

Shutlanger Parish Council

Parish Clerk	John Scott
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Introduction

Shutlanger Parish Council has formed a Playing Field Committee, established in 2018 consisting of Parish Councillors and members of the community, to be the guardians of the covenants of the playing field (Purchased in 2018) and to improve the onsite facilities. Our aims are to create a safe and stimulating outdoor environment for all residents of the village. The Village Plan indicated that village residents placed a high priority on the development of the playing field facilities and therefore this is something we would like to address.

The village of Shutlanger is situated 3 miles South East of Towcester in Northamptonshire and has a population of around 300 people, with an electoral roll of 231. The village has 65 children under the age of 15 and 54 residents over the age of 65, which therefore may increase the chance of a grandchild visiting, increasing the number of children who may want to utilise the playing field.

Due to recent subsidy cuts, bus services are limited and therefore access to alternative outdoor spaces is restricted for many residents. With the playing fields being our only outdoor facility, it is of vital importance that they are stimulating and safe for our residents and provide them with a space to exercise and enjoy the wonderful countryside setting Shutlanger provides.

In addition, recent studies suggest that UK secondary school students spend up to 9 hours a day exposed to electronic media and around 22,000 school children are obese. Local schools are under pressure to ensure that the curriculum is delivered as well as supporting young people's social and physical health and therefore are under significant pressure to stretch resources. With these pressures placed on communities, we as a local committee can ease some of these pressures and provide a safe, stimulating space for children and young people to socialise and exercise.

As a committee we need to invest in new play/fitness and recreational equipment to replace the tired and worn out equipment currently on site, which therefore would ensure the recent purchase of the playing field reaches its full potential. We hope to provide a focus point for the young people of the area and a location for community spirit to be fostered. Specifically, we are asking for funds to compliment the investment the Parish Council has committed to make. The more we invest the more it will get used.

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It is important that this project happens and happens quickly, the recent cancellation of bus subsidies will hit the village hard particularly the youngsters and elder residents who are finding it increasingly difficult to visit local towns for entertainment / recreation. A comprehensively equipped playing field will negate the need to leave the village in many instances. The upgrade to the facilities will give the residents more feeling of ownership in the village life and will allow us to create more opportunities to bring the residents together as a community.

Consequences of failure to create a suitable environment are many, the elderly have no central meeting point and therefore could become isolated, the youngsters have no outlet for their energy, no meeting point for interaction with others. Juvenile crime in the area is low and we intend to keep it this way. This project will help immensely in this area.

The initial estimated project cost was £70,000 + VAT (Recoverable) but after negotiations and equipment review this is now estimated to be approximately £43,795 + VAT. (£52,554)

Key Points

- 1) Council has already invested £30k purchasing the playing field.
- 2) Needs to move to the next phase and invest in upgrading equipment.
- 3) This is for the wellbeing of the entire community.
- 4) The more invested the more the facilities will be used.
 - a. Shutlanger Parish Council has already allocated £8,000 in funds for the project.
 - b. South Northants Council has committed £15,328.
 - c. National Lottery has given £10,000.
 - d. Shortfall £10,467.
- 5) Upgrade is what the village has asked for (2014 Parish Plan).

Proposed works

Remove existing equipment

Slide, Swings Goalposts netball post.

Make good the ground

Fill holes with topsoil, re-turf open areas.

Install New equipment

Swings x 3

Copies of all council papers are available to download at
www.shutlangerparishcouncil.org.uk

Council members can be contacted via the Clerk

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Climbing frames and slides x 3

Seating area

Benches, Toadstools, Picnic table.

Goal posts x 2

Framed and including netball nets

Fencing to enclose all the above except the goalposts.

