

## **DUNDEE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 1685 - SEPTEMBER 1686**

This set of minutes was indexed by Damian Smith, a postgraduate student at Abertay University. As no page numbers are present in the minutes, cataloguing was done on the basis of dates.

### **Council Minutes Index September 1685 - September 1686**

Members:-	Provost	-	James Fletcher
	Baillies	-	Thomas Watson
		-	Thomas Moodie
		-	Patrick Balnoavis
		-	Alexander Arbuthnot
	Dean of Guild	-	John Scott
	Treasurer	-	David Maxwell
	*Cess Collector	-	John Haistier
	Councillor to the Guild	-	Alexander Blair
	Collector of the Fines	-	James Stewart
	Hospital Master	-	James Alisone
	Kirkmaster	-	John Duncan
	Shoremaster	-	William Watt
	Stentmasters		(appointed 9 January)
	For the Merchants	-	Alexander Watson
		-	Andrew Allan
		-	Alexander Bell
		-	John Smith
		-	
	For the Seamen	-	David Ramsay (Skipper)
	For the Maltmen	-	Patrick Jackson (appointed 9th January, 1686)

Cess collector is replaced by James Lyons (27th October, 1685)

### **Audits, Auditing Date**

- Date for auditing the Dean of Guilds, Treasurers, Kirkmasters, Hospitalmasters and Shoremasters accounts set as the 5th of April annually (16th February, 1686).
- Auditors to these accounts appointed (9th March, 1686).
- See Kirkmaster (13th July, 10th August, 1686).
- Dean of Guild has his accounts audited (10th August, 1686).
- Baillie Duncan and the Treasurer to audit John Haistier's accounts (10th August, 1686).
- Late Treasurer, William Watson's, accounts audited and approved (28th August, 1686).
- David Ramsey, late Hospitalmaster, has his accounts audited (4th September, 1686).
- Thomas Watson, late Dean of Guild, has his accounts audited and approved (18th September, 1686).

### **Baillie Arbothnot**

- Baillie Arbothnot to take George Gallane to see the best lawyers in order to gain advice in the debate between Gallane and Claverhouse (22nd June, 1686).
- Makes his report (29th June, 1686).

**Baxter(s)**

- Baillies Watson, Moodie and Arbuthnot to try to settle the differences between Alexander Williamson and the Baxter trade (5th December, 1685).
- The Council take these differences into consideration (21st December, 1685).

**Bond**

- Bond for £1,000 granted to Alexander Duncan, former Provost (5th February, 1686).

**Bond of Warranty**

- Bond of Warranty granted to James Coupar from Coupar Grainge to allow a prisoner in the Grainge Tollbooth to be set free (13th October, 1685).
- Granted to David Hunter for the release of William Milne from Baldovie Tollbooth as he was not charged (13th October, 1685).

**Burgess Book**

- Burgess book opened and publicised (23rd March, 1686).
- Burgess book to be opened for two days (20th July, 1686).
- Mr Tom Smyth, after petitioning, admitted as a Burgess (20th July, 1686) [this entry is of particular interest as it has clearly been entered at a later date].

**Burghs (Convention of)**

- Provost makes his report from the Convention of Burghs (23rd April, 1686).
- Provost gives in an account of his expenses (23rd April, 1686).
- Baillies Balnoavis and Duncan report from the Convention of Burghs (15th July, 1686).

**Cess**

- Councils sets cess according to an Act of Parliament (29th September, 1685).
- John Haistier appointed Cess Collector for the coming year (29th September, 1685).
- See Lyons, John (17th November, 1685).
- John Haistier to book all cess payments and check the balance (17th November, 1685).
- Proclamation given concerning the payment of last Whitsundays cess (5th December, 1685).
- Cess collector, John Haistier, to pay £2,200 to the Treasurer, the amount of current cess due (5th December, 1685).
- Replacement Cess Collector, James Lyons to pay 500 merks to complete the cess collection (5th December, 1685).
- Two discharges of the town's cess put in the town press (21st December, 1685).
- Baillies Balnoavis and Arbothnot to audit John Haistier, Cess Collectors accounts (19th January, 1686).

