighbourhood Watch Executive Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April, and reported about the reassurance of PCSOs coming round after the Big Bad Wolf Test, which could be good for the

elderly. This could be mentioned in Girton Parish News. There had been an attempted break-in to a house in Thornton Road. Fifteen officers now have use of the three Cambridgeshire Constabulary drones.

**16/41 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th March, 2016** (previously circulated). Cllr Williams queried the quotation of an exact number of applications for the Cambridge University Primary School, but was reassured that this information had been quoted from a County Council report. The Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Godby and approved with two abstentions.

**16/42 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)**

16/31.6 Additional anomalies were identified in the contractor quotations reviewed at the last meeting and also the appointed contractor withdrew, so three new quotations are being sought.

The approved contractor hadn't quoted for the less accessible parts of the roof, and had been asked to provide a second quotation, which was not received. A second contractor felt that the job was getting beyond what he could commit to, so new quotations now have to be sought.

**16/43 Business items requiring a decision, or consideration by the Council.**

1. To approve the replacement of floodlights on the Recreation Ground tennis courts at a cost not exceeding £1,400 (plus VAT) (*Appendix D*) Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Barnes. The possibility of using LED lighting was suggested, and had been previously explored. Approved with one vote against.

Items 16/43.2-16/43.6 will allow Girton Feast to go ahead.

2. To suspend byelaws to permit a marquee and gazebos to be erected and to enable motorised vehicles access to the Recreation Ground, on Friday 8th July and to remain in place until Sunday 10th July, 2016.

Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Bygott. Those wishing to erect marquees and gazebos have to have permission from the organisers to do so, and this should be made explicit. Cllr de Lacey proposed an amendment - "To permit Girton Village Celebrations to authorise the use of gazebos etc", seconded by Cllr Godby. The amended motion was approved with one abstention.

3. To grant permission to Girton Village Celebrations for a Fun Dog Show to be held on St John's Field on Sunday 10th July, 2016. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Harrington. There is need to make sure that owners don't go on the Recreation Ground with dogs, and a statement on the literature that dogs are not allowed on the Recreation Ground, with a verbal reminder when registering. All possible activity needs to be in place to stop owners bringing dogs on to the Recreation Ground. Approved unanimously.

4. To allow a model aircraft display to be held on 10 Acre Field on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2016. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Harrington. The display is to operate within the requirements of the club's licence. Approved with one abstention.

5. To allow a pony onto the Recreation Ground to be petted on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2016. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Harrington. Approved with one abstention.

6. To approve £50 contribution from Girton Village Celebrations for use of Pavilion and Recreation Ground during Girton Village Feast. This item was postponed until the next meeting.

7. To allow a charity stall on Smithy Green on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, as part of the Girton Village Garage Sale. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Godby. The sale will raise funds for Arthur Rank Hospice, the stall to be on-site between 11am-1pm. Approved unanimously.

Item 16/43.8 was postponed until the end of the meeting to allow Cllr de Lacey to take part in the rest of the meeting beforehand – please see details below.

9. To approve contractors to undertake grass cutting at St Andrew's Churchyard up to a maximum of 14 cuts per year (*Appendix F*) Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Godby. The Chairman had liaised with the Rector on this issue. Three quotations had been received, and the quotation received from CGM was the most favourable. Approved unanimously.

10. To approve a contractor for re-decoration of the Pavilion. This item was postponed to a subsequent meeting.

11. To agree a proposal for progressing evaluation of ground source heating option in connection with the car park redevelopment. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. When the car park is dug up it would offer a good opportunity to put in ground source heating, which could provide underfloor heating for St Andrew's Church. Cllr Ranken suggested that two contractors who specialise in ground source heating could give a presentation to the parish council and explain costs. Volunteers would be needed to take this forward.

Cllr Harford joined the meeting at this point.

12. To consider Cambridge Connect's proposals for a light rail system to link sites around and through Cambridge (*Appendix G and correspondence item 16/45.2*) Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. The Council was urged to lend support to something which offers a solution which is better than buses. It was suggested that the proposal be sent to Heidi Allen MP, Cambridge Connect and City Deal. Approved with one vote against.

Cllr M Taylor left the meeting at this point.

