

## Parish council powers

Function	Powers & Duties	Statutory Provisions
Allotments	Duty to provide allotments	<a href="#">Small Holding &amp; Allotments Act 1908</a> , s.23
	Power to improve and adapt land for allotments, and to let grazing rights	<a href="#">Small Holding &amp; Allotments Act 1908</a> , s.26 <a href="#">Small Holding &amp; Allotments Act 1908</a> , s.42
Baths and washhouses	Power to provide public baths and washhouses	<a href="#">Public Health Act 1936</a> , <a href="#">ss.221</a> , <a href="#">222</a> , <a href="#">223</a> , <a href="#">227</a>
Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria	Power to acquire and maintain	<a href="#">Open Spaces Act 1906</a> , <a href="#">ss. 9</a> , <a href="#">10</a>
	Power to provide	<a href="#">Local Government Act 1972</a> , <a href="#">s.214</a>

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 \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1953, s.4](#)

**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](#)

<b>Clocks</b>	Power to provide public clocks	<a href="#"><u>Parish Councils Act 1957, s.2</u></a>
<b>Closed churchyards</b>	Powers as to maintenance	<a href="#"><u>Local Government Act 1972, s.215</u></a>
<b>Common pastures</b>	Powers in relation to providing common pasture	<a href="#"><u>Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, s.34</u></a>
<b>Conference facilities</b>	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities	<a href="#"><u>Local Government Act 1972, s.144</u></a>
<b>Community centres</b>	Power to provide and equip buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or recreational objectives	<a href="#"><u>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19</u></a>
<b>Crime prevention</b>	Powers to install and maintain equipment and establish and maintain a scheme for detection or prevention of crime	<a href="#"><u>Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.31</u></a>
	Power to contribute to police services e.g. PCSOs	<a href="#"><u>Police Act 1996, s.92</u></a>

Duty on Parish Councils to consider crime reduction in every policy and action

[Crime and Disorder Act 1998, s.17](#)

---

## **Drainage**

Power to deal with ponds and ditches

[Public Health Act 1936, s.260](#)

---

## **Entertainment and the arts**

Provision of entertainment and support of the arts

[Local Government Act 1972, s.145](#)

---

## **Flyposting and Graffiti**

Power to take enforcement action against those that fly-post or graffiti

[Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005](#)

---

## **General Power of Competence**

Power of first resort for qualifying councils

[Localism Act 2011 s.1](#)

---

## **Gifts**

Power to accept

[Local Government Act 1972, s.139](#)

---

## **Highways**

Power to maintain footpaths and bridleways

Highways Act 1980, [ss.43](#), [50](#)

Power to light roads and public places	<a href="#"><u>Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Highways Act 1980, s.301</u></a>
Provision of litter bins	<a href="#"><u>Litter Act 1983, ss.5, 6</u></a>
Powers to provide parking places for bicycles and motor-cycles, and other vehicles	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, <a href="#"><u>ss.57, 63</u></a>
Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening	<a href="#"><u>Highways Act 1980, ss.30, 72</u></a>
Power to provide roadside seats and shelters	<a href="#"><u>Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1</u></a>
Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or diversion of highway	<a href="#"><u>Highways Act 1980, ss.47, 116</u></a>

Power to complain to highway authority  
as to unlawful stopping up or  
obstruction of highway or unlawful  
encroachment on roadside wastes

[Highways Act 1980, s.130](#)

Power to provide traffic signs and other  
objects or devices warning of danger

[Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.72](#)

Power to plant trees and lay out grass  
verges etc. and to maintain them

[Highways Act 1980, s.96](#)

## **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, 127](#)

Power to accept gifts of land

[Local Government Act 1972, s.139](#)

## **Litter**

Provision of receptacles

[Litter Act 1983, ss.5, 6](#)

	Power to take enforcement action against those that litter	<a href="#"><u>Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005</u></a>
<b>Mortuaries and postmortem rooms</b>	Powers to provide mortuaries and postmortem rooms	<a href="#"><u>Public Health Act 1936, s.198</u></a>
<b>Open spaces</b>	Power to acquire land and maintain	<a href="#"><u>Public Health Act 1875, s.164</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9, 10</u></a>
<b>Parish documents</b>	Powers to direct as to their custody	<a href="#"><u>Local Government Act 1972, s.226</u></a>
<b>Public buildings and village hall</b>	Power to provide buildings for public meetings and assemblies	<a href="#"><u>Local Government Act 1972, s.133</u></a>
<b>Public conveniences</b>	Power to provide	<a href="#"><u>Public Health Act 1936, s.87</u></a>
<b>Sustainable communities</b>	Right of representation on a panel of representatives to be consulted on proposals that would contribute to sustainable communities	<a href="#"><u>Sustainable Communities Act 2007</u></a>

<b>Telecommunications facilities</b>	Power to pay public telecommunications operators any loss sustained providing telecommunication facilities	<a href="#"><u>Telecommunications Act 1984, s.97</u></a>
<b>Town and country planning</b>	Right to be notified of planning applications	<a href="#"><u>Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched.1, para. 8</u></a>
<b>Tourism</b>	Power to encourage visitors and provide conference and other facilities	<a href="#"><u>Local Government Act 1972, s.144</u></a>
<b>Traffic calming</b>	Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes	<a href="#"><u>Highways Act 1980, s.274A</u></a>
<b>Transport</b>	Powers in relation to car-sharing schemes, taxi fare concessions and information about transport	<a href="#"><u>Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.26, 28, 29</u></a>
	Powers to make grants for bus services	<a href="#"><u>Transport Act 1985, s.106A</u></a>
<b>War memorials</b>	Power to maintain, repair, protect and alter war memorials	<a href="#"><u>War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923, s.1</u></a>



<b>Water supply</b>	Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water from them	<a href="#"><u>Public Health Act 1936, s.125</u></a>
<b>Well-being</b>	Power to promote well-being of the area (for eligible councils, Wales only)	<a href="#"><u>Local Government Act 2000 s.2</u></a>