

This précis of the minutes of Dundee Town Council was indexed by Meghann Thow, an undergraduate student at Dundee University on placement with Dundee City Archives in 2011.

For functions such as streets (known as "Works"), sewers, sanitary improvements and fire fighting as well as "watching" through their constabulary, see her separate index of the Dundee Police Commissioners' Meetings 1870-1871

Dundee City Council Meetings 1870-1871

1870

January

- **13th** - Town's Old Cross: Meeting instructed Convener, Mr Marshall and the Town's Architect to report on the present condition of the old Cross of the Town and whether or not they feel it should be preserved and erected again in a suitable spot. **(Sub-Committee of Property Committee)**
- **20th** - Town's Old Cross: Mr Maxwell reported the present state of the Old Cross and recommended that it should be re-erected and a new unicorn should be placed on it. Meeting instructed Architect to report on the matter with a proposed design and cost. **(Property Committee)**
- **26th** - Town's Public Wells: The Dundee Water Act of 1869 stated that the upkeep and supply of water to the city's wells was now the responsibility of the Commissioners. The act also stated that should the use of a well be discontinued for whatever reason, it was up to the Commissioners to supply another means of supplying water, either through replacement wells or through fountains. The meeting instructed the Clerk to call the attention of the Commissioners to the new act and request that they make provisions for the upkeep of the city's wells. **(Property Committee)**

February

- **3rd** - Tay Ferries Bill: Meeting between Town Council and Messrs Ferguson Shiell of Caledonian Railway Company about the proposed extensions of pier jetty at the Craig Pier took place earlier today. Messrs Ferguson and Shiell gave explanations as to proposed works but Council decided that the proposed use of the Esplanade as an access to the pier could not be allowed and so remitted the matter to the Law Committee to consider and report. **(Town Council)**
- **7th** - Tay Ferries Bill: Committee came to no real agreements concerning the matter and so, in the meantime, recommended the Council to lodge a petition in Parliament

against the Bill in order to secure the factors which they had managed to agree on e.g. the operations must not obstruct entrances to the ground on the Esplanade owned by the town; the operations must not obstruct entrances to the Esplanade or surrounding streets. **(Law Committee)**

- **18th**- Tay Ferries Bill: As no agreement concerning the matter could be reached, the Council resolved to petition against the Bill after a vote of 8 to 6 in favour of this. **(Town Council)**
- **22nd**- Improvement of Town House: Architect supplied meeting with 3 sketches. Sketch number one was agreed on and it showed the removal of the current Town House and the erection of a new building on the same location made larger by taking over the adjacent properties. The architect was instructed to draw up a detailed report (including price estimates) so that the Council could apply for Parliamentary authority to carry out the plans. **(Sub-Committee of Property Committee)**
- **23rd**- Vote by Ballot: Meeting decided to recommend to the council to petition Government in favour of introducing a Bill to legalise the taking of votes at Parliamentary elections by ballot. **(Law Committee)**
- **23rd**- Town House Improvements: Meeting decided it would be preferable to avoid the Parliamentary expenses of acquiring an act to carry out the works and so instructed the Clerk to explain the matter to the Lord Advocate and see if he would recommend the Secretary of State to sanction a Provisional Order for carrying out the proposed building. **(Property Committee)**

March

- **3rd**- Tay Ferries Bill: Meeting was held to arrange for counsel, agents and witnesses to appear in support of the petition against the Tay Ferries Bill in the House of Commons Committee. It was resolved that Mr Robertson, the London Solicitor, should select a counsel. A number of witnesses were selected, namely Mr James McLaren, architect; Mr William Alexander, architect; Councillor Robertson and the Town Clerk. Town Chamberlain was instructed to reimburse expenses drawn up by the witnesses. **(Law Committee)**
- **14th**- Tay Ferries Bill: Clerk reported that he had written up and submitted to Mr Robertson, the Parliamentary Solicitor, the report for the town including the statements of the witnesses. He reported that Mr Robertson had said all was satisfactory with the report. Meeting discussed how to present the petition before the Committee of Parliament and it was resolved that the Clerk would bring the case before the committee and that the witnesses would go to give evidence. It was also decided that a sub-committee would be formed to report on the proceedings of the matter in London. **(Law Committee)**

