

# 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.

<b>Function</b>	<b>Powers &amp; Duties</b>	<b>Statutory Provisions</b>
Allotments	Powers to provide allotments. Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied	Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 ss.23, 26 and 42
Baths and washhouses	Power to provide public baths and washhouses	Public Health Act 1936 ss.221, 222, 223 and 227
Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria	Power to acquire and maintain	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss.9 and 10; Local Government Act 1972 s.214
	Power to provide	Local Government Act 1972 s.214
	Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials	Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970 s.1
	Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries	Local Government Act 1972 s.214(6)
Bus shelters	Power to provide and maintain shelters	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953 s.4; Parish Councils Act 1957 s.1
Bye-laws	Power to make bye-laws in regard to pleasure grounds	Public Health Act 1875 s.164
	Cycle parks	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s.57(7)
	Baths and washhouses	Public Health Act 1936 s.223
	Open spaces and burial grounds	Open Spaces Act 1906 s.15
	Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms	Public Health Act 1936 s.198
Clocks	Power to provide public clocks	Parish Councils Act 1957 s.2
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 s.8(4); Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 s.34
Conference facilities	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities	Local Government Act 1972 s.144
Community centres	Power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19
Crime prevention	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures	Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s.31

Drainage	Power to deal with ponds and ditches	Public Health Act 1936 s.260
Education	Right to appoint school governors	Education (No.2) Act 1986 s.4
Entertainment and the arts	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts	Local Government Act 1972 s.145
Gifts	Power to accept	Local Government Act 1972 s.139
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 ss.57 and 63
	Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening	Highways Act 1980 ss.30 and 72
	Power to provide roadside seats and shelters, and omnibus shelters	Parish Councils Act 1957 s.1
	Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or diversion of highway	Highways Act 1980 ss.47 and 116
	Power to complain to highways authority as to protection of rights of way and roadside wastes	Highways Act 1980 s.130
	Power to provide traffic signs and other notices	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s.72
	Power to plant trees etc. and to maintain roadside verges	Highways Act 1980 s.96; Countryside Act 1968
Investments	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment	Trustee Investments Act 1961 s.11
Land	Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of	Local Government Act 1972 ss.124, 126 and 127
	Power to accept gifts of land	Local Government Act 1972 s.139
Litter	Provision of receptacles	Litter Act 1983 ss.5 and 6
Lotteries	Powers to promote	Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 s.7
Mortuaries and post mortem rooms	Powers to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms	Public Health Act 1936 s.198
Nuisances	Power to deal with offensive	Public Health Act 1936 s.260

	ditches	
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 s.133
Public conveniences	Power to provide	Public Health Act 1936 s.87
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 s.164; Local Government Act 1972 Sch.14 para 27; Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 s.44; Open Spaces Act 1906 ss.9 and 10
	Power to provide gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19
	Provision of boating pools	Public Health Act 1961 s.54
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	Local Government Act 1972 s.144
Traffic calming	Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes	Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s.30
Transport	Powers to spend money on community transport schemes	Local Government and Rating Act 1997 ss.26-29
War memorials	Power to maintain, repair, protect and adapt war memorials	War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923 s.1 as extended by Local Government Act 1948 s.133
Water supply	Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom	Public Health Act 1936 s.125