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To: Councillor Finlayson, Master of Mortifications; Councillor George Adam, the Lord Provost; Councillor Noble; and Mr Frederick G.S. Dalgarno, Dean of Guild

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 8 April 2014

GUILDRY AND MORTIFICATION FUNDS SUB COMMITTEE

The Members of the **GUILDRY AND MORTIFICATION FUNDS SUB COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in Committee Room 4 - Town House on **MONDAY, 14 APRIL 2014 at 2.00pm.**

JANE G. MACEACHRAN
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

BUSINESS

- 1 Members are requested to resolve that any exempt business on this agenda be considered with the press and public excluded
- 2 Minute of Previous Meeting of 18 March 2013 (Pages 1 - 2)
- 3 Guildry Funds - Review of Allowances (Pages 3 - 4)
- 4 Report by Dean of Guild (Pages 5 - 6)

BUSINESS THE SUB COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER IN PRIVATE

- 5 Sale of Ground, Torry Quay/Greyhope Road (Pages 7 - 10)

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Agenda Item 2

GUILDRY AND MORTIFICATION FUNDS SUB COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 18 March 2013. - Minute of Meeting of the GUILDRY AND MORTIFICATION FUNDS SUB COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Finlayson, Master of Mortifications, Chairperson; Councillor Noble; and Mr Frederick G.S. Dalgarno, Dean of Guild.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The Sub Committee had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 2 April 2012, which had been approved at the Council meeting of 4 April 2012.

The Sub Committee resolved:-

to note the minute.

REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES

2. The Sub Committee had before it a paper by the Head of Finance which (a) provided information concerning (1) the amount of allowances paid from the Guildry Funds to Burgesses of Guild, Widows and Widowers of Burgesses and Children of Burgesses from 1995 to 2011; and (2) the number of people receiving allowances for the same period; and (b) proposed that the allowances be increased by 5% rounded up to the nearest £10 for 2012/13.

The Sub Committee resolved:-

to recommend that the following increases in annual allowances be approved by the Council with effect from 1 May 2012:-

Guildry Fund Allowance	Present Allowance	Proposed Allowance
Burgesses	£1,600	£1,680
Widows/Widowers of Burgesses	£1,600	£1,680
Children of Burgesses	£1,480	£1,560

UPDATE FROM THE DEAN OF GUILD

3. The Sub Committee received an oral update from the Dean of Guild regarding a number of matters.

Mr Dalgarno explained the history of the Burgesses Awards Scheme, commenting that very few applications had been received in recent years and that he was looking to reinvent the scheme, with the possibility of a scholarship link with the city's universities and the Saltire Society.

Mr Dalgarno highlighted forthcoming milestones, namely the 800th anniversary of the Burgesses Royal Charter in 2014 and the 700th anniversary of the granting of the Freedom Lands later in 2013, explaining that various events would be taking place and that he was investigating the possibility of a Burgesses coat of arms.

Lastly, Mr Dalgarno made reference to a recent enquiry by an external organisation in terms of whether a particular project within the city would be eligible for Guildry funding.

The Sub Committee resolved:-

- (i) to request the Dean of Guild to prepare a report for a future meeting regarding the Burgesses Awards Scheme and the forthcoming milestones referred to, including options for promoting the March Stones within the city;
- (ii) that the project referred to would not be eligible for Guildry funding; and
- (iii) to request officers to circulate a copy of the last annual statement of the Guildry Funds for information.

- ANDREW FINLAYSON, Master of Mortifications, Chairperson.

**ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL
GUILDRY FUNDS - REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES - May 2013**

History of Allowances

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Burgesses	820.00	850.00	900.00	950.00	1000.00	1050.00	1100.00	1150.00	1,180	1220	1260	1300	1350	1400	1470	1520	1600	1680
Widows of Burgesses	820.00	850.00	900.00	950.00	1000.00	1050.00	1100.00	1150.00	1,180	1220	1260	1300	1350	1400	1470	1520	1600	1680
Daughters of Burgesses	720.00	750.00	800.00	850.00	900.00	950.00	1000.00	1050.00	1,080	1120	1160	1200	1250	1300	1370	1410	1480	1560
Number of persons receiving allowances																		
Burgesses	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Widows of Burgesses	11	12	8	9	8	8	8	8	7	7	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Daughters of Burgesses	10	8	8	7	5	4	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	22	22	17	17	14	13	12	12	11	10	8	6	5	3	3	3	3	3

Assuming a 3% increase in the allowances rounded

Burgesses	0	1730	£0
Widows/Widowers of Burgesses	2	1730	£3,460
Daughters/Sons of Burgess	0	1610	£0
	2		£3,460

or continue at 5% increase rounded

Burgesses	0	1765	£0
Widows/Widowers of Burgesses	2	1765	£3,530
Daughters/Sons of Burgess	0	1640	£0
	2		£3,530

