



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 and flies the Union Flag.

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 East Sussex flag has been flown in their place.

Policy

1. The Council may at any time and at its sole discretion decide on the use of the 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. At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May, a Councillor in charge of Poles and Flags will be elected. The primary duty of this role will be to oversee the health & safety issues surrounding the poles (including their installation and removal), to manage the quality and condition of the flags and to liaise with Parish residents and bring any issues concerning the flags to the Chairman and Council.
3. 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 flag pole, 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.
4. Any request for any particular flag to be flown must come from a bona fide group. Requests from individuals cannot be considered. The request will be considered on its merits at a Council meeting.

5. As an exception to Policy 4 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).
6. 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 Councillor in charge of Poles and Flags, 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 26th January 2016

Signed.....
Chairman of Newick Parish Council