

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

James Hashmi, Reporting & Monitoring Manager
jhashmi@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224-346400