- **14th**- Town House Improvements: Meeting instructed the Provost, the Convener, Bailie Buchan and Mr Maxwell to arrange with the owners of the properties on the south side of the present Town House the purchase of said properties so that the proposed plans may be carried out. **(Sub-Committee of Property Committee)**
- **21st**- Registrar Duties: Clerk was instructed to write to the Registrar General and inform him of the committee's opinion that in terms of reporting births, deaths, marriages and vaccinations, all the parishes in the town should be re-united to form one district so that all the work could be done under the supervision of one principal Registrar with sufficient assistants, in a central office, and that they be paid regular salaries. Clerk was instructed to report on the systems for this work undertaken in Edinburgh and Glasgow and on the effectiveness of these systems. **(Sub-Committee of Property Committee)**

April

- **7th**- Registrar Duties: Clerk read a letter from the Registrar General in reply to the letter sent him after the last meeting of this committee. The Registrar General expressed his doubts as to re-writing the town's parishes into one, but stated that the town could be divided into four districts, including Lochee as one. Meeting resolved that the Registrar of the First District take on the work of the Second District as well, and the Registrar of the Fourth District take on the work of the Third District. They agreed on the 19th April as the date for these plans being carried out on approval from the Council. **(Sub-Committee of the Property Committee)**
- **21st**- Town House Improvements: Mr Scott, Town Architect, presented to meeting plans of the ground and present building. He also reported on the properties he felt should be purchased in order to carry out the proposed plans (including properties on the east side of St Clement's Lane.) The total estimated cost given for purchasing said properties was £7364. Meeting instructed Mr Scott to draw up a new plan including all properties he suggested should be purchased and also an estimated total cost of all the work to be carried out and any return expected from letting any part of the new building. **(Sub-Committee of Property Committee)**

May

- **17th**- Town House Improvements: Mr Scott presented a plan and gave an estimation of £8004 for purchasing all necessary properties. He also estimated that around £250 could be got from renting out parts of the new building. Mr Scott was instructed to ascertain from the owners of the surrounding properties how much they would be willing to sell for, including the value if any business carried out in said properties. **(Sub-Committee of Property Committee)**

June

- **6th**- Restoration of the Old Steeple: Resolved that the architect employed to carry out the work should conform himself strictly to the resolutions of the committee and Town Council and that the work should involve only the repairing and restoring of the Old Steeple, no changes to the style or architecture of the steeple were to be made. **(Sub-Committee appointed for the Restoration of the Old Steeple)**
- **13th**- Restoration of the Old Steeple: An estimate of £5000 was given for the work and it was decided that in order to procure the money, subscriptions should be taken. It was agreed that the work would not commence until 2/3 of the sum was raised, and any surplus cash once the work was finished would be returned to the subscribers. **(Sub-Committee appointed for the Restoration of the Old Steeple)**

July

- **6th**- Town House Improvements: Mr Scott produced a valuation of the properties to be taken, including properties at present belonging to the town, amounting to £10,500, and the estimated cost of the buildings was by him stated to be £7500, amounting said sums to £18,000. **(Sub-Committee of the Property Committee)**

August

- **16th**- Sewer at Magdalen Green: Excerpt from minutes of meeting of Sanitary Committee of Police Commissioners was read regarding the nuisance at the east end of the Magdalen Yard by want of an extension of the sewer. It was decided that that Mr Mackison should prepare a plan and estimated cost of carrying the sewer through to the Esplanade. The Clerk was instructed to communicate with the North British Railway Company stating that they would be responsible for paying the sewer in so far as it went through their property. **(Property Committee)**
- **31st**- Sewer at Magdalen Green: Report by Mr Mackison was presented to the meeting. Cost estimates were also produced-NBRC portion £230, rest £94 (all-in-all £324.) Meeting approved of plan and ordered for work to be proceeded with and Mr Mackison was instructed to take in offers for the work. **(Property Committee)**

