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To: Councillor Finlayson, Master of Mortifications; Councillor George Adam, the Lord Provost; Councillor Noble; and Mr Colin G Taylor, Lord Dean of Guild

Town House,
ABERDEEN 23 February 2016

GILDRY AND MORTIFICATION FUNDS SUB COMMITTEE

The Members of the **GILDRY AND MORTIFICATION FUNDS SUB COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in Committee Room 4 - Town House on **TUESDAY, 1 MARCH 2016 at 2.00 pm.**

FRASER BELL
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

BUSINESS

- 1 Minute of Previous Meeting of 16 November 2015 - For Approval (Pages 3 - 6)
- 2 Dean of Guild Report (Pages 7 - 8)
- 3 Rickarts Tomb Renovation (Pages 9 - 12)

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GUILDRY AND MORTIFICATION FUNDS SUB COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 16 November 2015. Minute of Meeting of the GUILDRY AND MORTIFICATION FUNDS SUB COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Finlayson, Master of Mortifications, Chairperson; and Councillor George Adam, the Lord Provost and Councillor Noble; and Mr Colin G Taylor, Lord Dean of Guild.

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found at:-
<http://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=419&MIId=4052&Ver=4>

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

1. The Sub Committee was requested to determine that the following item of business, which contained exempt information as described in Schedule 7(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, be taken in private:-

- Remuneration of the Clerk to the Burgesses

The Sub Committee resolved:

in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the aforementioned item of business (Article 4 of this minute refers) so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in paragraphs 1 and 5 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The Sub Committee had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 21 January 2015.

With reference to Article 4, the Lord Dean advised:

- (a) that discussions were ongoing regarding the creation of a permanent feature in Aberdeen to recognise the 800th anniversary of the granting of a Royal Charter to the Burgesses of Aberdeen;
- (b) that a constitution had been drafted for the Burgesses of Guild, which would allow for a broader range of funding requests to include sport and culture, however it had yet to be accepted by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and a moratorium on spending was in place until the constitution was approved; and
- (c) that discussions were ongoing with the two universities, North East Scotland College and the Saltire Society regarding the Burgess Awards and the establishment of 'mini scholarships'; and that he would report back to the Sub Committee in due course.

GUILDRY AND MORTIFICATION FUNDS SUB COMMITTEE
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The Sub Committee resolved:

- (i) to approve the minute; and
- (ii) to note the updates provided by the Lord Dean of Guild.

REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES

3. 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 2014; and (2) the number of people receiving allowances for the same period; and (b) proposed that the allowances be increased by either 3% or 5% rounded up to the nearest £10, backdated, for 2015/16.

The Chairperson proposed that a formal schedule of meetings be established, to consider the review of allowances, together with the remuneration of the Clerk to the Burgesses.

The Sub Committee resolved:

- (i) to hold meetings in March and September each year with a view to reviewing the remuneration of the Clerk to the Burgesses and the Guildry Fund allowances in September each year; and
- (ii) to recommend to Council that the following increases (5%) in annual allowances be approved backdated from 1 May 2015:-

Guildry Fund Allowance	Present Allowance	Proposed Allowance
Burgesses	£1,855	£1,950
Widows/Widowers of Burgesses	£1,855	£1,950
Children of Burgesses	£1,725	£1,815

In accordance with the decision recorded under Article 1 of this minute, the following item of business was considered with the press and public excluded.

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REMUNERATION OF THE CLERK TO THE BURGESSES - CG/15/139

4. The Sub Committee had before it a report by the Interim Director of Corporate Governance which advised of the decision of the Guildry to increase the remuneration of the Clerk to the Burgesses.

The report recommended:

That the Sub Committee note the decision of the Guildry to increase the remuneration to the Clerk to the Burgesses as outlined in the report.

The Sub Committee resolved:

to approve the recommendation.

- **ANDREW FINLAYSON, Master of Mortifications, Chairperson.**

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The Burgesses of Guild of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen

LORD DEAN OF GUILD COLIN G. TAYLOR

Report to Guildry & Mortifications Funds Sub-Committee 01/03/2016

Further to my earlier reports and in connection with our new Coat of Arms and Letters Patent it is very pleasing to advise that all costs have been met and the total expenditure was £4757.25.