#### **16/44 Finance and Resource Management**

1. To approve payments for the previous month (*Appendix H*) The payments had been checked before the meeting by Cllr Godby. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Godby and approved with four abstentions.

#### **16/45 Correspondence (to be received)**

1. 21 March 2016: East Anglia Children's Hospice

2. 8 April 2016: Cambridge Light Railway information

Received by the Council. Regarding item 16/45.1, the Clerk will write to EACH to explain the Council's policy on donations.

#### **16/46 To receive reports**

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix I*) There were no questions arising from the Chairman's report.

2. Girton Town Charity. No report this month.

3. Girton Youth Project (*Appendix J*) The Council received the report.

4. Footpaths. No report this month.

5. Water Management. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the Environment Agency came to Girton and talked to householders. We are awaiting their report.

6. Bowls Green Task and Finish Group. Nothing to report this month.

7. Energy Task and Finish Group. Cllr Ranken paid tribute to the late Professor Sir David Mackay, leading energy expert and Girton resident, who died recently.

#### **16/47 To receive unconfirmed Committee Minutes** None.

#### **16/48 Matters raised by Members (for information only)**

A toolshare was suggested. There will be a skillshare day for Girton and Histon & Impington residents in June.

Regarding the bus stop at Girton Corner, it was questioned whether a perch could be fitted to the bus shelter. The Clerk will enquire.

Hallmark Homes are seeking suggested local names for the new care home. John Reynolds House was suggested: names should be forwarded to the Clerk.

Grass verges are being wrecked by delivery/construction vehicles etc.

It was observed that the sleeping policeman at Pepys Way junction needs renewing.

The headteacher at Girton Glebe Primary School is resigning for personal reasons.

Cllr de Lacey left the meeting at this point. The following item had been postponed from earlier in the meeting:

15/43.8. Following the discovery that one of the Silver Birches in Woodlands Park is diseased, the County tree officer has condemned it and it will be felled early next month. It appears that several other of the trees are in a similar state. The County Council is refusing to fund replacements, but will permit us to do so. In the light of this the Parish Council agrees:

(a) To replace the diseased tree outside 15 Woodlands Park with a Pyrus Chanticleer (like the

other replacement trees in Woodlands Park) for which a quotation of £25 + £25 for planting has been received (*Appendix E*) on condition that at least 50% of the cost be raised by subscription from residents;

Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Barnes. To replace the tree is contributing to something which is the Council's choice not our obligation to provide. Approved with one abstention.

(b) To undertake a survey of the remaining trees, and to produce a re-planting plan in the light of this. The funding for the survey to be provided by the agreement to survey all the Village's trees in the budget for 2016, and the plan to be presented to a future Council meeting for approval.

Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Whittle. It was noted that SCDC has a fund for new trees. Approved with one abstention.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils**

**March/April 2016**

At last the days are lengthening noticeably and, although the weather is changeable to say the least, we have seen some sunshine recently even if most days it is advisable to carry a brolly. Fine weather is welcome at this time of year as it signals elections and this year, although there is no district council election in the Bar Hill Division, we will still be voting for a new Police & Crime Commissioner [PCC] on 05 May. And then, before the dust has even had time to settle on the ballot boxes, they will be pressed into service again for the EU Referendum on 23 June. Doubtless the latter will attract a high turnout and it is to be hoped that, coinciding in many areas with the district council elections this time, the number of people voting for a new PCC will see an appreciable increase over the very low vote in November 2012.

With the budget setting process behind us, traditionally this is a quieter time of year for council business although most councillors are still busy with election campaigning. This year, however, there is another subject in the news. The 'D' word: devolution is on the agenda. On 16 March, as part of the Budget, the Chancellor announced details of an East Anglia Devolution Deal proposal covering Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk. The Leaders of all the District, County and Unitary Councils in the area committed to take these proposals to their councils for consideration and debate as well as to engage with the public and local stakeholders in order to decide if they wish to progress this devolution deal. Cambridgeshire County Council met on 22 March and resolved to inform the Secretary of State that it did not consider that the deal, in its current form, was acceptable to the Council. There are much publicised elements of this draft deal to which many have voiced strident opposition, particularly the requirement for an elected mayor and the geography and it would seem that these influenced greatly the County resolution. Following that and the dismissal of the deal by Cambridge City Council, it seems that even the initial enthusiasm of others has diminished. Norfolk County Council has also signalled its lack of support for the deal in its current form. The constituent councils now have until the end of June to consider further whether or not to make a commitment and meanwhile I

