



Powers and Duties of Town and Parish Councils

Provision	Powers and Duties	Statutory Provision
Allotments	<p>Powers to provide allotments.</p> <p>Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied and if reasonable.</p>	<i>Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 ss 23, 26 & 42</i>
Baths & Washhouses	Power to provide public baths and washhouses (i.e. laundrettes)	<i>Public Health Act 1936 ss 221,222,223 & 227</i>
Burial Grounds, Cemeteries and Crematoria	<p>Power to acquire and maintain. Power to provide.</p> <p>Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials.</p> <p>Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries.</p>	<p><i>Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9&10; Local Government Act 1972 s214.</i></p> <p><i>Parish Councils & Burials Authorities (Misc. Provisions) Act 1970 s 1</i></p> <p><i>Local Government Act 1972 s 214 (6)</i></p>
Bus Shelters	Power to provide and maintain Shelters.	<i>Local Government Misc. Provisions Act 1953 s 4</i>
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.	<i>Local Government Rating Act 1997</i>
Byelaws	<p>Power to make Byelaws in regard to:</p> <p>Pleasure Grounds Baths and Wash houses.</p> <p>Open Spaces & Burial Grounds Mortuaries & Post Mortem Rooms.</p> <p>Cycle Parks.</p>	<p><i>Public Health Act 1875 s 164</i></p> <p><i>Public Health Act 1936 s 223</i></p> <p><i>Open Spaces Act 1906s 15</i></p> <p><i>Public Health Act 1936 s 198</i></p> <p><i>Road Traffic Regs Act 1984 s 57(7)</i></p>
Car Sharing Scheme	Power to establish and maintain, or to assist others, in car- sharing scheme for benefit of persons in council's area.	<i>Local Government and Rating Act 1997</i>

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Chairman's Allowance	Power to pay the chairman reasonable allowance.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 15(5) and 35 (5)</i>
Change of use of land	Power to use land by a parish council for another purpose other than what it was acquired for.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 126</i>
Citizen's Advice Bureau	Power to assist bodies such as CABs in advising individuals and by making or receiving communications or by providing representation to or before any body or person in asserting an individual's rights or obligations.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 142</i>
Clocks	Power to provide public clocks.	<i>Parish Councils Act 1957 s 2</i>
Closed Churchyards	Powers to maintain.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 215</i>
Commons & Common Pastures	Powers in relation to enclosure as to regulation and management and as to providing common pasture.	<i>Enclosure Act 1845; Local Gov Act 1894 s 8 (4); Smallholdings & Allotments Act 1908 s 34</i>
Conference facilities	Power to provide & encourage the use of facilities	<i>Local Gov Act 1972 s 144</i>
Community Centres	Power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives.	<i>Local Gov (Misc. Provisions) Act 1976 s19</i>
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.	<i>Local Govt Rating Act 1997</i>
Drainage	Power to deal with ponds and ditches.	<i>Public Health Act 1936 s 260</i>
Education	Right to appoint school Governors.	<i>Education (no 2) Act 1986 s 4</i>

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Entertainment & the Arts	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 145</i>
Gifts	Power to accept.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 139</i>
Highways	Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways. Power to light roads and public places. Provision of litter bins. Power to provide parking places for vehicles, bicycles and motor cycles. Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening. Power to provide roadside seats and shelters and omnibus shelters	<i>Highways Act 1980 ss 43 50</i> <i>Parish Councils Act 1957 s3</i> <i>Highways Act 1980 s 301</i> <i>Litter Act 1983 ss 56</i> <i>Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ss 57, 63</i>
Highways (cont.)	Power to complain to district council as to protection of rights of way and roadside waste. Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or diversion of highway. Power to provide traffic signs and other notices Power to plant trees etc and to maintain roadside verges. Power to fund traffic calming measures.	<i>Highways Act 1980 ss 30, 72</i> <i>Parish Councils Act 1957 s1</i> <i>Highways Act 1980 s 130</i> <i>Highways Act 1980 ss 47, 116</i> <i>Road Traffic Reg Act 1984 s 72</i> <i>Highways Act 1980 s 96</i> <i>Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s 30</i>
Investments	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment.	<i>Trustee Investments Act 1961 s 11</i>
Investigation and publicity	Power to investigate the need for public passenger transport; the use and need for roads; the management and control of traffic.	<i>Local Government Rating Act 1997</i>

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Land	Power to acquire land by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of Power to accept gifts of land.	<i>Local Govt Act 1972 ss 124, 126, 127 Local Govt Act 1972 s 139</i>
Litter	Provision of receptacles.	<i>Litter Act 1983 ss 5,6</i>
Lotteries	Power to Promote.	<i>Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 s 7</i>
Mortuaries/ post mortem rooms	Power to provide mortuaries and post-mortem rooms.	<i>Public Health Act 1936 s 198</i>
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.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 142</i>
Nuisances	Power to deal with offensive Ditches.	<i>Public Health Act 1936 s 260</i>
Open Spaces	Power to acquire land and maintain.	<i>Public Health Act 1987 s 164; Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9&10</i>
Parish Property and Documents	Power to direct as to their Custody.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 226</i>
Public Buildings and village halls	Power to provide buildings for offices and for public meetings and assemblies.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 133</i>
Public Conveniences	Power to provide.	<i>Public Health Act 1936 s 87</i>
Public inspection of Documents	Public have the right to inspect certain documents.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 228</i>

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Recreation	Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control them.	<i>Public Health Act 1875 s 164; Local Govt Act 1972 Sched 14 para 27; Public Health Acts: Amendment Act 1890 s 44; Open Spaces Act 1906 s 9 & 10</i>
	Power to provide gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps.	<i>Local Govt (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s 19</i>
	Provision of boating pools.	<i>Public Health Act 1961 s 54</i>
Staff	Power to appoint staff under reasonable terms and conditions.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 112</i>
Subscriptions to County ALC, NALC and other associations	Power to subscribe to local government associations.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s143</i>
Subsidiary Powers	The power to do anything which is coincidental to the discharge of the council's functions.	<i>Local Government Act 1972 s 111</i>
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.	<i>Local Govt Rating Act 1997</i>
Town/County Planning	Right to be notified of planning Applications.	<i>Town and County Planning Act 1990 Sched 1 para 8</i>
Tourism	Power to contribute to organisation encouraging tourism.	<i>Local Gov Act 1972 s 144</i>
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.	<i>Local Govt Rating Act 1997</i>

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Village Signs	Power to make and erect ornamental village signs under the power to encourage visitors to the locality.	<i>Local Gov Act 1972 s 144</i>
War memorials	Power to maintain, repair, protect and adapt war Memorials.	<i>War memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923 s 1 as extended by Local Government Act 1948 s 133</i>
Water Supply	Power to utilise well, spring or stream and provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom.	<i>Public Health Act 1936 s 125.</i>

(list is not exhaustive)