



## FLAG FLYING POLICY

### 1. General

Flags are traditionally flown by the Melksham Town Council for a variety of reasons, typically to show allegiance or support or respect or to celebrate. The Town Council will always endeavor to be sensitive to the views of all sectors of its community and will never use flags for political purposes.

### 2. Union Flag

It is Melksham Town Council's policy to fly the Union flag permanently at full mast above the Town Hall except on those occasions detailed below when it may be flown at half-mast.

### 3. Half Mast

The Union flag will be flown at half-mast on the following occasions:

- On the death/funeral of the Sovereign, another member of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister or other dignitary as advised by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport ("DCMS") and/or special commands from the Sovereign.
- On the death/funeral of a serving officer in the Armed Forces from the Town.
- On the death/funeral of a serving Town Councilor, local Unitary Councilor or local Member of Parliament.
- As a mark of respect, mourning and solidarity following atrocities, natural disasters or other acts resulting in significant loss of life in countries with which the Town Council has a twinning affiliation (currently France (Avon) and Poland (Elblag)).

- At the discretion of the Town Mayor, to commemorate local civic and community dignitaries who have recently passed away.

#### **4. National Flag of England**

The National flag will be flown on the secondary flagpole on St George's Day (23<sup>rd</sup> April) and, at the discretion of the Town Council, to celebrate and support the national team in sporting events of significance.

#### **5. Merchant Navy Flag**

The Merchant Navy flag will be flown on 3<sup>rd</sup> September each year at the discretion of the Town Council, to honor the brave men and women who kept our 'island nation' afloat during both World Wars and celebrated our dependence on modern day merchant seafarers.

#### **6. Other Flags**

The Commonwealth flag will be flown on the secondary flagpole on Commonwealth Day each year - (second Monday in March).

The Pride flag will be flown throughout June to celebrate and support LGBTQ and their social movements.

#### **7. Overseas Visitors**

Whenever possible, the relevant national flag will be flown from the secondary flagpole when the Town Council formally receives visitors from overseas.

#### **8. Exceptions**

Ordinarily and in the interests of impartiality, the flag of another nation or cause will not be flown. However the Town Mayor in liaison with the Town Clerk may exercise discretion or seek a motion from Council to determine when the Town Council will fly its flag(s) at half-mast and/or fly the flag of another nation state or cause as a mark of

respect from the Council and the community in particular circumstances that are deemed to be appropriate.

## **9. Other Occasions**

Ad hoc requests to fly flags that are not covered by this policy will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and will be determined by the Town Mayor in liaison with the Town Clerk.

Adopted by Full Council on 28 June 2021.

To be reviewed June 2023.