Basic Retirement Pension

	Single Person	Increase	Married Couple	Increase
April 1994	57.60		92.10	
April 1995	58.85	2%	94.10	2%
April 1996	61.15	4%	97.75	4%
April 1997	62.45	2%	99.80	2%
April 1998	64.70	4%	103.40	4%
April 1999	66.75	3%	106.70	3%
April 2000	67.50	1%	107.90	1%
April 2001	72.50	7%	115.90	7%
April 2002	75.50	4%	120.70	4%
April 2003	77.45	3%	123.80	3%
April 2004	79.65	3%	127.25	3%
April 2005	82.05	3%	131.20	3%
April 2006	84.25	3%	134.75	3%
April 2007	87.30	4%	139.60	4%
April 2008	90.7	4%	145.05	4%
April 2009	95.25	5%	152.30	5%
April 2010	97.65	3%	156.15	3%
April 2011	102.15	5%	163.35	5%
April 2012	107.45	5%	171.85	5%
April 2013	110.15	3%	176.15	3%

Rates From -

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Burgesses of Guild of Aberdeen

Paper to Guildry & Mortifications Funds Committee

The Burgesses of Guild of the City of Aberdeen are about to celebrate the granting of a Royal Charter by King Alexander II who came to the throne in 1214. The actual date of granting is not known but a programme of events is planned to celebrate this important landmark in the history of Aberdeen's oldest civic body.

The Guild is a charitable body which provides for Burgesses, their spouses or daughters who may have fallen on hard times by annual payments set each year by the Guildry and Mortifications Funds Committee. The number of claimants has fallen consistently over a period of years mainly because such payments are taken into account when the recipients receive other benefits. Currently, the number of claimants is less than 10.

In 1990, a petition was raised in the Court of Session to allow a variation in the use of Burgesses' funds and this was granted in 1996. The Guildry Award Scheme was set up with a strict set of rules regarding eligibility. It was agreed initially that a total of approximately £10,000 per annum (to be reviewed annually) would be available for awards under the scheme and the first award was made in 2001. In the period since the first award was made, over £150,000 was available for distribution but it is estimated that the amounts granted are less than £60,000 with no awards being sought nor claimed in the past 3 years.

Recently, Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has been reviewing the charitable trusts under its management. Many of these are small and have been dormant for years with the funds being eroded by administration costs which have increased considerably because of the need to comply with OSCR guidelines. A number of these small trusts were set up by Burgesses to provide for Burgesses or their families who require support ie similar aims to those allowed for under the Burgesses funds. Following discussions with officers of ACC, it was agreed that, subject to approval by OSCR, these funds would be transferred to the Burgesses' funds so that a large sum (to be determined) will be received in the not too distant future.

Concern has been expressed that, because the amounts being paid to Burgesses are *de minimis* in relation to the total funds and this, coupled with the lack of other charitable payments under the Awards scheme, OSCR may consider that the Burgesses of Guild no longer qualifies as a charitable body which would have adverse consequences for the Guild and its funds.

To avoid this situation, therefore, and in recognition of the 800th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter, we would put forward the following proposals for consideration by the Guildry & Mortification Funds Committee and Aberdeen City Council:

1 A one off payment of £500 is made to all current recipients of payments from Guild funds. This would be by way of a heating allowance at a time when many people are suffering hardship in meeting such bills and should not affect their other benefits.

2 Under the Awards scheme, payment of annual scholarships to students at Aberdeen and Robert Gordon's Universities, Aberdeen College and the Saltire Society. The criteria for qualification for persons applying for such scholarships would be the same as for those under the current awards scheme ie with regard to residence and other regulations.

These scholarships would be discussed (and awarded) each year with the respective institutions and it is believed that, in this way, the scheme would be more likely to achieve the aims for which it was set up. It should be emphasised, however, that other applications would still be considered under the existing scheme which has to be better administered and advertised.

To provide for these awards and, given the shortfall in award payments to date and allowing for inflation, we would propose that the annual amount payable under the scheme be increased to a maximum of £20,000.

3 In recognition of our 800th Anniversary, we would propose a "one off" competition among charities in Aberdeen requiring assistance with projects of a capital nature rather than income support. 3 awards would be made of £10,000, £6,000 and £4,000 with charities applying for these by submitting a paper setting out details of the project and what the award would be used for.

4 The Burgesses of Guild of Aberdeen do not have their own coat of arms. The symbol on our notepaper is that of the medallion on the Dean of Guild's dining miniature which has no significance other than the date of 1214. We believe it is appropriate that, as the oldest civic body in the city, the Guild should have its own coat of arms and request approval for funding the application for this.

In summary, these proposals recognise the historical significance of the Burgesses of Guild, meet the criteria for payments from Guild funds and will help in the event of any challenge by OSCR to the charitable status of the Burgesses of Guild of the City of Aberdeen.

Fred Dalgarno

Dean of Guild

Exempt information as described in paragraph(s) 6, 9 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

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