

Ouston Parish Council - Flag Policy

Purpose

This protocol relates to the flying of the flag in the Council Parish of Ouston in County Durham.

The protocol sets out the circumstances in which the Parish Council will fly flags within the Parish boundaries and does not impact or influence other bodies including the County Council, Fire Brigade or Educational establishments within the Parish boundary.

Flags

Flags covered in this Protocol are the:

- Union Flag
- Parish Flag

Other Flags may be added with agreement from the Parish Council

The Union flag In line with government advice, the Union flag should be flown by the Parish Council on designated days, see appendix 1 for flying the Union flag where weather permits. The Union flag takes precedence over other flags, in line with guidance issued by the Flag Institute:

http://www.flaginstitute.org/pdfs/Flying_Flags_in_the_United_Kingdom

Parish flag – the Ouston Parish flag will be flown when the Union Flag is not being flown.

Other flags – will be identified and agreed what types or flags can be flown and co-ordinate with the County Council and other appropriate bodies.

Co-ordination

Where the Parish Council needs to coordinate which flags should be flown, it will have regard to this protocol and the order of precedence outlined in the Flag Institute guidance. The council's Chair will determine which flags can be flown, having regard to this protocol and in consultation with the County Council.

Flags flying at half mast

From time to time, the council will fly flags at half-mast as a mark of respect following the death of an individual or group of people. The Union flag will be flown at half-mast from the Parish flagpole in line with government advice and special command from the Sovereign to do so. The normal circumstances in which the Union flag would be flown at half-mast are outlined in the guidance issued by the Flag Institute. The Parish flag should be flown at half-mast from to mark the death of a serving Member of the council (a serving councillor). The flag should be lowered to

half- mast on notification of death and should remain at half-mast until the end of the day of the funeral.

Exceptions

In exceptional circumstances, where following a discussion between the Parish Chair, and the County Council, the council is minded to fly such a flag, it may agree to do so, so long as the appropriate planning conditions are complied with and any necessary consents obtained by the organisation requesting that the flag be flown, wherever possible Exceptional circumstances could include:

- a) specific instructions or requests from the government to fly a specific flag.
- b) demonstrating support for campaigns which would benefit the county, for example economic or cultural promotions or host city bids.
- c) promoting campaigns which would help to improve the health and wellbeing of local people.
- d) recognising notable anniversaries or events of local significance. In addition, in exceptional circumstances and following a discussion between the Parish Chair, the council may confer the honour of flying the Parish flag at half-mast as a mark of respect for notable individuals who have passed way.

Appendix 1

Designated Union Flag Flying Days

- 23 April: St George's Day (in England)
- 6 May: Coronation Day
- 15 June: Official Birthday of His Majesty The King
- Last Saturday in June – Armed Forces Day
- 8 September: His Majesty The King's Accession
- November: Remembrance Day (second Sunday in November)
- 14 November: Birthday of His Majesty The King