

Stonham Parva Parish Council

(also known as Little Stonham)

Kate Dawson



Residents of Little Stonham approached the Parish Council after identifying that the play park equipment needed to be replaced. The Parish Council held a meeting to gain the public's thoughts and then planned what needed to be done to raise the funds to buy new equipment, identifying the skills and experience of different councillors and residents.

Money was raised to replace the equipment and then, following further feedback from families in the village, more fundraising was carried out to buy extra things that had been asked for.

What were the issues and how were these identified?

Residents of Little Stonham and the Parish Council identified that the play park equipment needed to be replaced. The existing equipment was over 30 years old and had become unsafe. There were more young families moving into the village who were keen to see the play equipment replaced and they asked for the Parish Council to support this.

How did local residents address the issue?

A leaflet drop inviting all village residents to a meeting about the play park was carried out. The meeting was run by a resident who was not on the Parish Council and had a good attendance. This helped identify the sort of equipment that residents wanted on the playpark.

Little Stonham Parish Council assigned a councillor to explore types of play equipment and to start to apply for grants towards funding the new equipment. One Parish Councillor took on the role of setting up a fundraising group and another agreed to gather quotes for the equipment.

The fundraising group was made up of Parish Councillor and a group of 5 village residents. The group took on different roles based on their skills and experience, such as advertising and designing posters/social media posts. A Christmas coffee morning was held which was attended by lots of people and raised over £1000. Plant sales were also held outside a house in the village and also through fundraising group members sharing and promoting to their friends on social media.

The fundraising group took part in the Asda green token vote and won. This was made successful by lots of people in the village voting for us to win, and also by the, encouraging others to vote for us too. The Parish Council also applied for a Viridor grant and Tesco community grant and were successful.

We were also able to apply for a Community Restart Grant after being told about it by a relative of someone in the village. This meant we were able to reach the target required to buy football goals and toddler equipment which had been identified after the main play equipment had been installed.



What was the outcome?

The Parish Council has received really positive feedback from people who use the new play area, as well as those who don't use it but were pleased to see it looking so smart and well used. We also received comments about how good it would be to see football being played on the field when the new goals go up.

Setting up the fundraising group brought together people who did not really know each other previously, and the coffee morning also brought people together who would not normally have met.

The plant stall outside a house in the village has been a place where people have met for the first time and chatted, and lots of people have donated plants to be sold.

Following the success of the coffee morning and responses from a village survey a pub quiz was arranged, which brought more of the community together, and the feedback received from many was how great it was to see so many people from the village supporting the event and getting to know each other.

As a result the village feels better connected, but there are still many people who do not respond to surveys, attend Parish Council meetings or events. Hopefully the success of future events and a wider range of things going on will increase this.

What next?

A village Big Lunch is being planned for the Queens Jubilee and is being planned and run jointly between the Baptist Chapel and Parish Council. The committee is made up mostly of people from the village and a number of those involved have not previously helped with village events. Hopefully some of the people involved will then be willing to continue to help with future events and/or the fundraising group.

The next fundraising project is to get The Magpie sign re-instated over the A140. This is something that has been identified by villagers as well as much wider range of people.

Various events have already been discussed and as a result of the coffee morning and pub quiz there is a wider group of people interested in future events.

