



Longburrow Hall, Park Lane
Stokenchurch, High Wycombe
Bucks HP14 3TQ

Flag Flying Policy

1. Objective

Stokenchurch Parish Council (hereinafter referred to as “**the council**”) recognises that flags are important civic symbols that can promote community pride, identity, and cohesion.

However, flags can also be open to interpretation and may cause differing views. The Council will therefore carefully consider the context, purpose, and impact of any flag flown from Council-owned property.

2. General Principles

Flags must be flown respectfully and in good condition at all times.

Flags must comply with national guidance, including the UK Government’s Plain English Guide to Flying Flags: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flying-flags-a-plain-english-guide/flying-flags-a-plain-english-guide>

Flags must:

Not be damaged, faded, or unsafe

Not obstruct signage or create hazards

Be flown only with appropriate permission

Flags must not be used for political or commercial purposes.

3. Flag Hierarchy & Positioning

The Union Flag (Union Jack) is the national flag and must:

Be flown in the most prominent position (highest or central pole)

Not be displayed inferior to any other flag

Where multiple flagpoles exist:

Union Flag = primary position

Secondary flag = Buckinghamshire County Flag

Third pole (if available) = event or commemorative flags

4. Approved Flags

The following flags may be flown without special permission:

Union Flag

Flag of England (St George's Cross)

Buckinghamshire County Flag

Armed Forces Day Flag

Commonwealth Flag

Other nationally recognised civic or commemorative flags

All flags must comply with UK planning regulations regarding deemed consent.

5. Occasions for Flag Flying

The Council will follow national and local guidance, including:

Daily: Union Flag

23 April: St George's Day: St Georges Cross

2nd Monday in March: Commonwealth Day: Commonwealth Flag

23rd - 29th June: Armed Forces Week: Armed Forces Flag

11th November: Remembrance: Union Flag and or Lest We Forget Flag

Royal occasions: Union Flag (or Royal Standard if applicable)

6. Half-Mast Protocol

The Union Flag shall be flown at half-mast:

On the death/funeral of the Sovereign

On the death/funeral of senior members of the Royal Family

On the death of a Prime Minister (current or former)

During national mourning or major incidents

All other flags must also be lowered if the Union Flag is at half-mast.

7. Requests to Fly Flags

Any organisation or individual wishing to fly a flag must:

Submit a written request to the Parish Clerk

Include:

Purpose and significance

Dates requested

Details of the flag

The Parish Council will:

Consider requests at a formal meeting

Make a final decision (no right of appeal)

Require applicants to cover any associated costs

9. Correct Display of Union Flag

The right way up - if you look at the side closest to the flagpole, the wider white stripes should sit above the diagonal red stripe. The thick white band is above the red band.



8. Maintenance & Safety

Flags must be regularly inspected

Damaged flags must be replaced promptly

Flags should not be flown in severe weather conditions

Only authorised persons may raise/lower flags

Date of policy: 08/04/2026
Approving committee: SPC
Date of committee meeting: 08/04/2026
Policy effective from: 08/04/2026
Date for next review: 08/04/2029

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