



Newick Parish Council Flag Policy

Background

The Council owns two large (permanent) and six small (seasonal) flag poles all on the Village Green.

The first of the large poles is on the triangle near the Community Centre and was given to the Village as a memorial to John Goodwin, a former Chairman of the Parish Council. Since erected it has flown the Village Flag. The second large pole is near the Village Pump.

The six small flag poles are erected on the Green at about the beginning of May and removed at about the end of September. These poles have flown the English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, French and, until 2012, either the Canadian or New Zealand Flags. The Canadian /New Zealand flags were flown to mark the service personnel from these countries that served in the area during the 2nd World War. Since 2012 the Sussex flag has been flown in their place. For the 2022 and 2023 season it was agreed to fly a Ukrainian Flag instead of the Sussex flag, in continued solidarity to refugees living in Newick and nearby areas. It was agreed that if or when it was appropriate to take the Ukrainian Flag down, that it would be replaced with the Sussex flag. It was also agreed that for the first two weeks of May, to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, the Royal Standard of the United Kingdom would be flown on the Union pole.

Policy

1. The Council may at any time and at its sole discretion decide on the use of the seasonal flag poles and the flags they fly within the constraints of this policy. Nevertheless it will endeavour to settle the year's plan at the March Parish Council meeting. This plan will include the intended dates, when the small poles will be installed/removed and the flags to be flown.
2. In line with instruction from the Home Office, the Union Flag must take priority over all other flags by either being flown from the highest flagpole, flying in the centre of an uneven number of equal height poles or flying immediately to the left of centre (when facing the poles) of an even number of equal height poles. In practice in Newick this will mean flying the Union Flag from the Village Pump Pole as this is the highest; being a large pole on higher ground.
3. Any request for any particular flag to be flown must come from a bona fide group. The request will be considered on its merits at a Council meeting.
4. As an exception to Policy 3 above, any request from the Royal British Legion, e.g. around Armistice day, will be treated positively and can be decided by Councillor in charge of Poles and Flags and/or the Chairman (and in his absence the Vice Chairman).

5. The Union Flag will be flown at half-mast* at times of National Mourning or at times of disaster which, in the opinion of the Chairman of the Council and Clerk, merit this.

* For the protocol on flying a flag at half-mast please see College of Arms website
<http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/resources/union-flag-fags>

Reviewed and approved 28th March 2023

Signed.....
Chairman of Newick Parish Council

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