

ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2016

FLAG FLYING PROTOCOL

Purpose of the report

For members to consider a flag flying protocol in the flying of the Union Flag from the flagpole situated on the green outside Alsager Civic in the Town Centre.

History

Since Local Government reorganisation in 1974, until the formation of Cheshire East Council in 2009, the flagpole and the protocol of flag flying has been managed by the former Congleton Borough Council.

More recently, since 2013 when the Town Council took ownership and management of Alsager Civic the Town Council has managed the flag flying and its operations.

Current Position

The current protocol adopted by the Town Council has been that the Union Flag has been flown in accordance with the guidance provided from Gov.UK “Designated days for Union Flag flying”.

Attached are the dates for flying the Union Flag on UK Government buildings in 2016. In addition, in consultation with the Chairman, the flag is flown at either full or half-mast at times of either world, national or local respect and/or world, national or local events together with the Commonwealth Flag and other flags of the world.

Future Practice Options

In reviewing the current protocol, and with reference to the UK’s National Flag Charity – “The Flag Institute” encourages all Government and Local Authority buildings to fly the National/Union Flag on every day of the year, although with this comes certain conditions – flags are normally flown from sunrise to sunset but they may also be flown at night, when they should be illuminated. It wouldn’t be possible for Alsager Civic staff to raise the flag at sunrise and lower it at sunset, therefore the flag would have to be flown around the clock and night illumination investigated.

Attached is the British Flag Protocol issued by The Flag Institute – The UK’s National Flag Charity.

Decision Required

Members are requested to determine their preferred protocol for the flying of the flag on the flagpole situated on the green outside Alsager Civic in the Town Centre.

Resolution

To re-affirm the adoption of the current protocol as per guidance provided from Gov.UK “Designated days for Union Flag Flying” and any additional days as outlined in the report

or

To adopt the Protocol as suggested by The Flag Institute – including any additional days.

C A Bagnall

Assistant Town Clerk

08 September 2016

Decision made by Committee

16/65 Adoption of Flag Dates

The Chairman introduced the item and the Acting Town Clerk referred to the accompanying report on a Flag Flying Protocol, together with an email that had been received from local resident “Robert”. The received email had been circulated to all members of the Town Council.

The purpose of the report in the consideration of adopting a flag flying protocol in the flying of the Union Flag from the flagpole situated on the green outside Alsager Civic was outlined together with a history, current position and future practice options.

Members were requested to consider re-affirming the adoption of the current protocol as per guidance provided from Gov.UK “Designated days for Union Flag Flying and any additional days” or to adopt the protocol as suggested by the Flag Institute including any additional days.

Following a debate, it was:-

Resolved: i) That the report be received.

ii) That the protocol as per guidance provided by Gov.UK “Designated Days for Union Flag Flying and any additional days” as outlined in the report be re-affirmed and applied.