

22/1149 Flagpole considerations

Recommendation: Reconsider the acquisition of a flag pole and instead work with the Community Primary school.

Main issues/considerations

As you would expect there are many rules and regulations connected with the erection and use of flag poles. I have used the information on the GOV direct site and also West Northants Flagpole policy to inform my research.

There are a number of points we need to consider.

1. If we formally buy and erect a flagpole as a parish council do we need to, at least, follow the spirit of the regulations which apply to UK local authority buildings? I.e. we should never have it empty (the Union Flag should always be flying – see the policy)
2. We need to have formal permission of the land owner to erect a flagpole. If we select the land by the war memorial this may be difficult to obtain from the Lord of the Manor .
3. If we erect on the War Memorial traffic island I am certain we will need permission from the Highways Authority. Taking into account the position of this island and the traffic around it I feel that we may not get it.
4. Depending on the height of the pole it may interfere with electricity and phone cables. This will not be an issue by the War Memorial but it may be if another location has to be chosen. Again, we may not get permission.
5. Do we need to consider another site?
6. The choice of flags flown over the year may become contentious and, possibly, some uncomfortable decisions, which we may not all agree on, will have to be made. (eg. West Northants have the Pride Flag flying during Pride month and fly the Indian Flag on Indian Independence Day)
7. I have attached to the policy the schedule I feel would be most appropriate. This are not dissimilar to those used by the Primary school.
8. If we have our own flagpole we will need to source our own flags, store them and employ someone, or agree a voluntary rota, so we raise and lower flags appropriately.
9. Perhaps we should focus our efforts on resolving the cemetery and allotments issues and maintaining the areas of the village for which we have responsibility.