



**GREAT
SANKEY**
PARISH
COUNCIL

Flag Flying Policy

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1. Context

Flags are traditionally flown for a variety of reasons, for example to show allegiance, support, respect or to celebrate. This policy reflects guidance from the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and sets out the protocol and procedure for flying flags at the Parish Office at Whittle Hall Community Centre. The Parish Council will always endeavour to be sensitive to the views of all sectors of its community and will never use flags for political purposes.

2. Protocol and Procedure for Flags

- 2.1 The Parish Council owns a flagpole situated at the Parish Offices at Whittle Hall Community Centre, Lonsdale Close, Great Sankey, WA5 3UA
- 2.2 The Parish Council may at any time and at its sole discretion decide on the use of the flagpole and the flags it flies within the constraints of this policy.
- 2.3 On designated days following guidance from the Department of Culture, Media & Sport (see section 3) national flags or those commemorating a specific event shall be flown all day.
- 2.4 Flags shall not be flown during severe weather conditions or strong winds, or during planned maintenance.
- 2.5 Flags should not be flown in a worn, damaged or soiled condition as that could imply disrespect to the nation, occasion or organisation that they represent.
- 2.6 Flags may only be raised by persons authorised by the Parish Council.
- 2.7 The Union flag¹ may be flown at half-mast to mark the following occasions:
 - 2.7.1 On the death/funeral of the Sovereign
 - 2.7.2 On the death/funeral of another member of the Royal Family
 - 2.7.3 On the death/funeral of the Prime Minister
 - 2.7.4 At the discretion of the Chair, or following guidance from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, the Union Flag may be flown at times of national mourning due to a major incident where British lives are lost.
 - 2.7.5 At the discretion of the Chair, or following guidance from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, the Union Flag may be flown to show respect and support to other nations who are in periods of national mourning.

¹ Half-mast means the flag is 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. It should first be raised all the way to the top of the mast, remain there a second and then be lowered. When being lowered from half-mast, it should again be raised to the top for a second before being fully lowered.

3. Flag Flying Schedule

The following flags do not require consent from the local planning authority. Where an event date falls on a weekend, the appropriate flag will be flown from the Friday before until the Monday after the event.

Union Flag

Official celebration of His Majesty's birthday	June (usually third Saturday)
Armed Forces Day	June
Remembrance Day	Second Sunday in November

Other Flags

Parish Council flag – when other flags do not take precedence

Red Ensign – on Merchant Navy Day, 3rd September

Pride flag – dates to be agreed