September

- **6th**- Sewer at Magdalen Green: Clerk read a letter from Messrs Patullo & Thornton on behalf of the North British Railway Company regarding the levels of the sewer and also a plan as to how the work should be carried out in which any additional expense of the sewer would be defrayed by the company. **(Property Committee)**
- **20th**- Sewer at Magdalen Green: Mr Cunningham was requested to communicate with the Engineer of NBRC regarding their interest in the sewer. He was also instructed to request that Mr Kinghorn, the contractor for the Esplanade, make the necessary openings through the Esplanade for the sewer. He was also instructed to get in touch with Mr Mackison, Town Surveyor, so that work on the sewer could begin as soon as possible. **(Property Committee)**
- **26th**- Improvement of Town House: Meeting decided that Andrew Heiton, Perth Architect, be asked to examine the site and surroundings of the present Town House and to report on the site of the proposed improved buildings, and also for his opinion on the matter in general for the guidance of the Council. **(Property Committee)**
- **30th**- Improvement of Magdalen Green: Mr Maxwell brought to the meeting the matter of the unsatisfactory condition of Magdalen Green and the propriety of acquiring the right to use the area for the community of Dundee. He suggested that the meeting request the Police Commissioners to introduce into their Improvement Bill for the town clauses giving the people of Dundee the right to the Green in order that the area might be improved and made more convenient and suitable for public use and advantages. Mr Maxwell's motion was unanimously agreed to. **(Property Committee)**

October

- **7th**- Pension Rolls: Sub-committee reported that they had examined the lists of pensioners very carefully and had employed two Inspectors of Poor to enquire into the circumstances of each person on the lists and also those who were applying for admission. The reports of the Inspectors were presented to the meeting and it was decided that a number of pensioners on the roll ought to be removed from same. The committee recommended that for the future, a change should be made to the system of selection so that only those most deserving are admitted to the roll. **(Sub-Committee in regard to the Hospital Fund and Johnston's Charity Pensioners)**
- **20th**- Meetings were held to examine the reports of the Inspectors regarding the circumstances of the pensioners and to decide which pensioners should be struck off the roll, and which applicants should be considered for admission to the roll. **(Meeting of Sub-Committee of Trustees or Patrons of Johnston's Charity AND Meeting of Sub-Committee of Trustees or Patrons of the Hospital)**

December

- **13th**- Water Petition Bill: Petition to Parliament to allow the Water Commissioners to introduce a supply of water from the Loch of Lintrathen under the New Water Bill was drawn up and authorised to be signed by the Provost and Town Clerk and the town's seal was attached. **(Law Committee)**

1871

January

- **25th**- Acceleration of Mails: Letter was read from Town Clerk of Aberdeen asking the council to join with Aberdeen Council in petitioning the government to improve the mail service north of Carlisle. Meeting agreed to concur with Aberdeen Council on the matter. **(Law Committee)**
- **25th**- Free Library & Albert Institute: Clerk presented to meeting excerpts from the minutes of meetings of the General Committee of Management of the Free Library Board and of the shareholders of the Albert Institute as to the arrangements for completing the Albert Institute and extending the library buildings- both to be carried out by the council. Meeting agreed that, if possible, all arrangements, including the conveyance of the present free library accommodation, should be included in one deed, and instructed the Clerk to draw up same accordingly. **(Law Committee)**

February

1. **22nd**- Bills in Parliament: Clerk presented to meeting copies of proposed bills in parliament and the meeting resolved on the different bills thus:
 1. Hypothec Abolition (Scotland) Bill- Petition against so far as affecting burghs.
 2. Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill-Petition against.
 3. Permissive Prohibitory Liquor Bill- Report to council for consideration.
 4. University Test Bills- Reserve to be taken up with Education Bill.
 5. Women's Disabilities Bill- Petition against.
 6. Game Laws (Scotland) Amendment Bill- Reserve consideration.
 7. Education of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb Bill- Reserve to be taken up with Education Bill.
 8. Ecclesiastical Title Act Repeal Bill- Petition against.
 9. Charities, etc Exemption Bill- Petition in favour of.
 10. Merchant Shipping Survey Bill- Petition in favour of. **(Law Committee)**

March

- **4th**- Education Bill: Meeting instructed the Clerk to make notes of the amendments on the clauses of the Bill as suggested by the committee so that the same may be laid before the Lord Advocate and members of the burgh with the view of having the clauses altered thus.

University Tests Bill: Meeting resolved that a petition be lodged against this Bill on the grounds that the repeal of tests should be general, and that the present Bill was too restricted in its operations.

