

**HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET**

www.holcombepc.org.uk

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HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

FLAG FLYING POLICY

This updated policy was adopted by the above Parish Council at its Meeting held May 2020

Reviewed July 2021
Reviewed and Updated May 2023

HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

FLAG FLYING POLICY

Flags are traditionally flown by the Parish Council for a variety of reasons: to show allegiance, support, respect or to celebrate. The Parish Council will always be sensitive to the views of all sectors of its community and will never use flags for political purposes.

Although it is free to fly the Union Flag at its discretion, it will as far as is appropriate follow national guidance.

The following flags will be flown on the dates indicated:

The Union Flag

The Union Flag, in accordance with the dates promulgated annually by the government guidance found at the following link: <http://www.gov.uk/guidance/designated-days-for-union-flag-flying> For example, Commonwealth Day

The Parish Council have discretion to fly the Union Flag at other times, such as:

- To celebrate and support 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
- An especially significant event or success in the Village
- Formal Civic occasions
- On request from other Parish bodies
- On other occasions when agreed by the Parish Council

Somerset Flag

- Somerset Day

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 Flag of St. George may be flown on St George's Day in England. At the Chairman's discretion, the Flag of St George may be flown to celebrate support sporting events of significance of 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.

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.

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

Other Considerations

Flags will be flown on the flagpole situated at the lychgate from 8:00am until sunset.

Flags will not be flown during severe weather warning and planned maintenance.

Flags will only be erected by named volunteers and members of the Parish Council in order to comply with Health & Safety and insurance requirements.

The Parish Council purchased the following flags on the 20th March 2020:

Somerset County Flag 5ft x 3ft -2013+

Somerset County Flag 2013+. 5ft x 3ft made from 100% polyester & finished with eyelets.

St George Flag 3.0yrd (274cm x137cm) Sewn Woven

A traditional sewn woven polyester flag, Roped & Toggled for use with a 10m flagpole

Union Flag 3.0yrd (274cm x137cm) Sewn Woven

A traditional sewn woven polyester flag, Roped & Toggled for use with a 10m flagpole

The Parish Council purchased a new **Union Flag 3.0yrd (274cm x137cm) Sewn Woven** on the 5th April 2022

All flags are to be held in the Playing Field barn along with the keys for the flag pole so that any member of the Parish Council can raise/lower the flag as directed by the chairman. An additional key for the flag pole will be kept by the Parish Clerk.

VERSION CONTROL	
07 th April 2020	Policy Amended
05 th May 2020	Policy Adopted

07th July 2021	TO BE Reviewed & Apdopted