

**ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2021**  
**ITEM 13 – DRAFT COUNTY HALL FLAG POLICY**

1. The County Hall only has one flagpole and therefore only one flag may be flown at a time.

2. **Union Flag**

To be flown all year round. The Union Flag takes precedence over all other flags and should always be flown on [dates designated annually](#) by HM Government.

3. **Other flags**

Subject to the precedence given to the Union Flag on designated days, the following other flags may be flown:

3.1 **Cross of St George Flag**

Hoisted from the Friday before St George's Day (23<sup>rd</sup> April), to cover the Sunday of the Scouts' parade, and is flown for one week following St George's Day.

3.2 **Abingdon Town Flag**

- i. Hoisted the day before the annual meeting of the Town Council and Mayor making, to be flown for the following week.
- ii. Hoisted the day before the Mayor's birthday to be flown for the following week.
- iii. Hoisted the day before the Annual Civic Service, to be flown for the following week.

3.3 **Royal Standard Flags**

In the event of a royal visit the appropriate Royal Standard may be flown.

3.4 **Armed Forces Day Flag.**

To be flown for a week each June, from the Monday before Armed Forces Day.

3.5 **Thames Valley Police Flag**

Flown subject to approval of the Town Clerk, Leader of the Council and Mayor by way of a majority vote.

3.6 **Rainbow Flag.**

The Rainbow Flag will fly every year in support of the Pride Movement and to demonstrate the council's commitment to equality and the inclusion of all its citizens.

The dates on which the Flag may be flown is delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Leader and Mayor.

3.7 **Commonwealth Flag.**

To be flown from second Monday in March for one week.

**3.8 Other (guest) flags**

Applications to fly guest flags shall normally be considered by the Town Council. However when this is not possible because the timing of the application means that there is not time for the Council to consider the application, determination of such applications, are to be resolved by the Town Clerk, Leader of the Council, and Mayor by way of a majority vote.

**4. Flying flags at half-mast**

**4.1 Union Flag**

- i. From the announcement of the death, up to the funeral of the sovereign, except on Proclamation Day when they are hoisted at full mast from 11.00 a.m. to sunset.
- ii. The funerals of members of the Royal family, subject to Royal command in each case.
- iii. The funerals of foreign rulers, subject to Royal command in each case.
- iv. The funerals of prime ministers and ex prime ministers of the United Kingdom
- v. On other occasions by Royal command
- vi. Local government bodies are permitted to fly the Union Flag at half-mast to mark local as well as national commemorations or losses.

**4.2 Town Flag**

To be flown at half-mast on the following occasions:

- i. From the announcement of the death for one week, or to the day of the funeral of a serving Town Councillor or Freeman of Abingdon.
- ii. From the announcement of the death and for one week or to the day of the funeral of a former mayor of the town.
- iii. On the day of the funeral of a serving councillor, freeman, former mayor, or serving member of staff, should the occasion arise.

**5. Urgent matters**

Flag Policy is a matter for the Town Council to determine but there may be occasions when urgent decisions are required. In these circumstances then these matters shall be determined by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Mayor.

*Drafted by Cllr Charlie Birks, reviewed by Town Clerk and presented to the Community Services Committee for consideration at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Updated with agreed changes 3 February 2021 and following the Finance and General Purposes Meeting on 9 February 2021.*