

Hale Parish Council

Flag Policy



Controlled Document

Version 1 July 2024

1. Days for Flying The Union Flag



The Union Flag will be flown on All Days with the exception of those dates listed in section 2 of this Policy

Notes:

- i. As the building has two flagpoles, The English National Flag, the St George's Cross, will be flown in addition to the Union Flag, but not in a superior position
- ii. The Union Flag should be flown at Full Mast all day

2. Days on which Hale Parish Council Fly's other flags

2.1 Rainbow Flag



The Rainbow Flag will fly every year throughout the month of June in support of the Pride movement and to demonstrate the Parish Council's commitment to equality and inclusion of all its citizens.

2.2 Commonwealth Flag



The Commonwealth Flag will fly on the second Monday of March each year in support of Commonwealth Day.

2.3 Armed Forces Flag



The Armed Forces Flag will fly for one week every year in support of the nation's armed forces. The date each year to coincide with armed forces week 20th to 27th June.

2.4 St Georges Day Flag



The St George's Day Flag will be flown on 23rd April each year and also in between the other days/weeks of notice

2.5 Lancashire Day



The Lancashire Day Flag will be flown on 27th November each year.

2.6 St Patricks Day



The St Patricks Day Flag will be flown on 17th March each year.

3. Occasions on which the Union Flag is to be flown at Half Mast

Such occasions may include:-

- The announcement of the death of the Sovereign
- The funeral of a member of the Royal Family
- The funeral of a foreign ruler
- The funeral of the Prime Minister or an ex-Prime Minister of the UK
- Other prominent individuals who have influenced the social, economic cultural life in Hale.

Note: Half Mast means the flag is flown two-thirds on 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. If another flag is to be flown whilst the Union Flag is at Half Mast, they should be flown at Half Mast, or the second flag should not be flown at all.

4. Policy Review

The policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure fitness for purpose.

NB Any request to fly a flag, other than the flags listed above, will be considered and determined by Hale Parish Council.

Appendix A

Frequently asked questions

The questions are general and do not necessarily relate to Council Buildings

- **What time of the day should the Union Flag be flown on a Council Building?**

The Flag should be flown from 8.00am until sunset.

- **What is the superior position?**

The highest flagpole, or the centre flagpole if there are an odd number of flagpoles and always to the left if there is an even number of flagpoles.

- **Which way round should the Union Flag be flown?**

It should be flown with the wider diagonal white stripe, that is above the diagonal red stripe, on the side of the flag nearest the flagpole.

- **Do I need permission to erect a flagpole?**

Yes you need planning permission from your local Council as under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, flags come under the definition of 'advertisement'.

- **Do I need permission to fly The Union Flag?**

Once permission is received to erect a flagpole you do not need permission to fly the Union Flag.

- **Do I need permission to fly the European Union flag?**

Yes the European Union Flag is not currently classified as a national flag under the Town and Country Regulations 1992. You need to contact your local Council's planning department to obtain consent.

- **Do I need permission to fly a foreign nation's flag?**

No, whether as a private individual, a private organisation or a Government/Council Building, you do not need permission to fly a foreign nation's flag.

- **What defines a Council Building?**

For the purposes of this policy the definition of a Council Building is widely accepted as a building that is owned or used by the Parish Council as its 'Civic Centre'

5. Miscellaneous Information

The regulations are circulated on his Majesty's command. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for issuing the rules, relating to flying the Union Flag at the Village Hall. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport advises of any other occasion, where His Majesty has given a special command to fly the Union Flag.