Appendix 3

List of powers of parish and town councils

This Information is derived from Avon Local Councils Association.

This is a list of powers and functions for Parish / Town councils which are covered by Acts of Parliament. The services which Parish / Town Councils provide vary considerably and this is reflected in the amount of council tax they charge for the delivery of services.

Allotments -

Powers to provide allotments. Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied and if reasonable to do so

Borrowing Money -

Power for councils to borrow money for their statutory functions or for the prudent management of their financial affairs

Bands and Orchestras -

Power to maintain a band or orchestra or to contribute to the maintenance of a band or orchestra.

Baths and Washhouses -

Power to provide public baths and washhouses

Burial Grounds, cemeteries and crematoria -

Power to acquire and maintain

Power to provide

Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials

Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries

Bus Shelters

Power to provide and maintain Bus Shelters

Byelaws -

Power to make bylaws in regard to pleasure grounds

Cycle Parks

Baths and Washhouses

Open spaces and burial grounds

Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms

Charities -

Duties in respect of parochial charities

Power to act as charity trustees

Cinemas -

Power to provide a cinema.

Clocks -

Power to provide public clocks

Closed churchyards -

Powers to maintain

Commons and common pastures -

Powers in relation to inclosure, regulation and management and providing common pasture

Conference facilities -

Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities

Contracts -

Power to enter into contracts.

Community Centre’s -

Power to provide and equip buildings for the use of clubs having athletics, social or educational objectives

Power to acquire, provide and furnish community buildings

Crime Prevention -

Powers to spend money on various crime detection and prevention measures

Dog control -

Power to make dog control orders.

Drainage -

Power to deal with ponds and ditches

Entertainment and the Arts -

Provision of entertainment and support of the arts

Environment -

Power to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti and offenses under dog control orders

General power of competence –

Power for an eligible council to do anything (subject to statutory prohibitions, restrictions and limitations)

Gifts -

Power to accept

Highways -

Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways

Power to light roads and public places

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 improve rights of way

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

Power to provide certain traffic signs and other notices

Power to plant trees etc. and to maintain roadside verges

Honorary titles -

Power to admit to be honorary freemen of the council’s area persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area

Investments -

Power to participate in schemes of collective investment

Land -

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

Power to accept gifts of land

Life-saving appliances -

Power to provide life-saving appliances, such as lifebelts and defibrillators.

Litter -

Provision of receptacles

Lotteries -

Power to promote

Markets -

Power to establish or acquire by agreement markets within their area and provide a market place and market buildings

Mortuaries and Post mortem rooms -

Power to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms

Neighbourhood Planning

Power to act as the lead body for a neighbourhood development plan or order

Newsletters -

Power to provide information relating to matters affecting local government

Nuisances -

Power to deal with offensive ditches

Open Spaces -

Power to acquire land for public recreation and maintain

Power to acquire and maintain land for open spaces

Power to acquire and maintain land for public recreation

Parish property and documents -

Power to direct as to their custody

Duty to deposit certain published works in specific deposit libraries

Parish Precept

Power to raise a Precept.

Public Buildings and village halls -

Power to acquire and provide buildings for public meetings and assemblies

Public conveniences -

Power to provide

Recreation -

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

Power to provide a large range of recreational facilities

Provision of boating pools

Town and Country Planning -

Right to be notified of planning applications if right has been

requested

Tourism -

Power to contribute to organisations encouraging tourism

Traffic Calming -

Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes

Transport -

Powers to spend money on community transport schemes

War Memorials -

Power to maintain, repairs, protect and adapt war memorials

Water Supply -

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

Websites -

Power for Councils to have their own websites