

Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council End of Year Treasurer's Report 2009

Whilst it may appear that the Community Council has a significant excess of funds in its accounts (£21,506.98), a large proportion of this (£13,711.23) is supposedly tied up in the ex-Trust, the Ceilidh and the Senior-Citizen's funds leaving us with only £7,795.75. Furthermore, some of this money (probably at least £6,000) is earmarked for work that has been done on the Arms but which has either just been paid or has yet to be billed, and is therefore not included in the annual accounts. We have so far been billed £7,343.57 by Burness and Ancient Hume, and are expecting another bill from Burness somewhere in the region of £2,500).

To summarise, we only have around £1,800 in spare cash. We therefore need to note some points and answer some questions:

- We previously set ourselves a limit of £15,000 to spend on the Arms. Clearly now this is not appropriate. What limit are we setting on our expenditure for the Arms?
- We need to be incredibly careful with our costs and need to ensure that we are up-to-date with our bills - a bill from Burness received by the Community Council dated 30th January was only passed on to me last week!
- Until we can free up some money, any work done for the Community Council which will incur a total cost of more than £50 needs to be authorised by the Treasurer before the work is commissioned. Anything that will cost more than £300 should be brought to the Community Council for approval. Could I please ask anyone who has outstanding bills or expenses to bring these to the attention of the next Treasurer immediately.
- What is the true status of the money in the ex-Trust, Ceilidh and Senior Citizen's accounts? There is a significant amount of money in these accounts and I would like it to be made available to all good causes in St Andrews, of which there are numerous.
- Whilst we have spent over £7000 on the Arms since September and in excess of £1000 on catering and rent for various receptions (£676.37 alone for the St Andrews Day reception), the only money we have given to local projects in St Andrews in the last 12 months has been £100 to Mothers and Toddlers (This excludes Ken's fantastic events whose small profits have been donated St Andrews Church, Sense Scotland, The British Heart Foundation and Fife Council). What can we do to increase awareness of us as a body that groups can and should request money from?

The grant from Fife Council for the coming year will be £3,193.04.

It has been an interesting experience working on the Community Council and I have met some wonderful people who really do want to do something for the town. I hope that with a bit more focus, and less time discussing the intricacies of Fife Councils hopelessly complicated and seemingly endless structure plans, the Council will be able to decide on some objectives and work towards them. It would also be nice to see more devolution from Fife Council to Community Councils - there have been some significant issues in the town (parking meters and river sediment come to mind) which Fife Council have had the final judgement on. It is a shame that it is people outside of St Andrews who decide on our behalf and that we are unable to fix issues within our own town quickly, but such is the delight of centralised government.

I wish the next Treasurer well and will be happy to spend time going through things with them.

Robert Fett, Treasurer (December 2007 - May 2009)