**What can local councils do? The powers that have been vested in Parish Councils in the form of Acts of Parliament are summarised below. Each description is brief and is intended to be a general indication and is not exhaustive.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Function** | **Powers**  | Statutory Duties |
| Allotments | Powers to provide allotments | Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908, ss. 23, 26, & 42  |
| Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria  | Power to acquire and maintain Power to provide Power to providePower to agree to maintain monuments and memorials  | Open Spaces Act 1906, Ss 9 and 10; Local Government Act 1972, s. 214; Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970, s.1  |
| Bus Shelters | Power to provide and maintain shelters  | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953, s. 4  |
| Bye Laws  | Power to make bye-laws in regard to pleasure groundsCycle ParksOpen spaces and Burial GroundsMortuaries and post mortem rooms | Public Health Act 1875, s. 164Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.57(7) Open Spaces Act 1906, s. 15Public Health Act 1936, s.223  |
| Clocks | Power to provide public clocks  |  Parish Councils Act 1957, s.2  |
| Closed Churchyards | Powers as to maintenance | Local Government Act 1972, s.215 |
| Charities | Power to act as charity trustee | Charities Act 1993, S 79 Local Government Act 1972 s. 139(i) |
| Commons and common pastures | Powers in relation to enclosure, as to regulation and management, and as to providing common pasture | Inclosure Act 1845; Smallholdings and 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 educational objectives Power to acquire, provide and furnish community buildings  | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19 Local Government Act 1972, s.133  |
| Crime prevention | Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures  | Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.31  |
| 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  |
| Environment | Power to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti and offences under dog control orders  | Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, s.19, S. 30, Part 6  |
| General Power of Competence  | Power for eligible councils to do anything that individuals generally may do as long as they do not break other laws.  | Localism Act 2011, s. 1(1)  |
| Gifts | Power to accept | Local Government Act 1972, s.139 |
| 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. 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   | Highways Act 1980, ss.43,50 Parish Councils Act 1957, 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  |
| Honorary titles | Power to admit honorary freemen/freewomen of the council’s area person of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area.  | Local Government Act 1972, ss. 249(5) and s. 249 (9)  |
| 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 Power to accept gifts of land  | Local Government Act 1972, ss.124, 126, 127 Local government Act 1972, s.139 |
| Litter | Provision of receptacles | Litter Act 1983. Ss 5,6 |
| Lotteries | Powers to promote | Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976, s.7 |
| Markets | Power to establish or acquire by agreement markets within their area and provide a market place and market buildings | Food Act 1984, s. 50 |
| Mortuaries and post mortem rooms | Powers to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms | Public Health Act 1936, s.198 |
| Newsletters | Power to provide information relating to matters affecting local government | Local Government Act 1972, s.142 |
| Nuisances | Power to deal with offensives | Public Health Act 1936 |
| Open spaces | Power to acquire land for public recreation and to maintain for open spaces | Public health Act 1875, s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10 |
|  |  |  |
| Parish Property and documents | Powers to direct as to their custody Duty to deposit certain published works in specific deposit libraries  | Local Government Act 1972, s.226 Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003, s. 1  |
| Public buildings and village hall | 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  |
| Recreation  | Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control themPower to provide a wide range of recreational activities  Provision of boating pools  | 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  | Right to be notified of planning applications  | Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched.1, para.8  |
| Tourism | Power to contribute to organisations encouraging  | Local Government Act 1972, s.144  |
| Traffic Calming | Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes  | Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.30  |
| Transport | Powers to spend money on community transport schemes  | Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.26-29  |
| War memorials | Power to maintain, repairs, 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 to provide facilities for obtaining water from them  | Public Health Act 1936, s.125  |
| Websites | Powers for councils to have their own websites  | Local Government Act 1972, s. 142  |