- John Haistier, Cess Collector, to pay £300 to the founder, in part payment for the work on the bell (5th May, 1686).
- Discharge account of cess put in the town's press (18th September, 1686).

### **Church**

- Magistrates to meet the Minister of the West Kirk and call before them Robert Chrystall, Robert Strachan and Gilbert Mason (Wrights) to answer for their conduct (18th September, 1686).

### **Claverhouse**

- See Baillie Arbothnot (22nd June, 1686).

### **Common Bill**

- Common Bill read and taken into consideration by the Council (6th October, 1685).
- To be publicly proclaimed the following Friday afternoon (13th October, 1685).

### **Constable of Dundee (John Graham of Claverhouse)**

- Extract of a letter from the privy council, concerning the appointment of the Constable, produced by the Provost (22nd June, 1686).
- The letter published in the town's press (29th June, 1686).
- Constable given legal power over all capital and lesser cases (29th June, 1686).
- Transcript of this document concerning the Constable put in the minutes (29th June, 1686), letter sent on 23rd June.
- Council expresses objections to the memorandum concerning the Constable (29th June, 1686).
- Act discharging the town from certain duties. Sent from the Advocates, Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaughe, and Sir John Lander, no more encroachment into the Constable's jurisdiction allowed (29th June, 1686).
- A copy of the Constable's deed put up in the town's press (28th August, 1686).

### **Contract**

- Contract drawn up between Patrick Millan of Drunlaw Mill and the town, Patrick Watson of Strathmartine signing for the town (9th March, 1686).
- The tack of the mid milnes given to Patrick Millan, starting from Whitsunday (9th March 1686).
- A copy of a contract between the town and the Constable of Dundee put in the town's press (23rd March, 1686).
- Contract between the town and Patrick Millan put in the town's press (30th March, 1686).

### **Convention of Burghs**

- Baillie Balnoavis appointed as Commissioner to the Convention of Burghs (29th June, 1686).

### **Court**

- Bell ordered to be knelled in order to summon the Court (5th December, 1685).

**Debts**

- All debts for building the harbour and fines incurred before 12th March to be passed onto old Magistrates (15th June, 1686).

**Discharge**

- Two discharges given to the town - put in the town's press (16th February, 1686).

**Drum**

- The Town Drum to order the inhabitants to pay cess due from Whitsunday last (29th September, 1685).

**Duncan, John (Former Baillie)**

- To assist Baillie Mundie in auditing William Ffairweather (late Shoremasters) accounts (19th January, 1686).

**Fines**

- Magistrates absent on Council days fines five shillings and twelve shillings for absence from church (29th September, 1685).
- James Stewart appointed collector of the fines (29th September, 1685).
- James Stewart to return £10 to Robert Gardyne the Goldsmith (9th March, 1686).

**Grammar School**

- See Petitions (13th July, 1686).
- George Menzies to be doctor of the grammar school in place of the deceased Mr. Alexander Ramsay (20th July, 1686).

**Hospitalmaster (James Alisone)**

- James Stewart, David Drummond, James Alisone, James Bower, on leet (29th September, 1685).
- James Alisone appointed (29th September, 1685).
- Council recommend the Hospitalmaster to appoint a Hospital Chaplain (9th March, 1686).

**Kirkmaster (John Duncan)**

- Appointed, James Man on the leet but turned down (29th September, 1685).
- Late Kirkmaster, Baillie Mundie has his accounts audited (13th July, 1686).
- Auditor's report on Kirkmaster's accounts (10th August, 1686).

