



FLAG FLYING POLICY

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BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

FLAG FLYING POLICY

1. Introduction

The Union flag is one of the best-known national symbols in the world. The matter of flag flying on local government buildings is not bound by any specific directive and is for individual Local Authorities to establish their own flag flying protocols. This policy has been adopted in relation to the flying of flags in the War Memorial Gardens and other council-owned buildings/flagpoles. This policy standardises procedures to make it clear which alternative flags can be flown in addition to the Union flag.

2. Management of the Policy

The management of the flying of flags at Bembridge Parish Council will be overseen by the Parish Office. Any change from the Policy as stated would be subject to consideration and approval by the Full Council.

3. Flags in the War Memorial Garden

The Union Flag will be flown at full mast in the War Memorial Garden, as below.



Flags to be included as part of an annual calendar for the War Memorial and agreed by Full Council annually will include:

- The Commonwealth Flag
- The Cross of St George
- The Armed Forces Day Flag
- The Merchant Navy Flag

4. Flying the Union Flag at Half Mast

Flags should be flown at half-mast (i.e. two-thirds of the way up the flagpole, with at least the height of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the flagpole) on the following occasions:

- From the announcement of the death until the funeral of the Sovereign, except on Proclamation Day, when they are fully hoisted from 11am to sunset.
- The funerals of members of the Royal Family, subject to special commands from Her/His Majesty in each case.
- The funerals of Prime Ministers and former Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, subject to special commands from Her/His Majesty in each case.
- Any other occasion where Her/His Majesty has given special command.

If a flag flying day coincides with days for flying flags at half-mast, flags should be flown at half-mast unless special commands are received from Her/His Majesty or Government to the contrary.

When a flag is to be flown at half-mast it should first be raised all the way to the top of the mast, allowed to remain there for a second and then be lowered to the half-mast position.

When it is being lowered from half-mast it should again be raised to the top of the mast for a second before being fully lowered.

5. Requesting Guest Flags

Applications for the flying of guest flags should be made in writing to Council.

The Council shall reasonably consider any request for the flying of a guest flag that does not contradict the principles of this Policy. The decision-making process should take into account the following:

- The decision of the Council to fly guest flags should be made in the spirit of displaying universal allegiance, support or respect or to celebrate a significant international, national or local occasion
- It should be considered whether it is appropriate for the Parish Council to display such support on behalf of its communities. The decision should ultimately reflect the values of Bembridge Parish Council
- The Council shall not allow the use of flags for political purposes or for the purposes of commercial advertising
- Before approval to fly a guest flag is granted, it should be established whether the proposed date for the guest flag to be flown would conflict with that of other flags
- The approval of flying guest flags will be made by Full Council.