Blind, deaf and Dumb Education Bill: Meeting approved of this Bill and decided to lodge a petition in favour of it. **(Special Sub-Committee of the Law Committee appointed to consider and report as to the Education and other Bills)**

- **6th**- The Marriage of the Princess Louise: Meeting discussed how the marriage of Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne should be celebrated. Meeting decided that wine and cake would be provided in the forenoon in the Town Hall for the Magistrates and Council, and for official persons to be invited. There would also be a bonfire on The Law as well as fireworks. A Sub-Committee was appointed to make all the arrangements for the celebrations. **(Property & Esplanade Committee)**
- **9th**- The Marriage of Princess Louise: The following proposals of the sub-committee were discussed and resolved thus:
 1. The proposed illuminations be agreed to and entrusted to Mr A.W. Fairweather to carry out.
 2. The proposal to have a bonfire on The Law was considered and reserved.
 3. It was thought that the fireworks be restricted to a display of rockets but this matter was not definitely settled.
 4. It was considered that a reception with refreshments in the Kinnaird Hall might be suitable, but it was considered impracticable to have evening meetings in other halls for the general public.
 5. The proposal to have a corporation dinner for members of the Council was not approved. **(Property and Esplanade Committee)**
- **10th**- Celebration of the Princess Louise's Marriage: Sub-Committee came to the following decisions:
 1. The illuminations as formerly arranged be confirmed.
 2. There should be cake and wine in the Town Hall at 1pm for the Council and official persons invited by the Provost.
 3. There should be a display of fireworks, the extent of which should be fixed after more information has been obtained in regard to prices. Mr Mackay was instructed to meet My Bryce in Edinburgh to ascertain such information.
 4. The reception in Kinnaird Hall should be abandoned and instead a ball should be thrown, invitations to which should be sent by the Council.

5. The bonfire should be abandoned.
 6. The Provost agreed to ask the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, the Trustees of the Harbour, the Albert Institute and Club, as well as owners of other public buildings, to join in illuminating their respective buildings. **(Sub-Committee of Property Committee)**
- **13th**- Celebration of Marriage of Princess Louise: Convener proposed a number of ideas regarding the celebrations and these, and previous proposals, were discussed. The following points alone were deemed proper for the celebrations:
 1. The Steeple and Town House Bells to be rung from 12pm-2pm and flags displayed on same.
 2. The Town House and Albert Institute to be illuminated.
 3. Firework display at place(s) decided upon by sub-committee- £50 budget was given.
 4. Magistrates, Council Members and invited persons attend a cake and wine reception in the Town House at 1pm.
 5. It was decided to hold the previously disallowed Corporation Dinner. The Provost was instructed to arrange such and invite whoever he deemed proper. **(Property & Esplanade Committee)**
 - **15th**- Town House Improvements: Report by Mr Heiton, architect, on the proposed Town House Buildings was presented to the meeting. Meeting decided to appoint a sub-committee to enquire and report:
 1. The sum required to acquire the surrounding properties as shown on the plans, and also the cost of executing the works on the basis of this plan.
 2. The amount of accommodation required, in what way the cost of the building can be met, and the probable income or rent to be drawn from the various public boards to be accommodated in the building.
 3. Any plan or proposal whereby the necessary accommodation can be secured by building on ground already belonging to the Council, thus removing the need of buying anymore land/properties. **(Property & Esplanade Committee)**
 - **17th**- Albert Institute: Clerk reported that he had received a draft of a deed prepared by Mr Swanson with the view of carrying out the arrangements for extending the buildings at Albert Square. **(Property & Esplanade Committee)**
 - **27th**- Improvement of Town House: Mr Moncur presented to the meeting plans which did not involve the purchase of anymore property by the Council. However, the meeting already had under consideration to purchase property sufficient to suit Mr Heiton's plans. The subject of raising money was considered and it was thought that some money could be raised on bonds and by selling appropriate parts of land already owned by the Council. **(Sub-Committee of Property Committee)**