believe there is much scurrying around as various parties try to negotiate on matters that might prove to sweeten the deal for them. Including other local investments confirmed in the Budget, the current proposal would bring an extra £1.3 billion to the area for transport, skills and housing as well as new local powers to give the area control over existing pots of Government money. Recognising the unique housing market conditions in Greater Cambridge the proposal includes a ring fenced £175m capital grant for the East to deliver an ambitious target of new homes. The full devolution deal document can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/east-anglia-devolution-deal>

The Smart Cambridge programme has been allocated £300,000 by the Greater Cambridge City Deal Executive Board to develop a smart city management platform, using data and emerging technology to help to tackle city challenges such as transport. Run through the Connecting Cambridgeshire partnership, the programme is working with Cambridge's world-leading technology businesses, university researchers and commercial partners to 'test bed' the latest smart solutions. A new Smart Cambridge guide available online explores how 'smart city' innovations can be used to transform the way people live, work and travel in the Greater Cambridge area and beyond. Smart Cambridge will also involve residents to find creative ways to help to reduce congestion, improve air quality and deliver health care. The guide is available on the Connecting Cambridgeshire and Greater Cambridge City Deal websites

It is reassuring to know that the draft report of the Care Quality Commission [CQC] following its inspection of the Cambridgeshire Community Support Service in February indicates that the service is viewed as being 'Good' across all five areas of inspection. This service is provided for disabled children and young people

Still on the subject of children, in line with Home Office guidelines on protecting children from radicalisation, the Council has established a 'Prevent' operational group. This is made up of lead officers with responsibility for safeguarding and other Children, Families and Adults Service officers. They are currently overseeing the development and implementation of a 'Prevent' Action Plan that will 'identify, prioritise and facilitate delivery of projects, activities or specific interventions to reduce the risk of people being drawn into terrorism' [Home Office 2015]. The plan includes the actions that the Council is taking to 'ensure appropriate frontline staff, including its contractor's, have a good understanding of 'Prevent' and are trained to recognise vulnerability'. [Home Office 2015]

For young people the Council is working with 'Project Bedazzle,' which helps young people on the autistic spectrum prepare for work. The project was given initial funding by the Council and has already helped six people in Cambridge to identify the skills and experience they need to apply for jobs. The Richmond Fellowship operates a similar programme, funded by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group, to help people with autism develop their CVs and search for work. The council is also considering offering internships to young people on the autistic spectrum so they can gain work experience in order to prepare them for employment.

I have recently been made aware that, in the event of a power cut, issue with their equipment or even roadworks, UK Power Networks holds a free Priority Services Register for vulnerable consumers. Every resident over the age of 60 is eligible to join the register

as are those with a disability, are blind or visually impaired, are chronically sick, dependent on medical equipment or have young babies. More information from their website:

[www.ukpowernetworkds.co.uk/internet/en/help-and-advice/documents/EE\\_leaflet.pdf](http://www.ukpowernetworkds.co.uk/internet/en/help-and-advice/documents/EE_leaflet.pdf)

Three cheers [1]: At long last April saw the announcement of the first construction company who will build on Northstowe Phase 1. A planning application from Bloor Homes is expected to be submitted in the near future and, fingers crossed, we may even see the first homes completed during first quarter 2017.

Three cheers [2]: On 21 April 2016 beacons will be lit all over the United Kingdom in honour of the Queen's 90th birthday. The Council will hold its own event at Shire Hall starting at 7pm. The beacon will be lit at 7.30pm on Castle Mound by Deputy Lieutenant Colonel Colin Eisdén and there will be music from the Salvation Army Band. This will be a public event and all are welcome.

