

COUNCIL MINUTES - 1644-1645

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.

Dundee Town Council Minutes

1644-45

By Damian Smith, Volunteer

Covers the sack of Dundee in May 1645 by the Royalist army.

September 1644-45

Personnel:	Provost	-	James Peirsone
	Treasurer	-	Archibald Auchinleck
	Dean of Guild	-	Thomas Halyburton

Baillies:	James Simpson
	Alexander Halyburton
	Thomas Mudie
	Alexander Symmer (not on exhaustive list, only those elected on 23 September 1644)

Admiral Court

- The magistrates appointed Admirals - depute over the water of the Tay from Bruchtie to Perth and empowered to hold Admiral Courts as often as necessary (Nov 19 1644).

Bathgate, John

- Perpetually banished for attacking Thomas Mudie with a sword and drawing blood (1st July 1645).

Bond

- Bond produced in favour of John Lundie, for the sum of 300 merks (24 December 1644).

Commissioner

- John Blyth appointed as the Shire Commissioner to the convention of burghs (24 September 1644).
- James Simpson and John Davidson appointed as Commissioners to the burghs and to parliament (18 December 1644).
- John Davidson appointed Commissioner to the General Assembly (13 January 1645).
- Andrew Watson audits the accounts of the Commissioners (21 January 1645).
- John Scrymgeour, Merchant, given a commission to provide 200 swords for the Town Volunteers (21 January 1645).
- John Davidson and the Clerk make their report and find the Council pleased with general assembly (24 February 1645).
- The Laird of Monksholm and the Clerk go to the Committee of estates to report on the sack of the town (12 April 1645).

- The Dean of Guild and Clerk report on an act of the Committee of Estates concerning voluntary contributions to repair the damage done to Dundee during the assault (23 May 1675).
- James Simpson to be Commissioner to the Convention of Burghs (16 June 1645).
- Alexander Wedderburn appointed Commissioner to parliament with Archibald Auchinleck to act as deputy in case of illness (1 July 1645).

Estates

- Dean of Guild and Clerk go to the Committee of Estate, (21 October 1644).
- Dean of Guild and Clerk report, all bonds and warrants they brought back put in the town house (13 November 1644).
- See Commissioner - 12 April 1645
23 May 1645
- Captain Ramsay and John Browne (Ship's Captain) ordered by the estates to bring 8 pieces of ordinance from Leith to Dundee (23 May 1645).

Companies

- Town companies to be formed. The following appointed as captains (2 September 1645).

William Davidson	Walter Rankine
Alexander Symers (younger)	Patrick Guthrie
William Duncan	William Guthrie
- Walter Rankine find 300 merks, William Duncan fined 400 merks, for refusing to be captains (2 September 1645)

Councillor for the Guild

- Alexander Wedderburne nominated (24 September 1644).

Dean of Guild

- Thomas Hallyburton, the Dean of Guild, starts at his post (1 October 1644).

English Commissioners

- The Clerk given a letter and sent to meet the English Commissioner at Berwick (2 September 1645).

Fines

- People fined for leaving the City when the Marquis of Montrose army passed (November 19 1644).
- James and George Wighton find 100 merks, Alexander Bowar of Bomerichtie fined 400 merks.
- 100 merks fine to be paid by a person for toll violations (24 December 1644)

Fortifications

- Four days work to be done on the fortifications (1 October 1644).
- Collector and Clerk (David Wright and Alexander Lindsay) of the voluntary contributions to improve the fortifications, appointed (1 October 1644).

- Accounts made of all the expense of fortifying the town as parliament is expected to repay the money (May 5 1645).
- Some houses in the Cowgate are found to be lying too close to the wall and ordered demolished (May 5 1645).
- The heritors of the houses to be compensated (May 5 1645).
- 1000 merks to be borrowed and used on the fortifications (15 July 1645).

Gleg, James (Master at Grammar School)

- Applies for existing augmentation to support him in his old age (28 January 1645).

Graveyard (Sepulchre)

- The whole town to assemble in the common graveyard with their arms at one o' clock on the following day, to be ready to defend the town (31 May 1645).

Patrick Guthrie

- Given 200 merks, and the chance to be voted into a burgess seat for services to the town (13 January 1645).

Fife

- 900 Soldiers from Fife (See Weymss Lieutenant Colonel).

Hospitalmaster

- Robert Guthrie appointed (24 September 1644).
- Precept on the Hospitalmaster to pay money to the hospital, probably for the wounded after the sack of Dundee. (12 April 1645).

Colonel Inglis (appointed to command the defence of the town)

- Not continued at his post (19 November 1644).
- To be given 400 merks for his services (19, 1644).
- Act on Colonel Inglis concerning the town's Fortifications (10 December 1644)
- Colonel Inglis presented with his 400 merks (18 December 1644).

