

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Chairman – Councillor Mark Knight MBE DL

FLAG FLYING POLICY OCTOBER 2023

Adopted by resolution of the Council on
Monday 9th October 2023

Minute Reference
17.(a)

Revision History			
No	Details	Date	Author
V.1.1	Initial creation	04/10/2023	SB

Introduction

Flags are traditionally flown by the Parish Council for a variety of reasons: to show allegiance, support, respect or to celebrate. The Parish Council will always be sensitive to the views of all sectors of its community and will never use flags for political purposes.

Although it is free to fly the Union Flag at its discretion, it will as far as be appropriate follow national guidance.

Flag Categories

There are three categories of flag:

1. Flags which can be flown without consent of the local planning authority;
2. Flags which do not need consent provided they comply with further restrictions;
3. Flags which require consent.

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council will generally only fly flags that can be flown without consent of the local planning authority. The full list of flags that do not require consent is as follows:

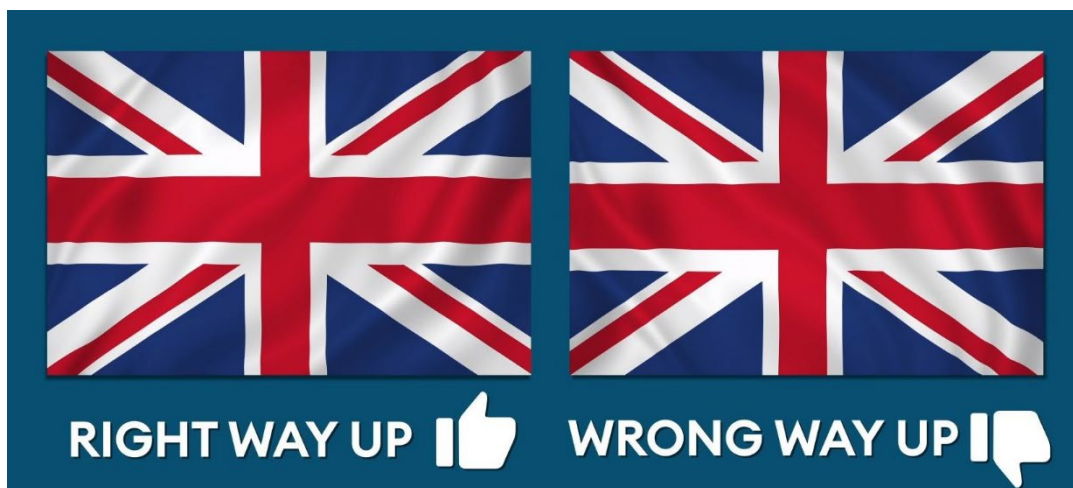
1. Any country's national flag, civil ensign or civil air ensign;
2. The flag of the Commonwealth, the European Union, the United Nations or any other international organisation of which the United Kingdom is a member;
3. A flag of any island, county, district, borough, burgh, parish, city, town or village within the United Kingdom;
4. The flag of the Black Country, East Anglia, Wessex, any Part of Lincolnshire, any Riding of Yorkshire or any historic county within the United Kingdom;
5. The flag of Saint David;
6. The flag of Saint Patrick;
7. The flag of any administrative area within any country outside the United Kingdom;
8. Any flag of Her Majesty's forces;
9. The Armed Forces Day flag.

Following the UK's departure from the European Union, the flag of the European Union is no longer included in the list of flags that do not require consent.

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council may also on occasion fly flags that comply with further restrictions, for example the horizontal striped rainbow flag.

The Union Flag

How should the Union Flag be flown?



The correct way up for the Union Flag when flying is with the broader diagonal white stripe at the top left-hand side of the flag nearest the flagpole.

The Union Flag will be flown on the flagpoles situated at

- Murrow Bank, Murrow
- Guyhirn Playing Field, Guyhirn
- Plash Drove, Tholomas Drove

The Union Flag will be flown at half-mast on the death/funeral of a serving local Councillor, serving local Member of Parliament or serving Fenland District or Cambridgeshire County Councillor representing the Parish, on the death/funeral of a past/long serving Councillor, District Councillor, County Councillor or local Member of Parliament or at the Chairman's discretion for the death of another Parish dignitary.

Armed Forces Day Flag will fly for one week every year in support of the nation's armed forces. The date each year to coincide with armed forces week.

Should additional flagpoles be erected in the future, then the Union Flag must always be flown in a 'superior' position:

- On the highest flagpole
- On the centre flagpole where there is an odd number of poles of the same height, or
- On the left centre flagpole viewed from the front of the building, where there is an even number of the same height.

When and how should flags be flown at half-mast?

When flags are to be flown at half-mast, they should be two-thirds up between the top and bottom of the flagstaff with at least the height of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the flagpole.

When raising the flag, it should always be hoisted right up and then lowered back down to half-mast.

Flags should be flown at half-mast on the following occasions:

- From the announcement of the death up to the funeral of the Sovereign, except on Proclamation Day (the Day of the announcement of the Accession of the new Sovereign), when the flags are hoisted right up from 11:00am to sunset
- In the event of the death of a member of the Royal Family, flags should be lowered from the day of death to the day of the funeral, subject to special commands from His Majesty in each case,
- The funerals of foreign rulers, subject to special commands from His Majesty in each case
- The funerals of Prime Ministers and ex-Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, subject to special commands from His Majesty in each case.
- When flag flying days coincide with days for flying flags at half-mast, flags should be flown right up: although a member of the Royal Family, or a near relative of the Royal Family, may be lying dead, unless special commands are received from His Majesty to the contrary, and although it may be the day of the funeral of a foreign ruler
- On the death/funeral of a serving officer in the Armed Forces from the Parish
- On the death/funeral of a serving Parish Councillor, District Councillor, County Councillor or local Member of Parliament
- On the death/funeral of a past/long serving Councillor, District Councillor, County Councillor or local Member of Parliament.
- At the discretion of the Chairman, to commemorate local civic and community dignitaries who have recently passed away

Other Considerations

Flags should not be flown during severe weather warnings or during planned maintenance.

Flags will only be erected by named guardians and members of the Parish Council in order to comply with Health & Safety and insurance requirements.

Flags will be kept at the home of the named guardians, together with keys to the flagpole.

When a flag becomes tattered or faded and is no longer in a suitable condition for use, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, for example by burning, tearing or cutting into strips that no longer resemble the original flag. The flag will then be immediately replaced.