Lynda

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## APPENDIX B

### Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey

13. 4. 2016

Little if any further detail on devolution has been forthcoming since last month, and indeed is unlikely to before June when the Council will decide our position. The Government paper at <http://tinyurl.com/hllopo9> appears deliberately vague and ambiguous; the relationship to the City Deal remains equally unclear. Both will require significant development in and around Cambridge and hence will have a significant impact on us. But the funding on offer does not seem to match the infrastructure need. One (among several) proposed solutions to our transport infrastructure would alone cost around 1,300M; more than the total City Deal funding. There appears to be very little support for the devolution concept within Cambridgeshire apart from East Cambs and Fenland, with a fear that we would simply be the cash cow for the rest of the region, and currently I am minded to oppose the project.

A NW Cambridge forum meeting received an optimistic report on progress and introduced us to the new artist-in-residence who is exploring the ways communities grow using plant growth as an analogy. I hope to meet him soon. We touched on branding and were assured that houses within the Parish boundary will have a Girton address. Following this meeting Cllr Harford and I met to discuss issues which cross District-County concerns and agreed some common approaches on which we shall now work together.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrats and I have had briefings with our CEO and the Housing PFH. The Government's move from affordable homes (specially-built for shared equity schemes and the like) towards starter homes (a government subsidy to a specific group of first-time buyers) weakens our hand in negotiations with developers and removes our powers to demand higher-quality build. Rapidly-changing legislation also does not help. Meanwhile the high cost of housing in the Cambridge area is having a major impact on the Council's recruitment and retention of staff. Shared services with other authorities could help and these are going ahead in several areas, though not without pain to some and potential pitfalls. Vigilance remains necessary.

Planning services remain a problem with a stubbornly large backlog and an inadequate computer system. Applications submitted on paper cause a significant extra workload; we are

struggling to offer a good pre-app service; and appeals against refused applications impose a high cost both financially and in officer time.

The importance of Neighbourhood Plans for controlled future development is increasing, and I do hope that the Parish Council will consider ensuring that one is started for Girton. There are rumours about a potential expansion behind Pepys Way which is not part of the Council's Local Plan and goes against the spirit of our own Village Plan. I am investigating.

Douglas de Lacey

### **District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott**

Village Hero Award for Sam Clift

South Cambridgeshire District Council's sixth annual Community Awards ceremony was held recently in Cambourne. Seven award categories were contested, celebrating the achievements of local people and groups who make a significant and voluntary contribution to their area.

Joint first prize was awarded to Sam Clift from Girton for his initiative with the Club 55 Girton Computer Club. It is a club for people living in Girton who are over 55 years old or are living with a disability, and aims to teach people new computer skills while at the same time enjoying the company of other people who are also learning. If you would like to join the club or otherwise get involved, you can find more information at <https://club55.wordpress.com>.

I have known Sam for many years during which he has been actively involved with the village, helping local people. I am sure that the whole village will join me in congratulating him for his achievement. Community spirit and people helping one another is one of the many good reasons to choose to live in a community like Girton. When people get involved in community life it makes all of our lives better, and encouraging this is the reason why the Village Hero Awards were set up.

Community Chest Grants

Each year the District Council provides small grants for voluntary and community groups, charities and parish councils wishing to improve the quality of life for residents in South Cambridgeshire.

The fund opened this year on 1<sup>st</sup> April and runs until enough worthy grants have been received, so this is the best time of year to apply. The first round of grants will be decided on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

The funding is available to Applicants can apply for up to £1,500 for:

- Improvements to community facilities
- Repairs to historic buildings/monuments/memorials

- Tree and hedge planting schemes
- Equipment and materials
- Start-up costs

Last year, the fund awarded over £84,000 to 73 community groups, supporting a wide range of local projects. It has awarded nearly £300,000 over the last five years to 320 projects. For full details about the fund and guidance on eligibility, visit [www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest)

#### Devolution proposal for East Anglia

Following my comments last month about the proposal for an elected mayor across Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, I am yet to hear from anyone who actually supports the idea. So far people seem to be as sceptical of the idea as I am. A final vote has been scheduled for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Sawston Stadium

The Cambridge City Football Club have been looking for a location for a new stadium. Several sites around the edge of the city were considered some years ago, but a final site was chosen in Sawston in 2014 and approved by the Council.

