

# GUILDRY AND MORTIFICATION FUNDS COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 1 March 2024. Minute of Meeting of the GUILDRY AND MORTIFICATION FUNDS COMMITTEE. Present:- Lord Provost David Cameron, Master of Mortifications, Convener; Depute Provost, Councillor Delaney; Councillor Bonsell, and Sylvia Halkerston, Lord Dean of Guild.

Also Present: Aileen Duncan, Robert Gilmour, Steven Inglis, Martyn Orchard and Gogo Okafor (Aberdeen City Council).

## WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1. The Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 5 DECEMBER 2022

2. The Committee had before it the minute of the previous meeting of 5 December 2022 for approval.

### The Committee resolved:-

to approve the minute subject to amending the wording on page 4 (Article 5) that the Lord Dean had mentioned she had approached the Incorporated Trades regarding the growth of the city, should be changed to for the benefit of the city.

## LORD DEAN OF GUILD REPORT

3. The Committee had before it various papers by the Lord Dean of Guild which (1) set out a statement of action and action plan for the Burgesses of Guild and Burgesses of Trade in 2024; and (2) requested financial assistance for various proposals on behalf of Aberdeen Foyer and with regard to the purchase of laptops for pupils at selected schools to assist them towards further education.

The Lord Dean spoke to the papers and highlighted that the six themes and key actions, as set out below, related to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).

6 Themes	14 Key Actions
Job opportunities and Work Placements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Every business involving a burgh of guild/ trade to offer an apprenticeship</li><li>2. Provide work experience placements for people not currently in employment.</li></ol>
Education, Skills and Training	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Contribute to courses in life skills, financial management, cooking and nutrition</li><li>4. Professional and vocational input into the school curriculum</li><li>5. Educate young people in civic pride and values involving them in community/ charity projects</li></ol>
Mentoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. Mentoring support for young people</li><li>7. Provide small and start up business assistance by offering work shadowing, expertise and business mentoring</li></ol>

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Health and Wellbeing	<p>8. Every business involving a burgh of guild / trade to implement a mental health first aider programme</p> <p>9. Work with public services and charities to develop more sport and outdoor activities for adults as well as young people. E.g. Active Schools Programme and Denis Law Trust</p>
Supporting Communities	<p>10. Build capacity of community groups and community organisations by getting involved in Boards</p> <p>11. Every business leader to engage with a chosen charity</p> <p>12. Secure funding for community courses for people on cooking health food economically and basic budgeting</p>
Protecting the Environment	<p>13. Provide resources to community groups to manage the local Environment (E.g. Grit bins, dog waste, community gardens)</p> <p>14. Sponsor awards for good environment practice in communities and businesses</p>

The Lord Dean advised that many young people in the city were not able to further their education as a result of not having access to technology and they were not eligible for funded courses. She presented two proposals which were targeted towards tackling poverty and homelessness in Aberdeen.

With regard to Proposal A, the Lord Dean advised that she had contacted the Interim Director of Families and Communities with a view to making approaches to three schools; thereby purchasing six laptops which would be provided to two students in each school. It was estimated that the six laptops would cost £4,200 at £700 each, they could be purchased via ACC procurement, and the schools would select the students in need of assistance.

The Lord Dean spoke in furtherance of Proposal B on behalf of Aberdeen Foyer, who were currently supporting a number of young people in Aberdeen who were seeking employment but required additional training and a vocational qualification or certification to secure employment. She highlighted the merits of the various funding requests and stated that the money would not go to the individuals directly, it would go to Aberdeen Foyer who would pay for the required training/certification.

The Lord Dean advised that both proposals totalled £5,750 and requested that they be funded from the 2023/24 Guildry budget.

The Committee expressed their support for the proposals, however they were advised that they did not have the authority to approve the funding requests and this would require to be referred to Council for decision. In that regard, it was noted that the agenda had been issued for the Council's budget meeting on 6 March 2024, and whilst it could be submitted as a late paper, it may be preferable to refer the matter to the Council meeting on 17 April 2024 instead, and officers in Finance could process the matter as an accrual from the 2023/24 budget if it was approved.

**The Committee resolved:-**

to express support for the requests for funding and refer the matter to the Council meeting on 17 April 2024 for approval.

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**GILDRY FUND - REVIEW OF ALLOWANCES**

4. The Committee heard from Ms Aileen Duncan, Finance Development Officer, with regard to the review of the allowances. She advised that there were currently no claimants and this had been the case for a few years, therefore there was no urgency to increase the allowances at this stage - they could be increased at any point if there were claimants.

**The Committee resolved:-**

to defer consideration of the matter at this stage,

**STATEMENT OF GILDRY FUNDS**

5. The Committee had before it a report on the Financial Statement of Guildry Funds. Robert Gilmour, Finance Development Officer, highlighted that there had been an improvement compared to the previous year. Mr Gilmour advised there had been an interest of £39,875 loan balance, and share of £38,315 net income from the Lands of Skene in the year 2022/23.

Furthermore, he summarised the expenditure for 2022/23 and the Governance cost of £15,752 was queried. Mr Gilmour explained that this comprised the Accounting and Administration fee of £12,772 and the Audit fee £2,980 which made it a total of £15,752.

The Lord Dean queried some of the financial information, for example why costs were allocated in the way they were and the process for investment of funds. Mr Gilmour responded that other colleagues were responsible for investments and there were historical reasons in terms of fees and charges, however he would liaise with colleagues and report back.

**The Committee resolved:-**

to note the financial report and the update provided.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

6. The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held in August 2024 in Committee Room 2, Town House.

- **David Cameron, The Lord Provost, Master of Mortifications, Convener.**