

# Horrabridge Parish Council Flag Flying Policy & Protocol

Horrabridge Parish Council recognises that flags are emotive symbols which can boost local and national identities and strengthen community cohesion. They are a way for communities to express feelings of joy, pride and loyalty.

Like all symbols, flags are open to wide-ranging interpretation and, therefore, also have the potential to cause controversy and create tension between community groups whose opinions may differ. The flying of any flag must be viewed in the context in which it is flown or displayed. Factors affecting the context include the manner, location and frequency with which flags are flown. The Council has a responsibility to carefully consider the potential impact upon its communities of flying flags from its property and how that action may be interpreted.

Only flags that fully conform with the 'Plain English Guide to Flying Flags' issued by Central Government will be flown.

All flags must be:

- Be maintained in a condition that does not impair the overall visual appearance of the site.
- Be kept in a safe condition.
- No obscure, or hinder the interpretation of official road signs, or otherwise make a hazard.
- Be removed if required by the planning authority.

Subject to compliance with the standard conditions, there are 3 categories of flag:

1. Flags which can be flown without the consent of the local planning authority.
2. Flags which do not need consent provided they comply with further restrictions (referred to as 'deemed consent' in the regulations).
3. Flags which require consent ('express consent')

The Union Flag shall normally be flown at half-mast to mark the following occasions:

- On the death/funeral of the Sovereign
- On the death/funeral of another member of the Royal Family
- On the death/funeral of the Prime Minister (or ex-Prime Minister)
- On the death/funeral of a serving Horrabridge Parish Councillor
- At the discretion of the Chairman or after guidance from the Department of Culture, Media, and Sports the Union Flag may also be flown at half-mast at times of national mourning due to a major incident.

- At the discretion of the Chairman or after guidance from the National Association of Civic Officers (NACO) other events may require the flag to be at half-mast.