

OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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N.B. This list is intended only as a guide to the main powers and duties of parish councils as at January 2003. It is not definitive.

| Topic | Powers and Duties | Statutory Provisions |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Advice | (See "Information and Advice") | |
| Allotments | Power to provide allotments. Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied. | Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908. Allotments Act 1950. |
| Arts | (See "Entertainment and the Arts"). | |
| Baths and wash-houses | Power to provide public baths and wash-houses (i.e. launderette). | Public Health Act 1936. |
| Borrowing | (See "Money"). | |
| Bridleways | (See "Highways") | |
| Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria | Power to acquire, provide and maintain Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials. Power to contribute towards expenses of burial grounds and cemeteries provided by others. | Open Spaces Act 1906. Local Government Act 1972. Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970. Local Government Act 1972. |
| Bus services | (See "Transport") | |
| Bus Shelters | (See "Shelters") | |
| Bye laws | Power to make bye-laws for: Pleasure grounds. Cycle parks. Baths, swimming pools and wash-houses. Open spaces and burial grounds. Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms. Markets maintained by parish councils. | Public Health Act 1875. Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Public Health Act 1936. Open Spaces Act 1906. Public Health Act 1936. Food Act 1984. |

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| Car Parks | (See "Highways") | |
| Car sharing scheme | (See "Transport") | |
| Cemeteries | (See "Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria") | |
| Charities | Right to appoint trustees to some parochial charities. | Charities Act 1993 |
| Churchyards | Power to contribute to the costs of a churchyard in use. | Local Government Act 1972 |
| | Duty to maintain a closed churchyard where the duty has been transferred by the Church. | Local Government Act 1972 |
| Clocks | Power to provide public clocks, or to contribute towards the expenses of public clocks provided by others. | Parish Councils Act 1957 |
| Commons and common pastures | Power to protect any finally registered common which has no registered owner. | Commons Registration Act 1965 |
| | Power to contribute to costs of scheme for regulation and management of commons. | Commons Act 1899 |
| | Power to provide common pasture. | Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908. |
| Community bus services | (See "Transport") | |
| Community centres | (See "Halls") | |
| Conference facilities | Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities. | Local Government Act 1972 |
| Council Tax | (See "Money") | |
| Cremation | (See "Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria") | |
| Crime Prevention | Power to instal equipment or establish a scheme for crime prevention, or to assist others to do so. | Local Government and Rating Act 1997 |
| Cycle parks | (See "Highways") | |
| Ditches and drains | Power to deal with ponds, ditches and drains containing filth or matter prejudicial to public health, and to contribute towards the expenses of another person in doing these things. | Public Health Act 1936. |

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| Education | Right to nominate primary school governors. | School Standards and Framework Act 1998 |
| Employment | Power to employ staff to carry out council functions. | Local Government Act 1972 |
| Entertainment and the arts | Power to provide public entertainment and premises for giving entertainment. | Local Government Act 1972 |
| | Power to develop and improve knowledge of the arts. | |
| | Power to contribute to the expenses of entertainment provided by others. | |
| Flagpoles | Power to erect flagpoles. | Highways Act 1980 |
| Footpaths | (See "Highways") | |
| Gifts | Power to accept. | Local Government Act 1972 |
| Halls | Power to provide and furnish buildings for public meetings, and to contribute towards the expenses of another parish council or any other person in providing such facilities. | Local Government Act 1972 |
| | Power to provide and equip premises for indoor sport or physical recreation, or for the use of clubs having athletic, social or recreational objects, and to contribute towards the expenses of another local authority or voluntary organisation in providing such facilities. | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 |
| Highways | Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways. | Highways Act 1980 |
| | Power to light roads and public places. | Parish Councils Act 1957. Highways Act 1980. |
| | Power to provide and maintain parking places for vehicles, bicycles and motorcycles. | Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 |
| | Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening of highways. | Highways Act 1980. |
| | Power to complain to highway authority as to protection of rights of way and roadside wastes. | Highways Act 1980. |