Since then the project has been delayed by a series of planning and legal challenges, but the High Court has ruled that the Council acted correctly in giving planning permission, meaning that the project can now go ahead.

Cllr Tom Bygott

[cldr@bygott.net](mailto:cldr@bygott.net)

### **APPENDIX C Police Report - April 2016**

Between 13:00 hrs on 08/04/16 and 09:00 hrs on 10/04/16 unknown offenders have gained entry into a house via a rear patio door and taken jewellery in Duck End, Girton. CF0144870416.

Between the 14/04/2016 and the 15/04/2016 unknown offenders have forced entry into a garage on Thornton Court, Girton and have stolen various items from within.

If you would like to discuss the best ways to secure your bike then here's your chance! On the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 Histon Safer Neighbourhood team will be holding a cycle crime prevention event at the Longstanton and Fen Drayton guided bus stop between 15:00-17:00.



**APPENDIX D**  
**Tennis Court Lamps Replacement**

PA Collacott & Co, Electrical Contractors and Building Automation Systems.  
To re-lamp six floodlights on the tennis court and to issue test certificates on completion  
£1,315.66 plus VAT

Floodlighting Ltd, Hedgerley, Buckinghamshire  
(The specialist lamps were originally fitted by the company)  
To hire cherry picker, replace six floodlights and  
issue test certificates for tennis courts at Girton Recreation Ground,  
costs would include travel expenses..

**APPENDIX E**  
**Woodlands Park Tree**

Oakington Garden Centre

I can confirm that the cost of a Pyrus 'Chanticleer' at around 1.8 to 2m in height will be £24.99. This includes VAT at 20%.

(The cost of planting is to be circulated.)

Acacia Tree Surgery Ltd

To supply 1 x Pyrus Chanticleer (container grown) at an approx height of 8ft, prepare planting pit and plant with irrigation tube and single staking system and mulched finish. £225.00 plus VAT.

Anglia Tree Contractors

Collect and deliver 1x Pyrus Chanticleer 12-14cm 65litre tree at approx 6ft height. £170 plus VAT.

Collect and deliver 1x Pyrus Chanticleer.

Plant tree and use fish blood and bone.

Supply and erect 2x stakes with ties.

Lay Mulch around tree. Leave site neat and tidy. £310 plus VAT.

**APPENDIX F**  
**Churchyard Grass Cutting**

Three quotations were sought: CGM 14 cuts @ £84.45 plus VAT (recoverable) per cut  
Paul Laston Gardening Services . Verbal quotation of £200 per cut

A. Rose Gardener £90 per cut plus contingency for machinery damage and fuel.

**APPENDIX G**

**Cambridge Connect Light Rail System**

The Parish Council has been made aware of Cambridge Connect proposals for a light rail system to link sites around and through Cambridge. This would follow the A14 through Girton and require the Girton interchange to be modified to become a full 4 way junction. Provided such a modification will not increase noise and air pollution issues in the village and will provide full accessibility from the village to Cambridge City Centre and the Addenbrookes site the Council believe this would provide a preferred alternative to current bus-centred proposals being developed by the Greater Cambridge City Deal.



## APPENDIX J

### Summary of Girton Youth Project Report – March 2016

To get more interest from all the groups at the club, we have invested in some new equipment, with the skateboard ramp and basketball hoop, ventured out on to the rec to play basketball and Frisbee and done some new cooking and craft activities.

On the first week of Easter holidays we did two days painting at AlFresh.Co. The first day was for a group of 10, with most having only painted once before and one newbie, the second day was a master class for 3 of us.

From our participation in the Circuit events we have started a conversation about the feasibility of a collaborative project to recruit an artist that will be able to work with our Thursday Youth group, allowing them to complete their Bronze and Silver Arts Award and culminating in an exhibition. In addition, three girls interested in doing their Bronze Arts Award will start their project with a visit to the studios of artist Sarah Evans, from Aid and Abet in Cambridge in May.

Following our advert for a team leader position we will be interviewing one candidate. Although young, he has an impressive CV and we hope he will succeed in winning over group.

All the Easter activities are now complete and went very well. A full summary will be given in April's report, but photos of some of the activities are already on Facebook.