**Powers and Duties of a Parish Council**

Below is a list of powers and duties of parish councils. This is a summary of the main functions of a parish council; it is not intended to be a definitive list of such functions.

| **Function** | **Powers and duties** | **Statutory provisions** |
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| Allotments | Powers to provide allotments.  Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied | Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 s23, s26 and s42 |
| Baths and washhouses | Power to provide public baths and washhouses | Public Health Act 1936 s221, s222, s223 and s227 |
| Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria | Power to acquire and maintain | Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 and s10;  Local Government Act 1972 s214 |
|  | Power to provide | Local Government Act 1972 s214 |
|  | Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials | Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 s1 |
|  | Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries | Local Government Act 1972 s214(6) |
| Bus shelters | Power to provide and maintain shelters | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953 s4; Parish Councils Act 1957 s1 |
| Bye-laws | Power to make bye-laws in regard to pleasure grounds  Cycle parks  Baths and washhouses  Open spaces and burial grounds  Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms | Public Health Act 1875 s164  Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s57(7)  Public Health Act 1936 s223  Open Spaces Act 1906 s15  Public Health Act 1936 s198 |
| Clocks | Power to provide public clocks | Parish Councils Act 1957 s2 |
| Closed churchyards | Powers as to maintenance | Local Government Act 1972 s.215 |
| Commons and common pastures | Powers in relation to enclosure, as to regulation and management, and as to providing common pasture | Enclosure Act 1845; Local Government Act 1894 s8(4); Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, s34 |
| Conference facilities | Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities | Local Government Act 1972 s144 |
| Community centres | Power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19 |
| Crime prevention | Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures | Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s31 |
| Drainage | Power to deal with ponds and ditches | Public Health Act 1936 s260 |
| Education | Right to appoint school governors | Education (No.2) Act 1986 s4 |
| Entertainment and the arts | Provision of entertainment and support of the arts | Local Government Act 1972 s145 |
| Highways | Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways | Highways Act 1980 ss.43 and 50 |
|  | Power to light roads and public places | Parish Councils Act 1957 s.3; Highways Act 1980 s.301; Local Government Act 1972 Sch.14 para 27 |
|  | Power to provide parking places for vehicles, bicycles and motorcycles | Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s57 and s63 |
|  | Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening | Highways Act 1980 s30 and s72 |
|  | Power to provide roadside seats and shelters, and omnibus shelters | Parish Councils Act 1957 s1 |
|  | Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or diversion of highway | Highways Act 1980 s47 and s116 |
|  | Power to complain to highways authority as to protection of rights of way and roadside wastes | Highways Act 1980 s130 |
|  | Power to provide traffic signs and other notices | Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s72 |
|  | Power to plant trees etc. and to maintain roadside verges | Highways Act 1980 s96; Countryside Act 1968 |
| Investments | Power to participate in schemes of collective investment | Trustee Investments Act 1961 s11 |
| Land | Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of | Local Government Act 1972 s124, s126 and s127 |
|  | Power to accept gifts of land | Local Government Act 1972 s139 |
| Litter | Provision of receptacles | Litter Act 1983 s5 and s6 |
| Lotteries | Powers to promote | Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 s7 |
| Mortuaries and post mortem rooms | Powers to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms | Public Health Act 1936 s198 |
| Nuisances | Power to deal with offensive ditches | Public Health Act 1936 s.260 |
| Open spaces | Power to acquire land and maintain | Public Health Act 1875 s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906 ss.9 and 10 |
| Parish property and documents | Powers to direct as to their custody | Local Government Act 1972 s.226 |
| Public buildings and village hall | Power to provide buildings for offices and for public meetings and assemblies | Local Government Act 1972 s133 |
| Public conveniences | Power to provide | Public Health Act 1936 s87 |
| Recreation | Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control them | Public Health Act 1875 s164; Local Government Act 1972 Sch.14 para 27; Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 s44; Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 and s10 |
|  | Power to provide gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19 |
|  | Provision of boating pools | Public Health Act 1961 s54 |
| Town and country planning | Right to be notified of planning applications | Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Sch.1 para 8 |
| Tourism | Power to contribute to organisations encouraging tourism | Local Government Act 1972 s144 |
| Traffic calming | Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes | Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s30 |
| Transport | Powers to spend money on community transport schemes | Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s26, s27, s28 and s29 |
| War memorials | Power to maintain, repair, protect and adapt war memorials | War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923 s1 as extended by Local Government Act 1948 s133 |
| Water supply | Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom | Public Health Act 1936 s125 |