Estimated Costs (Ex VAT)

Swings	6,141
Tables & benches	1,872
Slides & Frames	23,539
Goals	5,100
Adjustment to align quotes	
Total	36,652
Other Costs	200
Installation	0
	0
Matting	0
Security and welfare	1,844
Delivery	0
Total	38,696
Fencing	2,612
Removals	2,487
Contingency	0
Total	43,795

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Funding		
Parish Council		8,000
SNC New Homes Bonus		6,714
SNC Development Capital Fund	35	8,614
Lottery		10,000
		-
Other		-
Total		33,328
Equipment Cost		43,795
Shortfall		10,467

Planned layout

Images are for illustration purposes only, as final product may vary

Option One

Scale: At A3 (1:200)

	Grass
	Gate (existing)
	Hedge
	Trees
	Directional gradient
	Fall zone
	Play zone
	Removed Area

Head Office:
 Sovereign Design/Play
 Systems Limited
 40 Towerfield Road
 Sharnbarnes
 Southwell, Notts
 Euse, S53 9QT
 T: 01502 29009
 F: 01502 29002
 E: info@sovereignplay.com

SCALE (AT A3): 1:500 DRAWN BY: A.B
 CHECKED BY: G.C./J.F AREA MANAGER: J.M Option One
 DATE: 19/07/2019 REF No: B3683

NOTES:

- (A) 2.4m Log Swing with Flat Seats
- 16x Grossguard Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)
- (B) 2.4m Log Swing with Basket Seat
- 16x Grossguard Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)
- (C) 1.8m Log Swing with Cradle Seats
- 14x Grossguard Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)
- (D) 2x Sherwood Table (inc. Ground Fixings)
- (E) Buddy Bench 1.5m (No Text) (inc. Ground Fixings)
- (F) Set of Three Reed Toadstools
- (G) Captain Manning (With one slide upgraded to double bumpy slide) - Scribbel
- 6x Grossguard Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)
- (H) Compo - Scribbel
- 31x Grossguard Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)
- (I) Time Out Trail
- 2 Stepping Stones
- Cluster Bridge
- Balance Weeover
- 16x Grossguard Tile (1.5 x 1m Tile)
- (J) 60m Palsade Fencing
- 1x 1300mm Palsade Alpha Gate
- 1x 3000mm Palsade Alpha Gate
- (K) 2x Senior Wooden Football Goal With Net and Basketball End (Scribbel)

Shutlanger Parish Council
 Images shown are for representational purposes, products may vary. T: 01702 29129 - www.sovereignplayequipment.co.uk

SOVEREIGN
 Bringing imagination into play

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Finance

The Parish Council has funds set aside (£8,000) for the redevelopment.

South Northants Council has granted the Council a further £15,328k.

The National Lottery has given the council (in the bank) a further £10k.

The council will **not** be increasing the Precept to cover the additional loan repayments.

To cover the shortfall of approximately £10,467 the council has agreed at a Council meeting to apply for a loan from the PWLB, this was on the agenda and minuted at the meeting on 8 November 2019.

Minute reference

19-11-16 **It was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £10,467 over the borrowing term of 14 years for the refurbishment of the playing field. The annual loan repayments will come to around £1004.**

Full minutes attached.

Plan B

The council considers that the additional costs for funding the loan can be covered within the existing budget plan, see below. As a contingency, new projects could be reduced for future years, the council also has reserves which it could call on, the council keeps approximately the same value of reserves as the Precept. In addition, should there be any circumstances where additional funds needed to be redirected the new projects for 2020 and beyond would be reduced, this would make a saving of around £3,000. Our budget expenditure in 2019-20 will be reduced as we expect to make expenditure savings on Drain Cleaning (no longer needed) Replacement Clerk (no longer needed) New Signage and Litter Pick which will now not happen this budget year, this creates a further saving of £2.6k which will increase the councils surplus at the end of this budget year.

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	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Balance Brought Forward	26,676	18,007	18,694	19,381	20,068
Precept	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
Lottery Funding	10,000				
South Northants Council Grant	15,328				
PWLB Loan (if approved)	10,467				
Total Income	79,471	35,007	35,694	36,381	37,068
Normal Annual Expenditure	17,669	16,313	16,313	16,313	16,313
New Playing Field Expenditure	43,795	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	61,464	16,313	16,313	16,313	16,313
Balance	18,007	18,694	19,381	20,068	20,755

These figures include the additional loan costs.

The services to the residents will not be impacted by the additional costs, and future new project costs are built into the overall financial planning.