Regarding the matter of a formal presentation the position is that no costs have been or will be incurred for this. On 21st January I together with all six Assessors, our Clerk and the Late Dean of Guild had an audience with Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Rothesay, Our host and organiser of this event was The University of Aberdeen, the meeting was arranged for Her Royal Highness to present our Letters Patent which had only recently been painted on vellum. Furthermore, as I draft this report, on 27th February 2016 a long-planned event will be held in the Town and County Hall in the presence of the Lord Provost and the Lord Lyon King of Arms when the latter will formally confirm the granting of our Arms and present the framed Letters Patent before an audience of Burgesses and invited guests including principal Councillors. This evening will be hosted by the Lord Provost and Aberdeen City Council and our gratitude for this generosity is now recorded.

The Burgesses together with the ACC Planning Department are currently active with a programme to refresh interest in the historic March Stones of which more at our next meeting. No major costs are anticipated.

A new website for the Burgesses is in the making, we have engaged a web designer at an agreed fee of £1,000 plus what we consider will be modest expenses. The site is being populated now and the ambition is to go 'live' by the date of our AGM on 10th May.

I reported last year on our intention to seek permission to create a permanent feature to recognise the 800th anniversary of our Charter and whilst all ideas are not exhausted it seems that one suggestion is finding favour with many. This is a proposal to create a granite ornament or plaque in the form of an interpretive panel made of granite in the area of the Robert The Bruce statue at Marischal College, the purpose would be to explain the significance of this statue and the connection between Bruce and the City of Aberdeen and also the Burgesses of the City. The likely cost of such a proposal is unknown however I'm suggesting a figure in the region of £10,000.

Finally, in respect of a new Constitution for the Burgesses, Mr. James Hashmi has been active with his research and presentations to OSCR from whom we hope and expect to receive approval in the near future.

Colin G. Taylor

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City of Aberdeen Council Guildry & Mortification
Funds*

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Guldry & Mortifications
DATE	1 March 2016
DIRECTOR	Richard Ellis
TITLE OF REPORT	Rickarts Tomb Renovation
REPORT NUMBER	CG/16/049
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Inform the Committee of the balance of funds within the John Rickart Mortification Fund.
- b) Inform the Committee of the need to renovate the Rickarts Tomb.
- c) Seek approval for expenditure on the repair of the Rickart Tomb from the John Rickart Mortification Fund.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Consider the report and agree to fund £20,700 for the repair and renovation cost of the Rickard's Tomb from the Rickart Mortification Fund.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 1740 John Rickart left £12 to be invested with interest to be used for the perpetual maintenance of Rickarts Tomb. The John Rickart Mortifications Fund currently stands at £54,741. Renovations of the tomb will cost in the region of £20,700 leaving funds to be invested to fund any future renovation.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Unless repair work is carried out there could be a safety risk from the collapse of the monument. Parts of the monument has already fallen into Back Wynd.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 The Rickarts Tomb is located in the centre of the west wall of the St Nicolas Kirkyard, Union Street, Aberdeen. The tomb is part of the wall. The tomb is in urgent need of renovation with parts of the monument crumbling and one section have fallen into Back Wynd
- 5.2 The structure, along with other structures in the kirkyard is recognised as being of architectural or historic interest. The tomb is the tallest monument in the kirkyard and it is decorated with urns and cherubs and the inscription is in latin.
- 5.3 In 1740 John Rickart, nephew of the deceased William Rickart left £12 for the Masters of the Kirk or his successor to be invested with interest to provide for the perpetual repair and maintenance of Rickart's Tomb.
- 5.7 Repairs are anticipated to be in the regions of £20,700, given the architectural significance of the monument and it's current state of disrepair urgent repair is needed.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

The renovation of the Rickart's Tomb will add to the visual impact of St Nicholas Kirkyard, a feature of Union Street that is enjoyed both by residents and visitors.

Improving our use of Resources –

Funds were established in a trust to fund the perpetual maintenance of this monument. Trust funds will cover all costs associated with the renovation of the tomb.

City & Public –

The St. Nicolas Kirkyard is a major contributor to the high visual impact of Union Street, enjoyed both by residents and visitors alike. The historical significance of the monuments is recognised by a grade 2 listing identifying a duty to preserve these historic monuments to be enjoyed by future generations.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Without repair, the monument could further deteriorate to the point of collapse with the potential loss of a class 2 listed structure and potential injury to people in the Kirkyard and Back Wynd.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Quotation from Communities, Housing & Infrastructure (not attached).

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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