April

- **4th**- Improvements of Town House: Mr Scott produced a statement of the cost of properties surrounding the present Town House on the south and east side which were required to enable the Council to follow either plan 1 or 2. Mr Maxwell reported on the amount of accommodation required for public business, and also on the amount of income to be gained by the Council in the form of rent from the public bodies which would be housed in the new buildings. The meeting also had before them the plans submitted by Mr Moncur and became of the opinion that there was sufficient ground already belonging to the town to build on without purchasing more. However, due to the shape of the area, they decided it would be appropriate to purchase the properties on the east side in St Clement's Lane. **(Sub-Committee of Property Committee)**
- **5th**- Town House Building: After report of sub-committee, meeting decided that no other ground should be purchased as there was sufficient ground behind the present Town House for the new building. **(Property Committee)**
- **5th**- Sites for monuments for Captain Fyffe and Sergeant Watson: It was agreed that these monuments could be placed in any part of the Constitution Road Burying Ground, except in the reserved borders and unoccupied ground. **(Property Committee)**
- **26th**- Parliamentary Bills: Clerk presented to meeting several bills he had received since the last meeting. The meeting decided on the following: Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes, Land Rights and Deeds (Scotland), Public Health (Scotland) Act 1867 Amendment, Elections Parliamentary and Municipal- petition in favour of. Prison Ministers, Irish Poor Removal-petition against. Meeting also resolved to petition Parliament in favour of the motion to disestablish the Church of England after a majority vote of the meeting. **(Law Committee)**

May

- **3rd**- Town House Improvements: Convener presented a draft of the instructions to be issued to architects in terms of the plans for building. The meeting approved of the draft and ordered for it to be printed and delivered to the applying architects. **(Property & Esplanade Committee)**
- **17th**- Parliamentary Voting-Redivision into Polling Districts: Clerk explained that Mr Thornton, solicitor, and Mr T.M. Black, assessor, under the Registration of Voters' Act had made him aware of the necessity of the redivision of the burgh into polling districts for parliamentary elections as a result of the dividing of the burgh into nine wards for municipal purposes under the Improvement Bill. Clerk was instructed to apply to the Sheriff to get this done. **(Law Committee)**
- **24th**- Albert Institute: Clerk reported that he had revised the Deed of Conveyance of the Free Library Rooms by the Albert Institute Directors to the town under the

obligation in the original contract, and also the Deed of Conveyance to the Council of the additional ground to be used for the extension of the library buildings, and that he had sent both to the Agent of the Albert Institute for final adjustment. **(Law Committee)**

- **24th**- Parliamentary Voting-Redivision of Burgh: Clerk reported that he and Mr T.M. Black had had an interview with Sheriff Heriot and that the Sheriff had agreed to carry out the redivision. **(Law Committee)**
- **24th**- Sewers at Railway Embankment: Convener reported to the meeting for the necessity of providing outlets for the public sewers discharging into the area enclosed by the Esplanade wall at the Craig and Yeaman Shore Beach on the outside of the railway embankment. The meeting remitted to the convener to urge Mr Mackison to deal with this matter as soon as possible. **(Property Committee)**

June

- **2nd**- Finances of Free Library: Meeting decided that the Council should borrow the money for erecting said buildings and completing said work, and fixed the sum to be borrowed at £10,000 or any lesser sum that may be found possible. They further resolved to borrow £5000 at that point (including the £2000 already borrowed from the bank.) **(Law Committee)**
- **9th**- Vestry for Cross Church: A letter from Rev. Dr Grant was read regarding a new vestry for Cross Church. The matter was remitted to Mr Scott, town's architect, to report on whether or not a suitable site for a vestry could be obtained. **(Property Committee)**
- **9th**- Parliamentary Bills: Clerk presented the following bills which had come about since the last meeting and the meeting resolved as follows:
 1. Bill for Suspending the Granting of New Licences-petition in favour of.
 2. Bill for the Abolition of the Power of Compulsory Recovery of Church Rotas-petition in favour of. **(Law Committee)**
- **13th**- Silt in Harbour: Clerk presented to the meeting an application from the Tay Ferry Trustees stating that the Ferry Harbour was being clogged with silt as a result of the Esplanade operations and that they wished the Council to have the silt removed. Meeting decided that they would help remove the silt but only so far as they were obligated to as it could not be proven that the build-up of silt was fully a result of the work being done at the Esplanade. **(Law Committee)**
- **14th**- Extension of Free Library Buildings: Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Mr Cunningham, the contractor for the mason work of the extension, declining to go on with the work. The meeting decided not to force Mr Cunningham to carry on with the work but to hold him liable for any expenses incurred in finding a replacement for him. It was then agreed to accept the offer of Mr Robert Laing,

builder, to carry out the work at the sum of £3895. Meeting resolved to recommend this proposal to the Council. **(Law Committee)**

