

From: murrayballoan@gmail.com <murrayballoan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 10:49 AM
To: 'Graeme Ross' <graemeross01@outlook.com>
Cc: 'James Melville' <jayrmelville@gmail.com>; davie.cc@gmx.com; 'Jerry Bishop' <jerry.bishop@outlook.com>; 'Lesley Strang' <lesley@lesleystrang.com>; 'Genevieve Duhigg' <genevieveduhigg@gmail.com>; 'James McGillivray (Councillor)' <Jim.McGillivray.cllr@highland.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Provost Robes and Chain

Dear Graeme

You asked me to check out the exact wording of the vesting of the Chain and Robes in the Community Council to see if there was any provision compelling the Community Council to insure and pay for the insurance of these items.

As you can see the only mention of insurance in the attached February 1975 documents which evidence the ownership of the Robes and Chain, is that 'an appropriate sum of money be provided for the insurance of the Chain [by the Town Council] during the interim period prior to the formation of the Community Council'. (No mention of insurance was made in the recent letter from Highland Council also attached for your ease of reference, and indeed I suggest it would have been both irrelevant and impertinent for such a letter to do so.)

I therefore conclude :

1. There was no provision stipulating who should insure and pay for the insurance of the Chain and Robes once they had passed to the Community Council.
2. The Community Council did pay for the insurance of the Chain (and Robes?) for many years, although stopped doing so before I joined the Community Council 7 years ago.
3. One reason for the Community Council continuing to pay for the insurance was in an effort to establish its right of ownership, but this has recently been proven unnecessary because of the letter from Highland Council acknowledging the Community Council's ownership regardless of any insurance provision.
4. It may be sensible for the Community Council to arrange insurance of the Chain but it has no obligation to do so.

5. The Chain has recently been insured by History Links as part of the Highland Council's null and void arrangement to lend it to History Links.
6. If we wish loan of the Chain to History Links to continue, part of the draft new loan agreement between History Links and the Community Council is that History Links will insure it and pay for the insurance.
7. I propose that this is a good arrangement for the Community Council because it avoids the Community Council having the burden of insuring and looking after it, and it allows the town to view it as and when they wish. Finally it provides a good display item for the Museum which brings in tourism and hence business to Dornoch.
8. I therefore reiterate my proposal at our last meeting that we sign the loan agreement with History Links with the same wording and terms as the null and void agreement between Highland Council and History Links.

I should be grateful if you would confirm your agreement or otherwise, so we can put this to bed at the next meeting.

Best regards

Paddy

From: murrayballoan@gmail.com <murrayballoan@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 12:37 PM

To: 'Phil Tomalin (Community Support & Ward Management)' <Phil.Tomalin@highland.gov.uk>

Cc: 'Graeme Ross' <graemeross01@outlook.com>; 'Jimmy Melville' <jayrmelville@gmail.com>; 'Davie MacBeath' <davie.cc@gmx.com>; 'Mo JERRY' <jerry.bishop@outlook.com>; 'Lesley Strang' <lesley@lesleystrang.com>; 'Genevieve Duhigg' <genevieveduhigg@gmail.com>; 'Vonnie Macrae' <vonniemacrae@googlemail.com>; 'James McGillivray (Councillor)' <Jim.McGillivray.cllr@highland.gov.uk>; 'Alison Allan' <craigroyston11@outlook.com>

Subject: FW: Provost Robes and Chain

Dear Phil

I have been advised by both Graeme Ross and Duncan Allan, who were both active in the Dornoch Area Community Council (DACC) shortly after the demise of the Town Council of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch

(TCRBD), that the Provost Robes and Chain are actually not part of the Dornoch Common Good and that they are the responsibility of DACC.

This appears to be confirmed by the attached minutes of TCRBD and explains why they were kept by DACC securely in Arthur and Carmichael's custody until very recently.

DACC would like to enter discussions as to how this situation can be regularised.

Best regards

Paddy