

Powers and Duties of Parish Councils

The role played by parish councils varies considerably. Smaller parish councils have only limited resources and generally play only a minor role, while some larger parish councils have a role similar to that of a small district council. Parish councils receive funding by levying a "precept" on the council tax paid by the residents of the parish.

The list below is intended as a summary of the main functions of parish councils. It is not intended to be a definitive list of such functions. Where a function is marked with an asterisk a parish council also has the power to give financial assistance to another person or body performing the same function.

Functions	Powers And Duties
Allotments	Powers to provide allotments Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied
Bus Shelters and roadside seats	Power to provide and maintain
Bye Laws	Power to make byelaws for public walks and pleasure grounds
Clocks*	Power to provide public clocks
Closed Churchyards	Powers (and sometimes duty) as to maintain
Commons Land and Common Pastures	Powers in relation to enclosure as to regulation and management and as to providing common pasture
Community Centres and Village Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power to provide and equip premises for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives • Power to provide buildings for offices and for public meetings and assemblies
Conference facilities*	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities
Crime Prevention*	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures including
Drainage	Power to deal with ponds/ditches
Education	Right to appoint governors of primary schools
Entertainment and the Arts*	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts
Environment	Power to act for the benefit of the community by tackling and promoting awareness of environmental issues
Flagpoles	Power to erect flagpoles in highways