- **15th** - Extension of Free Library Buildings: Proposal of Law Committee to employ Mr Robert Laing for said work was approved of. **(Town Council)**

July

- **7th** - Railway Embankment at Parker Street: Meeting decided to advertise for offers for the removal of the old railway embankment from the town's property at Parker Street to the enclosure at the Esplanade belonging to the town. **(Property Committee)**
- **7th** - Ferry Harbour Silt: A plan of the silt in the Ferry Harbour was laid before the meeting and it was resolved that the silt be removed down to the blue lines marked on the sections. The clerk was instructed to advertise for offers for the carrying out of the work. **(Property Committee)**
- **17th** - Ferry Harbour Silt: An offer for carrying out the work was received from Messrs J&R Band at the sum of £100. The meeting instructed the clerk to accept the offer. **(Property Committee)**
- **17th** - Railway Embankment at Parker Street: Clerk presented to meeting the offers he had received for the removal of the embankment. Meeting decided to accept the offer of Messrs Alexander Gold and William Wann at a price of £223 10s 8d. **(Property Committee)**
- **21st** - Improvement of Town House: It was reported that 16 plans had received for the extension of the Town House Buildings and Public Offices. The meeting decided to place the offers on display in the Council Chamber for inspection. **(Property Committee)**
- **21st** - Alterations on Old Watt Institutions: Plans for said alterations in Constitution Road were presented to the meeting by the clerk on behalf of the Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association. Plans were approved of on the report of Mr Scott, town's architect. **(Property Committee)**
- **26th** - Bills in Parliament: It was decided to deal with the new bills in the following ways:
 1. Endowed Hospitals (Scotland) Bill: a bill meant to continue the operations of the Endowed Hospital Act 1869 for 3 years- petition in favour of.
 2. Factories and Workshops Act Amendment Bill: threw onto Factory Inspectors the duty of inspecting workshops and the prosecution of contraventions, instead of the local authorities- petition in favour of. **(Law Committee)**
- **31st** - Improvement of Town House-Competition Plans: Meeting were of the opinion that the seven plans named 'Esperanza,' 'Prudentia,' 'Clytha,' 'Red Star,' 'Palladis,' 'Well Considered,' and 'En Avant' were the best and should be recommended to the Council. If the Council approved of said plans then they were going to be asked to

allow this committee to re-consider said plans with the help of the town architect in order to select the three best for adoption. **(Property Committee)**

August

- 9th- Town House Improvements: Meeting decided that the seven plans be referred to an 'architect of eminence' in order that the three best plans be chosen and premiums then fixed. Clerk was instructed to forward the plans to the architect chosen by Mr Maxwell. **(Town Council)**

September

- 6th- Free Library Rules: Clerk presented to meeting a copy of the proposed rules of the library for their consideration prior to them being submitted for the approval of the Town Council. Meeting approved of rules but suggested that penalty for damage to books and property be reduced from £5 to 20 shillings. **(Law Committee)**
- 13th- Improvement of Town House: The three best plans were named as:
 1. Esperanza- awarded premium £50
 2. Prudentia-awarded premium £30
 3. En Avant-awarded premium £20

Provost suggested to request Mr McKenzie ('Esperanza') to report on the suggested alterations to his plans by Messrs Clarke & Bell and to what extent he would adopt same. He was also to be asked for a rough estimate of cost. **(Town Council)**

- 27th- Vestry for Cross Church: It was decided that if satisfactory arrangements could be made by the Police Commission for acquiring the properties on the north of the church for improving the street then the necessary accommodation could be got in that direction. **(Property Committee)**

October

- 16th- Stobsmuir-Smallpox Hospital: Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the clerk of the Police Commissioners intimating that the Board of Health had decided to build a temporary hospital for cases of smallpox and cholera on Stobsmuir, and requesting permission from the council to carry out same. However it was also reported that since the sending of this letter, the Sanitary Committee of the Police Commissioners had decided to temporarily delay the building of the

hospital. The meeting therefore decided to delay consideration of the matter for the time being but stated that they would aid the Sanitary Committee in any way possible in providing the burgh with such a necessity. **(Property Committee)**