Kirk

- James Leslie elected Treasurer in the East Kirk (10 June 1645).

Robert Lundie (Burgess)

- Censured for running away when the Marquis of Montrose and his army approached the burgh. (November 19, 1644).
- Outlawed for deserting the town and his assets seized in order to pay a 400 merk fine (November 19, 1644).
- A 300 merks toll taken from Robert Lundie for deserting the town, George Wigstone also tolled (13 January 1495)

Lyells Regiment

- Council attempts to encourage Lyells Regiment to garrison the town for a while, the Commissar to provide entertainment for the soldiers (16 June 1645).
- Lyells regiment relieves the town's watch. The Watch Commander (Major Ramsay) to be rewarded for his services (16 June 1645).

An incident involving soldiers from Lyells regiment and town baillies to be investigated (1 July 1645).

Magistrates

- List drawn up for the election of Magistrates (17 September 1644).
- elections take place (23 September 1644).
- Magistrates to set the watch every night, absences to be punished (10 December 1644).

Marquis of Argyll

- Council borrows £4000 from Mr David Williamson to repay to the Marquis of Argyll (1 October 1644).

Maltmen

- Actions of some Maltmen seen as an affront to the town Magistrates and a punishment was considered for them. The maltmen had rioted after not receiving payment for the quartering of troops (January 28 1645).

Missive

- A missive arrives from the Earl of Crawford Lindsay after which the town is put in a posture of defence (31 May 1645).
- The Missive from the Burghs arrives and is to be considered next meeting (10 June 1645).

Mylne, John (Master Mason)

- Directs an alteration in the town's defences. Work already founded to be perfected and the fortifications extended westward by digging another ditch close along the dykes to the south of the Towns Lead (November 18, 1644).
- A petition handed in against the work of John Mylne (18 March 1645).
- Work to continue as before, but compensation to be paid to heritors involved (1 April 1675).

Nethergate

- See also quartermasters.
- William Wemes and Robert Gairdene to supervise the putting of bars on the Nethergate (10 June 1645).

Plague

- Measures taken to guard the town against the plague (16 June 1645).

Postmaster

- Robert Stirling appointed (24 September 1644).

Posture of Defence

See Missive (31 May 1645).

- More measures taken to put the town in a posture of defence (9 September 1645).

Quartermasters

- The following appointed (24 September 1644).

For the Nethergate - James Duncan, William Palmer

For the Overgate - Patrick Guthrie, William Guthrie, Alexander Burd

For the Murraygate - Alexander Muirisone

For the Seagate - Robert Davidson, William Duncan, Alexander Collier.

- The following nominated to oversee work on the gate fortifications (1 April 1645).

For the Nethergate - John Fletcher, Thomas Ogilvie and James Duncan.

For the Overgate - Alexander Wedderburne, Alexander Farmer, Alexander Watson and Patrick Guthrie.

For the Murraygate - Thomas Scott and George Halyburton.

For the Seagate - Robert Davidson, Alexander George Brollie and William Duncan.

Ramsay

- Captain William Ramsay (Ship Commander), ordered by Committee of estates to bring ordnance pieces to Dundee (23 May 1645).
- James Ramsay, sailor, put in charge of town artillery (31 May 1645).
- Captain William Ramsay produces the charges for bringing the eight pieces of ordnance (10 June 1645).

Regiment

- the Council borrowed 1000 pounds from Alexander Milne to pay Lawes Regiment and £300 from the Laird of Couttes to give them 50 bowls of meal (1 October 1644).
- Quarters to be found for Crawfords Regiment (10 December 1644).

Scott, Thomas

- Thomas Scott is entered as a Ward to the town (10 June 1645).

Sergeants

- Council continues three Sergeants from the army in its service, as these required for the defence of the town (10 December 1644).

Testimonials

- Alexander Watson, William Watson, William Guthrie, Patrick Guthrie and Andrew Bruce to wait at the waters edge and stop anyone crossing without a warrant or testimonial (10 June 1645).

Watch

- See Magistrates (10 December 1644)
- Although the loyalist army are beyond the Grampians, many measures taken to set the towns watch (21 January 1645).
 - Rolls to be drawn up and thirty men selected to keep the watch.
 - A trained soldier - Major Ramsay appointed for two months.
 - A company of volunteers formed and armed at the public cost (See Commissioner 21 January 1645).

Wemyss (Lieutenant Colonel)

- Colonel Wemyss and Major Cockburn to stay in the town to command 900 auxiliaries from fife defending the town (12 May 1645).
- each Fife man to be provided with two pecks of meal, according to an act of the Committee of Estates (12 May 1645)
- A thousand weight of powder for the Fife men bought from Robert Whytt of Kirkcaldy for the sum of 1000 merks (12 May 1645).

Williamson, David

- Council borrows 4000 merks from David Williamson in order to settle accounts with James Simpson (18 December 1644)