

Bovingdon Parish Council

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Flag Flying Policy for Bovingdon Memorial Hall

Objective:

The flying of any flag must be viewed in the context in which it is flown or displayed. Factors affecting the context include the type, manner and frequency with which flags are flown.

The Council has a responsibility to carefully consider the potential impact upon the community of flying flags on how that action may be interpreted.

This Policy reflects guidance from Central Government.

Policy guidance:

1. Bovingdon Parish Council recognises that flags are emotive symbols which can boost local and national identities and strengthen community cohesion. They are a way for communities to express feelings of joy, pride, and loyalty.
2. Like all symbols, flags are open to wide-ranging interpretation and, therefore, also have the potential to cause controversy and create tension between community groups whose opinions may differ. The flying of any flag must be viewed in the context in which it is flown or displayed. Factors affecting the context include the manner, location and frequency with which flags are flown. The Council has a responsibility to carefully consider the potential impact upon its communities of flying flags from its properties and how that action may be interpreted.
3. Only flags that fully conform with the "Plain English Guide to Flying Flags" issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government shall be flown.

All flags must be:

- be maintained in a condition that does not impair the overall visual appearance of the site
- be kept in a safe condition
- have the permission of the owner of the site on which they are displayed (this includes the Highway Authority if the sign is to be placed on highway land)
- not obscure, or hinder the interpretation of official road, rail, waterway or aircraft signs, or otherwise make hazardous the use of these types of transport
- be removed carefully where so required by the planning authority

Subject to compliance with the standard conditions, there are 3 categories of flag:

- (a) flags which can be flown without consent of the local planning authority
- (b) flags which do not need consent provided they comply with further restrictions (referred to as "deemed consent" in the Regulations)
- (c) flags which require consent ("express consent")

4. Should an individual or organisation wish a flag(s) associated with them to be flown / displayed on the Parish Council flagpole, a written application outlining full details of their flag(s) involved, the reason(s) behind their request and the period they wish their flag(s) to be flown / displayed for should be submitted to the Clerk to the Parish Council.

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5. Any such request will be duly considered by the parish council at their next meeting, the parish council's decision shall be final with no right of appeal by the applicant.
6. Any costs associated with the flying of flags for individuals and/or organisations shall be fully met by such individuals or organisations
7. The Union Flag can be flown at half-mast to mark the following occasions:
 - a) On the death/ funeral of the Sovereign
 - b) On the death/ funeral of another member of the Royal Family
 - c) On the death/ funeral the Prime Minister (or ex-Prime Minister)
 - e) At the discretion of the Chairman of the Council or after guidance from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport the Union Flag may also be flown at half-mast at times of national mourning due to a major incident where British lives are lost (for instance, a terrorist attack or a major incident on British soil or abroad)
 - f) At the discretion of the Chairman of the Council or after guidance from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport the Union Flag may be flown at half-mast in order to show respect and support to other nations who are in periods of national mourning.
8. When flying the Union Flag at half-mast it will be flown 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.
9. 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. 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.
10. When the Union flag is flown on designated days which coincide with days for flying at halfmast, (e.g a member of the Royal Family, or a near relative of the Royal Family, may be lying dead) the Union flag will be flown at full mast all day, unless special commands are issued by HM the King to the contrary.
11. The flag shall only be flown at "Half Mast" to reflect significant national or local events, the decision as to whether the flag should be flown at half-mast shall be taken by the chairman (in his absence the vice-chairman) and two other councillors.
12. Following a decision being made to fly the flag at half-mast, the reasoning behind the decision shall be reported at the next parish council meeting.
13. Days when the flag will fly from the flagpole outside the Bovingdon Memorial Hall:

2 nd Monday in March	Union Jack	Commonwealth Day
23 rd April	St George Flag	St George's Day
June (varies)	Union Jack	Official celebration of His Majesty's Birthday (usually the 2 nd Saturday in June)
17 th July	Union Jack	Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen
11 th November	Union Jack – full mast	Armistice Day
2 nd Sunday in November	Union Jack – full mast	Remembrance Sunday
14 th November	Union Jack	Birthday of His Majesty the King

The Royal British Legion confirmed that for Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday the union jack is flown at full mast until sunset on each day.

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The Union Flag should be flown with the broader diagonal band of white uppermost in the hoist (near the pole) and the narrower diagonal band of white uppermost in the fly (furthest from the pole), see attached picture.

14. Review of this policy will be on a bi-annual basis

For further information please refer to the following:

Flying Flags – A Plain English Guide

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flying-flags-a-plain-english-guide/flying-flags-a-plain-english-guide?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR1dC4Zw7e4123LUriw83-l6rpQOe1yW2-ntnT55MeedPGYl-9JbktInFJM_aem_TllcVQIHtAo80UIYjVYHNw

Union Flag Flying Guidance for Government Buildings

<file:///C:/Users/daveg/OneDrive/Documents/My%20Documents/Work%20stuff/BPC/flag/Union%20Flag%20flying%20guidance%20for%20UK%20government%20buildings%20-%20GOV.UK.html>