



**Report to Guildry & Mortifications Funds Committee 23/04/2020 by Colin G. Taylor,  
Lord Dean of Guild of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen**

We continue to receive nominations which is pleasing, when these are assessed for recommendation to the Council for admission as a Burgess we strictly adhere to following criteria thus recognising and honouring those whom we consider are worthy because they have contributed or are actively contributing to the community, 'OUR CITY'. The criteria are noted here, above all we consider the final one to be most important

Each Proposer has to certify and attest that the Nominee:

- *is a resident of or has a business address in the City of Aberdeen*
- *is a person of good fame and character*
- *is at least 25 years of age*
- *has some years' experience in industry, commerce or the professions*
- *holds or has held a position of responsibility in his/her business or organisation*
- *has shown involvement in activities outwith his/her occupation which are of benefit to the community or City*

Other than our monthly programme of lunches and evening events, many Burgesses are active on a variety of projects each of which is linked to the Council and civic interests.

Recognising the 1313 and 1319 Charters by King Robert the Bruce (700<sup>th</sup> anniversary) to the City, often referred to as the Granting of the Freedom lands, projects include the intention to plant 700 trees, install decorated book benches featuring historic events (illustration of examples attached) nearby each or most of the city's schools, and to feature the 67 March Stones which are unique in Scotland and are a reminder of a very important and ancient part of Aberdeen's heritage. They are the property of the Council and belong to the Council forever, I believe they are category 'B' listed structures and so protected by law. It is felt that it is incumbent upon all of us in the early years of the 21st century to be aware of them and their historical significance. In 2007, the Burgesses initiated a scheme to promote awareness of the Freedom Lands and the March Stones, each Stone was allocated a 'Guardian' or 'Guardians' who would care for its safety and appearance. The list of Guardians has recently been updated and there is a full set. It has been known for some time that two Stones are missing, by the enthusiasm and dedication of individual Burgesses these are to be replaced: also, a broken Stone has been repaired. Another is thought to be at risk by plans to create the so-called 'Berryden Corridor' and we are 'on the case'.

Finally, the 'OSCR Saga' about which I have been reporting for some time. Some progress has been made, I together with the Past Dean and the Council's Head of Finance had what I believe was a constructive meeting with OSCR Executives at their Dundee office, we are now working together to re-draft Trust wordings which, we hope, will achieve a workable solution for the future.



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