

POWERS AND DUTIES OF PARISH COUNCILS

FUNCTION	POWERS AND DUTIES	STATUTORY PROVISION
Allotments	Powers to provide allotments. Duty to provide Allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied	Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 ss 23, 26 &42
Baths and Washhouses	Power to provide public baths and washhouses (i.e. laundrettes)	Public health Act 1936 ss221, 222, 223 & 227
Burial Grounds, Cemeteries and Crematoria	Power to acquire and maintain. Power to provide. Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials. Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10: Local Government Act 1972 S 214 Parish Councils & Burials Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s 1 Local Government Act 1972 s 214(6)
Bus Shelters	Power to provide and maintain shelters	Local Government Misc Provisions Act 1953 s4
Bus Services	Power to make grants of money (though not of a capital nature) for bus service appearing to be for the benefit of people living in the council's area or community bus service (mini busses run on a non-profit basis & catering for social welfare needs of one or more communities)	Local Government Rating Act 1997
Byelaws	Power to make Byelaws in regard to: Pleasure Grounds, Baths and Washhouses, open spaces and burial grounds, mortuaries and post mortem rooms and cycle paths	Public Health Act 1875 s 164, Public Health Act 1936 S 223, Open spaces Act 1906 s15, Public Health Act 1936 S 198 and Road Traffic Regs Act 1984 s 57(7)
Car Sharing Scheme	Power to establish and maintain, or to assist others, in car-sharing scheme for benefit of person in council's area. Schemes whereby private cars are made available to use on journeys where one or more passengers may be carried at separate fares.	Local Government Rating Act 1997
Chairman's Allowance	Power to pay the chairman a reasonable allowance	Local Government Act 1972 s 15(5) and 35(5)
Change of use of land	Power to use land by a parish council for another purpose other than what it was acquired for.	Local Government Act 1972 s 126
Citizen's Advice Bureau	Power to assist bodies such as CAB in advising individuals and by making or receiving communications or by providing representation to or before anybody or person in asserting an individual's rights or obligations	Local Government Act 1972 S 142
Clocks	Power to provide public clocks	Parish Councils Act 1957 s 2
Closed Churchyards	Power to maintain	Local Government Act 1972 s 215

FUNCTION	POWERS AND DUTIES	STATUTORY PROVISION
Commons and Common Pastures	Powers in relation to inclosure as to regulation and management and as to providing common pasture	Inclosure Act 1845; Local Government Act 1894 s8(4); Smallholdings & 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 education objectives	Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1976 s 19
Compulsory purchase	Power to ask District Council to compulsory purchase on behalf of the parish council if it is unable to acquire land by agreement	Local Government Act 1972 S 125
Crime Prevention	Power to install and maintain equipment with view to preventing and detecting crime in own area, may make grants of money to police authorities	Local Government Rating Act 1997
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 & 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 50
	Power to light roads and public places	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3 Highways Act 1980 s 301
	Provision of Litter bins	Litter Act 1983 ss 56
	Power to provide parking places for vehicles, bicycles and motor cycles	Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984
	Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening	Highways Act 1980 ss 30, 72
	Power to provide roadside seats and shelters and bus shelters	Parish Councils Act 1957 s 1
	Power to complain to district council as to protection of rights of way and roadside waste	Highways Act 1980 s 130
	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, 116
	Power to provide traffic signs and other notices	Road Traffic Reg Act 1984 s 72
	Power to plant trees etc and to maintain roadside verges	Highways Act 1980 s 96
	Power to fund traffic calming measures	Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s 30
Investments	Power to participate ins schemes of collective	Trustee Investments Act

FUNCTION	POWERS AND DUTIES	STATUTORY PROVISION
	investment	1961 s 11
Investigation and publicity	Power to investigate the need for public passenger transport; the use and need for roads; management and control of traffic	Local Government Rating Act 1997
Land	Power to acquire land by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of Power to accept gifts of land	Local Government Act 1972 ss 124, 126, 127 and s 139
Litter	Provision of receptacles	Litter Act 1983 ss 5, 6
Lotteries	Power to promote	Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 s 7
Mortuaries/post mortem rooms	Power to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms	Public Health Act 1936 s 198
Newsletters	Provision of information relating to matters affecting local government. District Auditor now agrees that to develop the spirit of Best Value this power may be used for parish newsletters	Local Government Act 1972 S 142
Nuisances	Power to deal with offensive ditches	Public Health Act 1936 S 260
Open spaces	Power to acquire land and maintain	Public Health Act 1987 s 164; Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Parish property and documents	Power to direct as to their custody	Local Government Act 1972 s 226
Postal and telecommunication facilities	Power to pay the Post Office, BT or any other public telecomms operator any loss sustain in providing post or telegraph office of telecomms facilities	Post Office Act 1953 s 51; Telecomms Act 1984; Public Buildings and village halls s 97
Prosecution/defending legal proceedings	Power to prosecute or defend or appear in any legal proceedings. May institute civil proceedings in parish council name. May represent the community at public enquiries.	Local Government Act 1972 s 222
Public Buildings and village halls	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
Public inspection of documents	Public have the right to inspect certain documents	Local Government Act 1972 s 228
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 Sched 14 para 27; Public Health Acts; Amendment Act 1890 s 44: Open spaces Act 1906 s 9 & 10
	Power to provide gymnasiums, playing fields and holiday camps	Local Government (Miscellaneous

FUNCTION	POWERS AND DUTIES	STATUTORY PROVISION
		Provisions) Act 1976 s 19
	Provision of boating pools	Public Health Act 1961 s 54
School Governors in Local Primary Schools	No longer a straightforward right of appointment but parish council may nominate for a school in the area	
Staff	Power to appoint staff under reasonable terms and conditions	Local Government Act 1972 s 112
Subscriptions to Council ALC, NALC and other associations	Power to subscribe to local government associations	Local Government Act 1972 s 143
Subsidiary Powers	The power to do anything which is coincidental to the discharge of the council's functions	Local Government Act 1972 s 111
Taxi fare concessions	Power to make arrangements with licensed taxi or hire car operator whereby he/she is reimbursed for giving fare concessions to persons resident in council area eligible to receive travel concessions under scheme established by County or District under Transport Act 1985	Local Government Rating Act 1997
Town/County Planning	Right to be notified of planning applications	Town and Country Planning Act 1990 sched 1 para 8
Tourism	Power to contribute to organisation encouraging tourism	Local Government Act 1972 s 144
Traffic calming works, speed cameras, CCTV cameras etc	Power to contribute to expenditure by highway authority (principally County Council) in constructing, removing or maintaining traffic calming works, if it will be of benefit to the area	Local Government Rating Act 1997
Village Signs	Power to make and erect ornamental village signs under the power to encourage visitors to the locality	Local Government Act 1972 s 144
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 provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom	Public Health Act 1936 s 125