**Lyons, James (Previous Year Cess Collector)**

- Provost sends Baillies Watson and Mundie to meet James Lyons as the Cess Collector is out of town for a quarter (27th October, 1685).
- James Lyons appointed Cess Collector until Candlemass (17th November, 1685).
- Accounts audited (23rd April, 1686).

- Precept on James Lyons to pay to David Maxwell as sum for work on the great bell (5th May, 1686).

### **Magistrates**

- Town Magistrates, old and new, to meet and confer on the best method for collecting the cess (16th February, 1686).

### **Milnes**

- James Gowes' accounts of the milnes audited (5th February, 1686).

### **Milnemasters**

- Act ordering milnemasters to report persons taking more than the prescribed amount from the milnes (6th October, 1685).

### **Minister**

- Replacement for the Minister John Guthrie required (21st December, 1685).
- Mr. Norier, Minister at Dunfermline, Mr. Anderson, Minister at Kirkcaldy, Mr. Rait of Monikie and Mr. Dempster of Monifieth all considered (21st December, 1685).
- Mr. Norier chosen (21st December, 1685).
- Dean of Guild gives in an account of the money used on his visit to Mr. Norier at Dunfermline (6th April, 1686).

### **Militia**

- Militia men given burgess tickets (20th July, 1686).

### **Multure Wheat**

- Baillies Arbuthnot and Duncan to go to the town's milnes and see how much multure wheat there is (29th September, 1685).
- Baillies Arbuthnot and Duncan report (6th October, 1685).
- What to be sold at £6 13s 4p per bowl until further notice (6th October, 1685).
- Price of multure wheat set at £5 13s per bowl (5th December, 1685).
- Price of multure wheat set at 7 merks per bowl (29th June, 1686).

### **Parliament**

- See Provost (29th June, 1686).

### **Petition**

- Petition given in on behalf of the Fletcher trade (23rd March, 1686).
- James Basillie petitions to be exempt from full payment of the cess (30th March, 1686).
- Petition given in by the Laird of Logie (30th March, 1686).
- Petition given in by George Grady, requesting a contract on some land outside the barb gate (30th March, 1686).

- Draw up on John Haistier, Cess Collector, to pay to David Maxwell, Treasurer, a sum of money as yet unknown, to deliver a certain Mr. Smith, a man from the town out of the Turkes slavery (5th May, 1686).
- Petition from Mr. Menzies concerning the grammar school taken into consideration until next Council day (13th July, 1686).
- Petition by Patrick Jackson, requesting a burgess ticket to represent the seamen trade (18th September, 1686).
- Burgess ticket granted (18th September, 1686).

### **Petty Customs**

- The following branches of the Petty Customs roused (5th February, 1686).
- Anchorage and Shore Silver to the Shoremaster for £120 Scotts Postmaster Ship to Thomas Greibe for 59s Flesh and fish dues to Thomas Greibe.
- Ten pennies on malt sold to the Treasurer for 40 merks.
- Lyme potts and graves to the Treasurer.
- Salmon fishing sold to John Boyack.
- The sepulchar graves sold to the Hospitalmaster.
- Thomas Greibe to pay the money due for his purchases in the petty custom's next Council day (16th September, 1686).

### **Precept**

- Council ordains late Treasurer to pay to John Melville (late Baillie) £13 18s 10p (6th October, 1685).
- Treasurer to pay 100 merks to Thomas Thome to build a new floor for the Tollbooth (13th October, 1685).
- Precept on the Treasurer to pay £15 expenses to the Provost and Baillie Balnoavis (21st December, 1685).
- Precept on John Haistier to pay £150 to the Shoremaster for work on the bulwarks. (5th May, 1686)
- Precept on James Lyons to pay £138 5s 8p to David Maxwell (19th January, 1686).
- Precept on William Watson, Former Treasurer, to pay £755 8s 2p in accounts (9th March, 1686).
- Precept on William Waton, late Treasurer, to pay to James Mitchell £55 18s (23rd March, 1686).
- Precept on James Lyons to pay to the Shoremaster £100 12s for repairing the town's boat (23rd March, 1686).
- Two precepts from John Meikle, founder, put in the press (29th June, 1686).
- Precept on the Treasurer to pay £150 1s to the Dean of Guild (13th July, 1686).
- Precept on James Lyon, Cess Collector, to pay £270 Scotts to the Dean of Guild (13th July, 1686).