- **25th**- Stobsmuir-Smallpox Hospital: Clerk presented to meeting a letter from Messrs Shiell & Small, solicitors, enclosing a petition from feuars on the estate of Cragie, asking the Council not to allow the building of said hospital. Consideration of the petition was delayed due to there being, at that time, no proposal to proceed with the delayed building of the hospital. **(Property Committee)**

November

- **23rd**- Refreshment Stall at Stobsmuir: A letter from a Mr Rodney was read seeking permission from the Council to erect a stall Stobsmuir for selling tea, coffee and other refreshments to those frequenting the skating ponds. The meeting decided that should suitable regulations be drawn up and suitable accommodation for the stall be acquired, then the request should be granted. Meeting remitted to the Convener of the Recreation Grounds Committee to investigate the matter. **(Property Committee)**
- **28th**- Town House Improvements: Meeting were of the opinion that it would be sufficient in the meantime to build only what was absolutely necessary at that time- further extension could be carried out at a later date. Accommodation deemed necessary for conducting the business of the town at that point was seen as being able to be built immediately behind the present Town House, on the property of the town, and the old ruinous buildings in that area were regarded as needing to be removed. Meeting decided to recommend to the Council accordingly and decided to remit to the Town Architect to draw up a plan and report to the committee at the next meeting. **(Property Committee)**

December

- **6th**- Amalgamation of North British and Caledonian Railway Companies: Meeting decided to request that the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen concur with the Provost in sending out a circular requesting a meeting of corporate and public bodies to be held in Edinburgh to come up with joint measures for opposing the Amalgamation Bill. Clerk was instructed to call a meeting after hearing back from the other town provosts. **(Law Committee)**
- **6th**- Tramways: Meeting instructed Mr Scott, Town Architect, and Mr Mackison, Police Surveyor, to report as to how much ground and how many streets would be

occupied by the proposed tramways. Meeting decided to meet and consider the whole matter once the bill had been lodged. **(Property Committee)**

- **18th** - Town House Improvements: Clerk reported that he had given notice to the tenants of the properties behind the Town House to leave their premises in order to allow the Council to begin executing the proposed works. **(Property Committee)**
- **21st** - Town House Improvements: Mr Scott presented to the meeting two sketches of the proposed accommodation to be built behind the present Town House. After discussion, Mr Scott was instructed to prepare 2 sets of plans showing how the views of the different parties might be incorporated and with an estimate as to the expense of each plan. **(Property Committee)**

Tay Bridge Bill

- **8th December 1869:** Plans of Tay Bridge and associated works were out before the meeting and a number of things were decided upon:
 1. The portion of the bridge and works near Buckingham Point as it approaches the shore and over the Esplanade, and at least so far as opposite the Magdalen Yard, must be on spans instead of an embankment as proposed in the plans.
 2. The proposal of having a span over the Esplanade and street of only 50 feet was seen as objectionable and it was decided that the span must be at least 100 feet.
 3. A clause be introduced into the bill stating that the terminus of the bridge be kept within Dundee, thus preserving the right of the town to draw their petty customs over goods coming within the burgh.
 4. As the bridge will prevent the proposed building of a road over the Caledonian Railway to connect the Esplanade with Magdalen Yard Road, the Bridge Company should be bound to provide the means to carry the Esplanade further west so as to admit over the Caledonian Railway access with Magdalen Yard.
 5. As above, the Bridge Company should also be bound to arrange so that the Esplanade can be carried westward below the bridge, and have space to rise so as to cross the Caledonian Line towards the Magdalen Green.
 6. Plans show that there would be an encroachment on the town's property at the junction of the Esplanade with South Union Street-such encroachment cannot be allowed. **(Property & Esplanade Committee)**
- **7th February 1870:** Meeting made further decisions on the matter:
 1. The clauses of the bill which empowered the Council to enter into agreements with the Railway Company for the constitution, maintenance,

working and use of the railway and to provide money for these purposes, should be deleted.

