

Powers and Responsibilities of a Parish Council

Allotments

Powers and duties

Powers to provide allotments. Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied

Statutory provisions

Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, ss.23, 26 and 42

Baths and washhouses

Powers and duties

Power to provide public baths and washhouses

Statutory provisions

Public Health Act 1936, ss. 221, 222, 223 and 227

Burial Grounds, Cemeteries and Crematoria

Powers and duties

Power to acquire and maintain

Power to provide

Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials

Statutory provisions

Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10; Local Government Act 1972, s. 214; Parish Councils and Burials Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970, s.1

Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries Local Government Act 1972, s.214(6)

Bus shelters

Powers and duties

Power to provide and maintain shelters

Statutory provisions

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953, s.4

Bye-laws

Powers and duties

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

Statutory provisions

Public Health Act 1875, s.164

Road Traffic Regulation

Public Health Act 1936, s.223

Open Spaces Act 1906, s.15

Public Health Act 1936, s.198

Charities

Powers and duties

Duty to receive accounts of parochial charities

Statutory provisions
Charities Act 1960, s.32

Clocks

Powers and duties
Power to provide public clocks
Statutory provisions
Parish Councils Act 1957, s.2

Closed Churchyards

Powers and duties
Power as to maintenance
Statutory provisions
Local Government Act 1972, s.215

Commons and common pastures

Powers and duties
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); Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.34

Conference Facilities

Powers and duties
Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities
Statutory provisions
Local Government Act 1972, s.144

Community Centres

Powers and duties
Power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives
Statutory provisions
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19

Drainage

Powers and duties
Power to deal with ponds and ditches
Statutory provisions
Public Health Act 1936, s.260

Education

Powers and duties
Right to appoint school governors
Statutory provisions
Education (No 2) Act 1986, s.4

Entertainment and The Arts

Powers and duties

Provision of entertainment and support of the arts

Statutory provisions

Local Government Act 1972, s.145

Gifts

Powers and duties

Power to accept

Statutory provisions

Local Government Act 1972, s.139

Highways

Powers and duties

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 an agreement as to dedication and widening

Power to provide roadside seats and shelters, and omnibus shelters

Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or diversion of highway

Power to complain to district council as to protection of rights of way and roadside wastes

Power to provide traffic signs and other notices

Power to plant trees etc. and to maintain roadside verges

Statutory provisions

Highways Act 1980, ss.43.50

Parish Councils Act 1058, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301

Litter Act 1983, ss.5.6

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, ss.57, 63

Highways Act 1980, ss.30, 72

Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1

Highways Act 1980, ss.47, 116

Highways Act 1980, s.130

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.72

Highways Act 1980, s.96

Investments

Powers and duties

Power to participate in schemes of collective investment

Statutory provisions

Trustee Investments Act 1961, s.11

Land

Powers and duties

Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of

Power to accept gifts of land

Statutory provisions

Local Government Act 1972, ss.124, 126, 127

Local Government Act 1972, s.139

Litter

Powers and duties

Provision of receptacles

Statutory provisions

Litter Act 1983, ss.5, 6

Lotteries

Powers and duties

Powers to promote

Statutory provisions

Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976, s.7

Mortuaries and Post-mortem Rooms

Powers and duties

Power to provide mortuaries and post-mortem rooms

Statutory provisions

Public Health Act 1936, s.198

Nuisances

Powers and duties

Power to deal with offensive ditches

Statutory provisions

Public Health Act 1936, s.260

Open Spaces

Powers and duties

Power to acquire land and maintain

Statutory provisions

Public Health Act 1875, s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10

Parish Property and Documents

Powers and duties

Powers to direct as to their custody

Statutory provisions

Local Government Act 1972, s.226

Postal and Telecommunications

Powers and duties

Power to pay the Post Office, British Telecommunications or any other public telecommunications operator any loss sustained in providing post or telegraph office or telecommunications facilities

Statutory provisions

Post Office Act 1953, s.51; Telecommunications Act 1984, s.97

Public Buildings and Village Halls

Powers and duties

Power to provide buildings for offices and for public meetings and assemblies

Statutory provisions

Local Government Act 1972, s.133

Public Conveniences

Powers and duties

Power to provide

Statutory provisions

Public Health Act 1936, s.87

Recreation

Powers and duties

Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage them

Power to provide gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps

Provision of boating pools

Statutory provisions

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, ss.9 and 10; Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19

Public Health Act 1961, s.54

Town and Country Planning

Powers and duties

Right to be notified of planning applications

Statutory provisions

Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched 1, para 8

Tourism

Powers and duties

Power to contribute to organisations encouraging

Statutory provisions

Local Government Act 1972, s.144

War Memorials

Powers and duties

Power to maintain, repair, protect and adapt war memorials

Statutory provisions

War memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, s.1: as extended by Local Government Act 1948, s.133

Water Supply

Powers and duties

Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom

Statutory provisions

Public health Act 1936, s.125

<http://askyourcouncil.uk/understanding-your-council/list-of-legal-powers-and-duties/>