



## **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**