- Precept drawn on William Watson, late Treasurer, to pay £54 4s to Margaret Duncan in respect of a burgess ticket in April, 1685 (20th July, 1686).
- Late Treasurer to pay £54 1s to James Pattone, Tailor, for making officers clothes (20th July, 1686).
- Drawn on John Haistier to pay £400 to David Maxwell, Treasurer (10th August, 1686).
- On the Treasurer to pay £24 5s 8p to William Ffairweather, Skipper, for tackle to hang up the meikle bell (28th August, 1686).
- On Treasurer to pay £40 8s to Thomas Abercrombie for putting up the meikle bell (28th August, 1686).
- On the Treasurer to pay £21 pounds 12s for firing guns at the burial of the late Earl of Panmure (28th August, 1686).
- Precept on John Haistier, Cess Collector, to pay £200 Scots to the Treasurer (28th August, 1686).
- On James Lyon to pay 100 merks to David Ramsay, late Hospitalmaster (28th August, 1686).
- John Haistier to pay £100 Scots to Patrick Millan, Milne Wright, for building the mid milnes (28th August, 1686).
- Precept on the Treasurer to pay £47 (4th September, 1686).
- Precept on John Haistier to pay £24 5s 8p to the Treasurer for metal that was used in repairing the great bell (4th September, 1686).
- Precept on John Haistier to pay the outstanding balance for the bell work to John Meikle, founder (18th September, 1686).
- Precept on the Treasurer to pay £40 5s 4p to Tom Jackson (18th September, 1686).
- The following appointed to deliver a fine to England (500 merks) levied by the Kings privy Council for resistance to the Earl of Lauderdale (9th March).
  - William Kirkcaldy (son to Alexander Kirkcaldy, a former Baillie)
  - George Fermes (a former Baillie)

### **Provost**

- Provost reports from Convention of Burghs, mentions several new acts of parliament (29th June, 1686).

### **Ramsay, David**

- Son of John Ramsay (Baxter) admitted as a member of Gilbert Guthries' mortifications (16th February, 1686).

### **Shoremaster (William Watt)**

- Appointed, Patrick Jackson turned down (29th September, 1685).
- To repair town's boat (20th October, 1685).
- Late Shoremaster, Thomas Ffairweather, has his accounts audited (5th December, 1685).
- William Ffairweather, former Shoremaster, to have his accounts booked (5th February, 1686).
- Shoremaster to do some work on a timber bulwark (23rd April, 1686).

**Sir Colin Mackenzie**

- Signed letter to Council, received 22nd June, 1686.

**Steeple**

- The Steeple bell found to be 1552 pounds in weight, ordered to be made up to 2000 pounds (17th November, 1685).

**Stibles, Margaret**

- Margaret Stibles, wife of Alexander Williamson, banned from selling any bread or flour (13th October, 1685).

**Summons**

- Copy of a summons sent to Mr. Brisbane concerning the lands of Logie sent to him (9th March, 1686).

**Tack**

- See also Contract.
- Tack drawn up in favour of James Gardiner for the east miln (9th March, 1686).

**Tollbooth**

- See Precept (13th October, 1685).
- See Bonds of Warranty.
- New rules for the keeping of prisoners in the Tollbooth (20th October 1685).

**Treasurer**

- To pay 500 merks to Robert Norie, Minister (20th July, 1686).

**Williamson, Alexander**

- See also Stibles, Margaret.
- Ordered to appear before the Council, next Council day (13th October, 1685).