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| Highways (contd) | <p>Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or division of highway.</p> <p>Power to provide traffic signs and other notices.</p> <p>Power to plant and maintain roadside verges.</p> <p>Power to contribute to cost of local traffic calming works by highways authority.</p> <p>Power to investigate the use of and need for local roads and traffic control.</p> | <p>Highways Act 1980</p> <p>Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984</p> <p>Highways Act 1980.</p> <p>Local Government and Rating Act 1997</p> <p>Local Government and Rating Act 1997</p> |
| Information and Advice | <p>Power to provide, or assist others in providing, information for the public about local services.</p> <p>Power to assist voluntary organisations providing information and advice to individuals.</p> | <p>Local Government Act 1972</p> |
| Investments | (See "Money") | |
| Land | <p>Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of.</p> <p>Power to accept gifts of land.</p> | <p>Local Government Act 1972</p> |
| Launderettes | (See "Baths and wash-houses") | |
| Legal proceedings | <p>Power to prosecute and defend legal proceedings and to take part in a public local enquiry.</p> | <p>Local Government Act 1972</p> |
| Lighting | (See "Highways") | |
| Litter | <p>Power to provide litter bins.</p> | <p>Litter Act 1983</p> |
| Lotteries | <p>Power to promote local lotteries.</p> | <p>Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976</p> |
| Money | <p>Power to borrow.</p> <p>Power to raise money from the council tax, by precepting on the district council.</p> <p>Power to invest in statutory securities.</p> | <p>Local Government Act 1972</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972. Local Government Finance Act 1992</p> <p>Trustee Investments Act 1961</p> |

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| Mortuaries and postmortem rooms | Power to provide. | Public Health Act 1936 |
| Open spaces | (See "Recreation") | |
| Parish property and documents | Power to direct as to their custody | Local Government Act 1972 |
| Parks | (See "Recreation") | |
| Planning | Right to be notified of planning applications and to comment. | Town and Country Planning Act 1990 |
| Playing fields | (See "Recreation") | |
| Ponds | (See "Ditches and drains") | |
| Public halls | (See "Halls") | |
| Public lavatories | Power to provide and maintain. | Public Health Act 1936 |
| 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. Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890. Open Spaces Act 1906. Local Government Act 1972. |
| | Power to provide indoor facilities such as sports centres, swimming pools, skating rinks, tennis, squash and badminton courts, bowling centres, dance studios and riding schools. | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 |
| | Power to provide outdoor facilities such as pitches for team games, athletic grounds, swimming pools, tennis courts, cycle tracks, golf courses, bowling greens, riding schools, camp sites and facilities for gliding. | |
| | Power to provide boating pools. | Public Health Act 1961 |
| | Power to contribute towards the expenses of another local authority or non-profit organisation in providing such recreational facilities. | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 |
| Roadside verges | (See "Highways") | |
| Seats | Power to provide public seats on the highways, and to contribute towards the costs of public seats provided by others. | Parish Councils Act 1957 |

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| Shelters | <p>Power to provide and maintain shelters for general public use, and bus shelters.</p> <p>Power to contribute towards the costs of shelters provided by others.</p> | <p>Parish Councils Act 1957. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953</p> |
| Signs | (See "Highways") | |
| Swimming | (See "Recreation") | |
| Taxi services | (See "Transport") | |
| Tourism | <p>Power to encourage tourism and to contribute to other organisations encouraging tourism.</p> | <p>Local Government Act 1972</p> |
| Traffic calming | (See "Highways") | |
| Transport | <p>Power to establish a local car sharing scheme, or to assist others to do so.</p> <p>Power to make grants for bus services benefiting local elderly or disabled people.</p> <p>Power to make grants to local bus services.</p> <p>Power to subsidise taxi fares for eligible local residents.</p> <p>Power to publicise information about local public passenger transport services.</p> | <p>Local Government and Rating Act 1997</p> <p>Local Government and Rating Act 1997</p> <p>Local Government and Rating Act 1997</p> <p>Local Government and Rating Act 1997</p> <p>Local Government and Rating Act 1997</p> |
| Village greens | <p>Power to maintain village greens.</p> | <p>Public Health Act 1875. Local Government Act 1972</p> |
| Village halls | (See "Halls") | |
| War Memorials | <p>Power to maintain, repair, protect and adapt war memorials.</p> | <p>War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, as extended by Local Government Act 1948</p> |
| Water supply | <p>Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom.</p> | <p>Public Health Act 1936</p> |

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| S.137 power | In any situation not covered by one of the specific powers listed above, power to spend money on any purpose in the interests of and of direct benefit to the parish or its inhabitants. | Local Government Act 1972 |

WARNING: the above summaries do not include any limitations and conditions which are attached to some of the statutory powers and must, where appropriate, be observed when exercising those powers.