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| **Meeting Type: Full Council** | **Agenda Item: 11** |
| **Date of Meeting: 12th March 2025** |  |
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| **OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL** |
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| **Report Authors:** Martin Brookes & Paul Ainsley | **Subject:** flag-flying protocol |
| **Title:** A Review of Oakham Town Council's Flag Flying Practices in Cutts Close |
| **Strategic Aims:**  |
| **Detail: Oakham Town Council established a flag-flying protocol for Cutts Close some time ago and subsequently acquired a substantial collection of flags. A former councillor managed the flags for a period. However, certain flags have generated controversy within the community. Recently, questions have arisen regarding the flying of the LGBTQ+ flag and the absence of other flags. Another example, the observance of International Women's Day prompted inquiries about why International Men's Day is not similarly recognised. This paper aims to address these concerns and propose solutions. Furthermore, it is hoped that the council will agree upon a new protocol for half-mast flag displays.** |
| **Proposal:** The council agrees to the following flag-flying protocol:* 1. The council will fly only the Oakham Town Council flag on all days, and no other organisation's flag, unless a formal request is received and approved by the full council.
* The Union Jack flag will be flown for official national events, such as commemorations (e.g., the 80th anniversary of VE Day this May 2025, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day) and public royal celebrations.
* The council flag will be flown at half-mast upon the announcement of the death of *serving* members of the town council and its staff only, for a maximum of seven days, and then lowered again for the day of the funeral.
* The Union Jack flag will be flown at half-mast for all state-recognised deaths and will remain at half-mast until the official period of mourning has concluded.
* Oakham is the county town of Rutland, in the event of the death of a serving Member of Parliament for the area, the Union Jack flag will be flown at half-mast until the end of the day of their funeral.
* In the event of the death of the Leader of Rutland County Council, the Chairman of Rutland County Council, or other serving members of that council, the same protocol as outlined in point 3 will be applied.
* 2. Upon agreement of the above, the council is asked to approve the adoption of the attached Flag Flying Policy.
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For completion by the office

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| *Budget Header:* | CIL |
| *Proposed Expenditure* |  | *Initial Budget* |  | *Unbilled Expenditure* |  |
| *Budget Remaining* |  | *Time Sensitive (Y/N)* |  | *Expiry Date* |  |