

ROYAL BURGH OF DUNBAR

MINUTE OF THE LAST MEETING

of the

PROVOST, MAGISTRATES & COUNCILLORS

held within the Council Chambers, Town House, Dunbar

on

THURSDAY, 15th May, 1975 at 8.30 p.m.

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SEDERUNT

The Meeting was attended by those members and officials whose names and signatures are appended hereto.

CHAIRMAN

PROVOST R.H. JAMES

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MINUTES

The Minutes of Meeting of the Town Council held on 7th May, 1975, prints of which had been circulated were held as read, approved of and signed by the Chairman.

Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973

Section 1(5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973 states "on 16th May, 1975, all Local Government areas existing immediately before that date, that is to say all Counties, Counties of Cities, Large Burghs, Small Burghs and Districts shall cease to exist and the Council of every such area shall also cease to exist".

Section 2 of the Act provides for the Constitution of Councils of Regions, Island Areas and Districts to take the place of the existing Local Authorities and accordingly in the light of these statutory provisions, the Town Council of Dunbar along with all other Councils in Scotland go out of existence on this date.

Dunbar was a baronial Burgh before 1230 under Patrick, Earl of Dunbar and became a Royal Burgh in terms of a Charter of 16th August, 1445 confirmed in later Charters of 1555 and 1603, and further confirmed in the principal Charter granted by King James VI in the year 1618. Other minor Charters in favour of the Burgh are also recorded including one from Mary Queen of Scots in 1562.

Dunbar's elevation to the status of a Royal Burgh was unique in Scotland as it arose out of the forfeiture of the lands of the Earls of Dunbar to the Crown in 1445 and is the only instance of a Burgh becoming Royal in this way. It would seem that at least since 1230, Dunbar has had its own Town Council to administer the Town. So far as known, the first mention of a Provost of the Burgh is contained in the Charter of 1618, but it is more than likely that the term "Provost", as Chairman of the Council was in use many years before that time.

Accordingly the passing of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973, brings to an end a system of administration which has survived in Dunbar for at least 745 years according to known records.

Presentation to Officers

Presentations were made to the following Officers of the Burgh, in token recognition of their services to the Town Council:-

1. Mr. S.W. Brown, Town Clerk, from 1946.
2. Mr. George W. Russell, Town Chamberlain & Collector of Rates, from 1965.
3. Mr. George G. Milne, Burgh Surveyor, Master of Works etc. from 1957.
4. Mr. L.G. Abbie, Entertainments & Publicity Officer, from 1969.
5. Mr. William Melrose, Burgh Officer, from 1946.

Each recipient suitably replied and expressed his appreciation to the Town Council for the consideration which had been shown to him during his period of office.

At the termination of the Meeting, the members and Officials of the Town welcomed their wives and friends to a social occasion in the old Council Chamber which had been the Council Meeting Room in continuous use since about the year 1600, and which was believed to be the oldest Council Chamber still in use in Scotland up to this date. The 'Old Lady' had therefore served the Community well for nearly 400 years, and, bedecked as she was for the occasion, with flowers and plants from the Town's Parks Department, carried her maturity with grace and dignity. Sadly, we bid her farewell!

Provost R.H. James ..... *Reginald H. James*  
Bailie Mrs. F.E. Smeed ..... *Suzie E. Smeed & P.*  
Bailie John Gray ..... *John Gray*  
Bailie M.C. Pottinger ..... *M.C. Pottinger*  
Treasurer James M. Main ..... *James M. Main*  
Dean of Guild R.A. Allan ..... *R.A. Allan*  
Councillor D.P.J. Laird ..... *D.P.J. Laird*  
Councillor D.A. Gillies ..... *D.A. Gillies*  
Councillor Miss C.A. Manderson ..... *C.A. Manderson*  
Councillor A. Reid ..... *A. Reid*  
Councillor R. Miller ..... *R. Miller*  
Councillor A.K.B. Clarkson ..... *A.K.B. Clarkson*  
Mr. S.W. Brown, Town Clerk ..... *S.W. Brown*  
Mr. G.W. Russell, Town Chamberlain ..... *G.W. Russell*  
Mr. G.G. Milne, Burgh Surveyor ..... *G.G. Milne*  
Mr. L.G. Abbie, Entertainments & Publicity  
Officer ..... *L.G. Abbie*