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Budgets

	Budget 2019-20	Budget 2020-2021
Precept	17,000	17,000
Grants		
VAT Refund	1,500	-
Fundraising		
Loan		
Miscellaneous		
Total	18,500	17,000
Audit	250	275
Bank Charges	75	80
Churchyard	200	200
Defibrillator Phonenumber	375	375
Dog Bins Maintenance	180	500
Dog Bins New	570	
Elections	-	
Expenses	500	250
General Admin Direct	500	250
Grants	75	75
Insurance	400	410
Lighting Electricity	600	400
Lighting Repairs	200	200
Loan Repayment (Playing Field)	2,354	2,354
New Loan Repayment (Equipment)	-	1,004
Miscellaneous	1,000	500
Playing Field	1,000	500
Replacement Clerk	1,000	1,000
Staff Cost	3,500	3,500
Subscriptions	400	400
Training	500	250
VAS maintenance	250	250
Village Hall	120	120
Website	600	200
Salt Box Refills	120	120
New Signage	400	-
Drain Cleaning	1,000	-
Litter Pick	200	
Re Site VAS 1	800	
Bulb Planting	100	100
Bus Subsidy	400	-
New Projects	0	3,000
Total	17,669	16,313

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In the year **2020/2021** the additional costs (£,1004) for funding a new loan have been included, this is an estimate until we get the relevant interest rate form PWLB which is currently 2.45%.

Consultation

The Village Plan 2014 (extract below and full plan attached) and the questionnaire completed by a third party clearly indicated that the residents wanted the Parish Council to redevelop the playing field area, to do this the council decided that the playing field should be purchased on behalf of the village, this was completed in January 2018.

A web page was created on 30 April 2019 advising the residents of the plans. Link below.

www.shutlangerparishcouncil.org.uk/shutlanger-playarea.html

At the Annual Village Meeting in May 2018 it was agreed to put together a committee to oversee the redevelopment, it was also agreed that 2 councillors and 2 residents would form the team. This however changed when it was clear, after web site and face book page advertising revealed that there was more interest from the residents and now there is a committee of 2 councillors and 4 residents who meet regularly to discuss and agree the way forward. The expenditure and equipment plan have been agreed by the committee.

The plans are reported at the bi-monthly meetings of the council where residents can see the progress of the development.

A new webpage has been created dedicated to informing more details of the plans as it stands today together with financial aspects of the project. The link can be found using the links below.

www.shutlangerparishcouncil.org.uk/playing-field-re-development.html

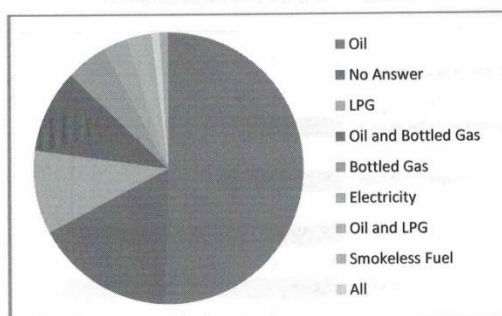
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Shutlanger Parish Plan February 2014

Figure 13
Q27. Which of the following energy supplies do you use in your home?²⁰



With regards to the play area (Question 28), over two thirds of those who answered this question felt it didn't meet the needs of children aged 0-5 or 6-11 years. All respondents aged 1-17 years felt the play equipment was inadequate for 0-11 year olds. Nearly half of respondents (n=45, 44.6%) felt the play equipment at the recreation ground should be improved (Question 29), but, again, all of those aged 1-17 years old felt the equipment should be improved.

Issues of most importance in terms of community buildings (Question 30) were considered to be toilet facilities (n=81, 80.2%), heating (n=74, 73.3%), catering facilities (n=61, 60.4%) and a large activity hall (n=56, 55.4%). The least important facility in relation to community buildings was the provision of small committee rooms (n=17, 16.8%). The questionnaire results show that the village hall in Shutlanger (Question 31) was largely felt to be sufficient for the village needs (n=78, 77.2%). The reading room (Question 32), however, was considered sufficient by 39.6% of people (n=40), insufficient by 27.7% (n=28) and a third of those responding had no opinion on the matter (n=30, 29.7%).

The most popular forms of raising funds to resolve issues raised by the questionnaire (Question 33) was fundraising (n=83, 82.2%), followed by grants/lottery funding (n=78, 77.2%). The least popular method was higher Council Tax increases (n=3, 3%). More details can be found in Figure 14.

²⁰ Note all properties have electricity supply

Extract from the Parish Plan indicating consultation.