

What can a Parish Council do?

A parish council can, if it decides to do so, provide a number of services. These are summarised in the table below:

Service or Function	What can a Parish Council do?
Allotments	Provide allotments
Baths and Washhouses	Provide public baths and washhouses
Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria	Acquire, maintain and provide burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria. Maintain monuments and memorials and contribute towards the expenses of cemeteries
Bus Shelters	Provide and maintain bus shelters
Bye Laws	Make bye-laws for pleasure grounds, cycle parks, baths and washhouses, open spaces, burial grounds, mortuaries and post-mortem rooms
Charities	Receive accounts of parochial charities
Clocks	Provide public clocks
Commons and common pastures	Enclose, regulate and manage commons and provide common pasture
Conference facilities	Provide and encourage the use of conference facilities
Community centres	Provide and equip buildings for use by athletic, social or educational clubs
Crime Prevention	Spend money on various crime prevention measures
Drainage	Deal with ponds and ditches
Education	Appoint school governors
Entertainment and the arts	Provide entertainment and support for the arts
Gifts	Accept gifts
Highways	Repair and maintain public footpaths and bridle-ways. Light roads and public places. Provide litter bins, parking places for vehicles, bicycles and motor-cycles, roadside seats and shelters, bus shelters, traffic signs and other notices. Plant trees and maintain roadside verges.
Investments	Participate in collective investment schemes
Land	Acquire, appropriate, dispose of and accept gifts of land
Litter	Provide litter bins
Lotteries	Promote lotteries
Mortuaries and post mortem rooms	Provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms
Nuisances	Deal with offensive ditches
Open spaces	Acquire and maintain land used for open spaces
Parish property and documents	Make decisions on the custody of parish of parish property and documents
Public Conveniences	Provide public conveniences
Recreation	Acquire land for and provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and manage and control them. Provide gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps and boating pools.
Town & Country Planning	Be notified of planning applications in the parish and submit comments on them to the district council.
Tourism	Contribute to organisations encouraging tourism
Traffic Calming	Contribute financially to traffic calming schemes
Transport	Spend money on community transport schemes
War memorials	Maintain, repair, protect and adapt war memorials
Water supply	Provide facilities for obtaining and utilising water from wells, springs or streams