**Flag-flying Policy**

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 His Majesty the King.

This policy is applicable to Middleton Cheney Parish Council flagpole which is attached to Middleton Cheney Primary Academy School. 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 e.g., Armistice Day.

**The Union Flag**

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 King 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 (in this case the Parish) 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. The Union Flag can fly constantly, other flags should be raised at 08.00 and lowered at 18.00.

**Planning consent**

Flags are treated as advertisements for the purposes of the planning regime, and some require formal consent from the local planning authority, whereas others do not.

**Flags that do not need Planning Consent:**

* Any country’s national flag, civil ensign, or civil air ensign.
* The flag of the Commonwealth, the UN or any other international organsisation of which the UK is a member.
* The flag of any island, county, district, borough, burgh, parish, city, town, or village within the UK.
* The flag of the Black Country, East Anglia, Wessex, any part of Lincolnshire, any Riding of Yorkshire.
* The flags of St David and St Patrick.
* Any flag of Her Majesty’s forces and The Armed Forces Day flag.

**Calendar of Events**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 01/03 | St David’s Day |  | Flag of St David |
| 17/03 | St Patrick’s Day |  | Flag of St Patrick |
| 23/04 | St George’s Day |   | English Flag |
| 25/06 | Armed Forces Day | Union Flag | (Not the Armed forces Day Flag) |
| 11/11 | Armistice Day | Union Flag |  |
| 2nd Sun in Nov | Remembrance Day | Union Flag |  |
| 30/11 | St Andrew’s Day |  | Scottish Flag. (Cross of St Andrew) |
| To be confirmed | Accession day, the Birthday of his Majesty the King and Coronation Day. | Union Flag |  |

**Document History**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Author** | **Date** | **Changes** | **Status** | **Minute ref** |
| 1.0 | R Hoose | 17-10-2022 |  | Adopted | 22/1183 |
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