2. As well as the terminus of the bridge being in Dundee, the boundaries of the bridge and railway are also to be fixed within the town.
 3. An attempt was made to make these changes to the plans without the need of incurring parliamentary expenses. But as no agreements could be made before the period when it was necessary to lodge a petition in Parliament against the bill, it was decided to lodge a bill to enable the Council to have their objections and opinions heard. **(Law Committee)**
- **12th February 1870:** Clerk reported that he had drawn up the proposed petition and had communicated the Council's resolution to the NBRC who replied intimating that they were ready to discuss the Council's objections. Clerk stated that he had prepared a Minute of Agreement to be entered into between the Council and NBRC to hopefully render the lodging of the petition unnecessary. **(Law Committee)**
 - **14th March 1870:** As no agreements could be made with the NBRC, the clerk reported that the petition had been lodged in favour of the bill as adjusted in the ways previously decided upon. **(Law Committee)**
 - **23rd May 1870:** Clerk presented to meeting a copy of the Tay Bridge Bill as passed by the House of Commons. Meeting decided to petition in favour of the bill as it then stood and to oppose any alterations by parties who may have opposed the bill in the House of Lords. Petition was drawn up, approved of, signed, stamped and despatched that night to London. **(Law Committee)**
 - **18th July 1870:** Meeting was called to consider the proposal of reducing the height of the Tay Bridge which would then cross the Esplanade on the level. Mr Bouch explained what would be done and the matter was remitted to the Property and Esplanade Committee. **(Town Council)**
 - **19th July 1870:** Meeting decided that before the Board of Trade decided on any alterations, the rights of the community of Dundee should be adhered to, thus allowing them to present any objections they may have. A sub-committee was appointed in the meantime to meet the Directors of the Railway Company to discuss any proposals the company had to obviate the objections of the Town Council or for any other changes in arrangement. **(Property & Esplanade Committee)**
 - **21st July 1870:** Meeting decided that the proposed altered height of the bridge and the position of the piers and the width and height of the spans would interfere with the interests of the Town Council and would injuriously affect the Esplanade and street by necessitating the railway crossing them on the level. They were however willing to hear any proposals the company may have to obviate these objections. **(Property & Esplanade Committee)**
 - **27th July 1870:** Disputes regarding the alterations to the bridge plans continued. The meeting decided to refer the Board of Trade to clauses 7,8 &9 of the NBRC Tay Bridge Act which speak of securing the rights of and giving protection to the

inhabitants of Dundee in regard to the public Esplanade and Street, and to object to any such alterations in so far as they interfere or be inconsistent with the foresaid provisions of the act. **(Property Committee)**

- **10th August 1870:** Meeting was held to consider the course of action to be taken following the news from the Board of Trade that an engineer was going to be visiting Dundee to discuss the proposals of the NBRC of lowering the levels of the bridge. It was decided that the whole Council in Committee would meet with the engineer and commissioners from the Board of Trade. **(Town Council)**
- **22nd August 1870:** Meeting was called to consider the direction in which the Esplanade should be laid down in its continuation westward in order to allow the NBRC to fix the position of the arch of the bridge to allow the Esplanade to pass below it. Meeting had their opinion of which direction the Esplanade should take and asked Mr Scott to draw up a plan. **(Property Committee)**
- **6th September 1870:** Mr Scott presented requested plan and meeting approved. **(Property Committee)**
- **19th September 1870:** Mr Scott's plan was discussed and committee decided to bring the line of extension further south. Mr Scott was instructed to alter the plan and the clerk was instructed to forward the altered plan to Mr Johnstone, solicitor of NBRC. **(Law Committee)**
- **20th September 1870:** Meeting decided that it would be advantageous to alter the present plans by having the continuation of the public street 50 feet wide in order to diverge from the present line of the Esplanade. It would then carry over both the Tay Bridge and the Caledonian Railway at and near the east end of Magdalen Yard. Meeting instructed Mr Cunningham to meet Mr Bouch and also the directors of the Caledonian Railway Company to present to them these alterations and to discuss the terms and conditions on which the parties would concur in endeavouring to secure said arrangement. **(Property Committee)**
- **14th October 1870:** Clerk read a letter from Mr Cunningham in regards to the proposals laid down in the last meeting. The letter stated that the directors of NBRC could not at present agree to these proposals. Meeting resolved that nothing further could be done in the meantime. **(Property Committee)**