

22/1149 Middleton Cheney Parish Council Flagpole Policy (Proposed)

The Union Flag is the national flag of Great Britain, symbolising national unity and pride and is flown on many public buildings. UK government buildings are encouraged to fly the Union Flag all year and local authorities are urged to follow suite. There are also designated days when the Union Flag must be flown on UK Government buildings, as commanded by Her Majesty the Queen.

This policy is applicable to Middleton Cheney Parish Council flagpole. It ensures we have a coherent flag protocol in place that is reviewed periodically. It will help us to fulfill our Civic obligation to raise specific flags for certain occasions eg. Armed Forces Day.

The Union Flag

Official government building flagpoles should not remain empty – the default should be flying the Union Flag if no other flag is being flown. The Union Flag has a correct way up and it is improper to fly it upside down. The part of the flag nearest and at the top of the flagpole must have the wider diagonal white stripe above the red diagonal stripe.

When flown with flags of other nations, all flags should be the same size. It is possible to fly more than one flag on the same flagpole if there is enough space. If so the Union Flag should always fly on top (in the superior position)

On the official announcement of the death of the Sovereign, the Union Flag must be flown at half mast until the day of the funeral. All other flags should be taken down during the time of national mourning.

On other occasions the Queen may give a special command for flags to be flown at half-mast. Examples are the death of a member of the royal family, the funeral for a Prime Minister or ex-prime minister and the death of foreign Rulers.

Local government authorities are permitted to fly the Union Flag at half-mast for local as well as national commemorations or losses.

For flags to be at half-mast, they should be flown two-thirds of the way up the flagpole. Unless specified otherwise and except the Union Flag which should fly constantly, flags should be raised at 8.00 and lowered at 18.00.