Atworth Parish Council

Approved December 2021

ATWORTH PARISH COUNCIL FLAG FLYING POLICY

Flags are traditionally flown by Parish Councils for a variety of reasons: to show allegiance, support, respect or to celebrate.

The village of Atworth has had a tradition of flying the Union Flag at the Clock Tower and other locations in the village for very many years. There is no longer a flag at the Village Hall, and the Dowty factory with its three flags has long closed. However the Parish Council owns those at Shell Court and the Clock Tower. The Parish Church flies its own selected flag.

The Parish Council will always be sensitive to the views of all sectors of its community and will never use flags for political purposes.

The Union Flag

The Parish Council can fly the Union Flag at its discretion, but it will consider national guidance.

Other Flags

In addition to the Union Flag, the St George's Cross flag, the Remembrance Sunday Poppy flag and the Wiltshire County flag are the only other flags permitted to be flown from Atworth Parish Council flagpoles.

Shell Court
The Union Flag will be flown at all times at Shell Court.

Clock Tower
The Union Flag will be flown at the Clock Tower from October to June.
There will be a break where the St George's Cross will be flown as appropriate.
There will be a further break when the Remembrance Sunday Poppy flag will be flown as appropriate.
The Wiltshire County Flag will be flown from July to September.
(Dates to be close as possible)

Other Considerations

Should in future the Parish Council choose to adopt a Parish Flag, it could be flown for civic occasions in the Parish or to celebrate local events at the discretion of the Chairman, or at specific times through the year. A Village/Parish flag could also be flown at half-mast on the death/funeral of a serving local Councillor, serving local Member of Parliament or serving Wiltshire Councillor representing the village, or at the Chairman's discretion the death of another Parish dignitary.

Flags will not be flown during planned maintenance of the mast.

Flags will only be erected by an authorised person (Flagman) of the Parish Council in order to comply with Health & Safety and insurance requirements.

Flags will be kept at the home of the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman and/or designated authorised person (Flagman), together with keys to the flagpole.

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National Guidance

The following flags will be flown on the dates indicated:

The Union Flag

The Union Flag, in accordance with guidance from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, flies as follows:

6 February - The Sovereign's Accession
1 March – St David's Day
March (2nd Monday) - Commonwealth Day
21 April - Birthday of The Sovereign the Queen
23 April – St George's Day
2 June - Coronation Day
June (date varies) - Official Celebration of The Sovereign's Birthday
June (date varies each year) – Armed Forces Day
November (2nd Sunday) - Remembrance Sunday
11 November – Armistice Day
30 November – St Andrew's Day

A Parish Council has discretion to fly the Union Flag at other times such as:

- To celebrate and support national sporting events of significance
- In recognition of a royal visit in consultation with the Lord Lieutenant.
- In recognition of a formal visit by another significant dignitary
- A special significant event or success in the village
- Formal Civic occasions
- By request from other Parish bodies

How should the Union Flag be flown?



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct way up for the Union Flag when flying is with the broader diagonal white stripe at the top left hand side of the flag nearest the flagpole.

Should additional flagpoles be erected in the future, then the Union Flag must always be flown in a 'superior' position:

- On the highest flagpole
- On the centre flagpole where there is an odd number of poles of the same height, or
- On the left centre flagpole viewed from the front of the building, where there is an even number of the same height.

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When and how should flags be flown at half-mast?

When flags are to be flown at half-mast they should be two-thirds up between the top and bottom of the flagstaff with at least the height of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the flagpole.

When raising the flag it should always be hoisted right up and then lowered back down to half-mast. Likewise before it is lowered at sunset, it should first be hoisted right up and then lowered back down.

Flags should be flown at half-mast on the following occasions:

- From the announcement of the death up to the funeral of The Sovereign, except on Proclamation Day (the Day of the announcement of the Accession of The New Sovereign), when the flags are hoisted right up from 11:00am to sunset,
- In the event of the death of a member of the Royal Family, flags should be lowered from the day of death to the day of the funeral, subject to special commands from The Sovereign in each case
- The funerals of foreign rulers, subject to special commands from The Sovereign in each case.
- The funerals of Prime Ministers and ex-Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, subject to special commands from The Sovereign in each case. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will inform of any other occasions where The Sovereign has given a special command.
- When a state of national mourning is declared such as for victims following a terrorist attack, there is an option to fly the flag at half-mast.

When flag flying days coincide with days for flying flags at half-mast, flags should be flown right up: although a member of the Royal Family, or a near relative of the Royal Family, may be lying dead, unless special commands are received from The Sovereign to the contrary, and although it may be the day of the funeral of a foreign ruler.

- On the death/funeral of a serving officer in the Armed Forces from the Parish
- On the death/funeral of a serving Parish Councillor, District Councillor, County Councillor or local Member of Parliament
- At the discretion of the Chairman, to commemorate local civic and community dignitaries who have recently passed away

Other Flags

- On St George's Day, 23rd April, the Flag of St George should be flown. Under the flag flying guidance from the Department of Communities and Local Government, the Cross of St. George may be flown on St George's Day from UK Government buildings in England with two or more flag poles.
- At the Chairman's discretion, the Flag of St George may be flown to celebrate support sporting events of national significance for an England Team
- At the discretion of the Chairman, the Flag of St. George may be flown to commemorate local civic and community dignitaries who have recently passed away.