

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Statutory Council Meeting
DATE	18 May 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Appointment of Baillies and Miscellaneous Council Appointments
REPORT NUMBER	COM/22/069
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Mark Masson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	7

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider appointing Baillies to assist the Lord Provost in the performance of his/her duties and provide information on historical offices of the Council requesting that elected members make miscellaneous appointments.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:-

- 2.1 Determine whether or not the office of Baillies should continue;

If Council determines that the office of Baillies should continue, it is further recommended that Council:-

- (1) Appoint such number of Baillies as it deems appropriate;
- (2) Note the decision of Council of 16 May 2007 whereby it was agreed that any serving former Lord Provost would automatically become a Baillie;
- (3) Agree that the allocation of robes and chains be at the discretion of the Lord Provost;
- (4) Agree that the Baillies will receive no remuneration; and
- (5) Note that those undertaking civic duties on behalf of the Lord Provost are entitled to claim reimbursement from the Council's Civic Head Allowance; and

- 2.2 Appoint members to the following historical offices:-

- (1) Master of Shore Works;
- (2) Master of Kirk and Bridge Works;
- (3) Master of Mortifications; and
- (4) Master of the Guild Brethren's Hospital.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Baillies

- 3.1 The role of Baillie was reintroduced at the meeting of Council of 25 June 2003 in order that a small number of named Councillors could deputise for the Lord Provost at civic occasions, enabling a sense of tradition to be brought to these events, and reduce the demands made on the Lord Provost.
- 3.2 At the meeting of Council of 16 May 2007, members further agreed that any serving former Lord Provost would automatically become a Baillie. This has been agreed at all subsequent Statutory Council meetings.
- 3.3 In 2003, four Baillies were appointed (one from each political group). In 2007, 2012 and 2017 five Baillies were appointed (one from each political group). Councillor Reynolds was also automatically appointed as a Baillie due to him being a serving former Lord Provost.
- 3.4 The robes and chains which Councillors can be invited to wear on formal occasions are those of former Baillies (pre 1975). It is proposed as per the recommendations that robes and chains should continue to be allocated to Councillors by invitation by the Lord Provost on specific occasions such as graduation ceremonies, Remembrance Sunday and civic funerals.
- 3.5 In 2003, it was agreed that Baillies would not receive remuneration, and the same decision was taken by members in 2007, 2012 and 2017. However those undertaking civic duties on behalf of the Lord Provost are entitled to claim reimbursement from the Council's Civic Head Allowance.

Historical Office Bearers

- 3.6 Originally, office bearers of the Council were members of the Council delegated to carry out particular tasks on behalf of the community. Generally they had access to communal funds to carry out these tasks or were empowered to raise money for specific purposes, consequentially part of their responsibility was to furnish an annual account of their expenditure. These roles are entirely ceremonial in nature and no longer hold any responsibilities or carry any additional remuneration.

The Master of Shore Works

- 3.7 The office bearer upheld the harbour and its approaches and was empowered to levy a tax on cargo to pay for harbour works. His office was created in 1596 and his accounting responsibilities ceased in 1810, when the new body of Harbour Trustees took over the running of the Harbour. The office bearer remained however the Town's principal representative (after the Provost) on the Harbour Trustees and later the Harbour Commissioners.

Master of Kirk and Bridge Works

- 3.8 The office bearer was responsible for the upkeep of St Nicholas Kirk, for the Bridge of Don and from 1527 for the newly built Bridge of Dee.

Master of Mortifications

- 3.9 A Mortification was land that was given over to the Burgh of Aberdeen for charitable purposes and for the good of the Burgh. Aberdeen established the position of Master of Mortifications in 1632 following an influx of numerous donations attributed to Aberdeen's prosperity in the early 1630s. The Master of Mortifications was responsible for seeing that the land or money given over was used for its intended purpose. It is worth noting that on 22 December 1996, the Guildry and Mortifications Funds Board (now named Guildry and Mortification Funds Committee) agreed that the Master of Mortifications be appointed as its Chairperson. This arrangement has continued to the present day.

Master of Guild Brethren's Hospital

- 3.10 Founded by the Town Council in 1607, using the property of the pre-Reformation Poors Hospital. The office bearer was responsible for administering its funds and the hospital, essentially an old people's home for impoverished members of the guildry with (at least to begin with) religious overtones. Increasingly the beneficiaries preferred to remain in more congenial surroundings outside the hospital, which was eventually sold in 1770. The hospital property lay within the triangle bound by Correction Wynd, St Nicholas Lane and the west side of the St Nicholas Centre. All the office bearers were responsible for keeping the accounts of their particular office until the mid-18th century, when in the interests of uniformity, it became the responsibility of the Town Clerk Depute and after 1812 of the City Chamberlain (who was also the Town Clerk Depute for most of the 19th century).

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report, (other than those outlined at 3.5 of this report) as it is recommended that the Baillies would not receive remuneration for their duties.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No risks identified		L	Yes
Compliance	No risks identified		L	Yes
Operational	No risks identified		L	Yes
Financial	No risks identified		L	Yes
Reputational	The implementation of the recommendations would enable a sense of tradition to be brought to civic occasions in circumstances when the Lord Provost may not be able to attend.	If Baillies are appointed, they would carry out ceremonial duties on behalf of the Lord Provost if he/she could not attend a civic event.	L	Yes
Environment / Climate	No risks identified		L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

- 8.1 The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Reports to statutory meeting of Council on 17 May 2017 (Appointment of Baillies and Miscellaneous Historical Council Appointments).

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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