Local Government and Communities Committee

Common Good Property and Funds

Submission from John Thom

Just something the members should be aware of and may wish to consider when debating the common good funds. The Parish Council on their disbandment handed over the maintenance and tax raising powers, to the new District Council and the Caretaker ship of the properties, not the actual ownership that stayed with the newly formed Burgh Parish Council Trust which was amalgamated with the new Community Council.

This is the part that is interesting. When Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council disbanded the Community Council, this left the Burgh Parish Council Trust standing alone however on the re-formation of the community council they did not wish to rejoin the Trust.

The Trust is re-elected every 4 years as per electoral commission guidelines. To date no signatures of the 12 trust members have given over the properties to the District or Regional Council. As the properties goods and chattels were handed over to the Burgh parish council Trust prior to their disbandment. We in the Burgh Parish Council Trust still have the ownership of these properties, this is our understanding at the moment, held in TRUST FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

This is now coming to a head in the Burgh / Parish with the Council trying to hand property over to groups that are not representing all the Burgh Parish residents But their own groups under the new right to buy legislation.

This is now a highly charged problem. Dividing the Burgh and Parish into the haves with the have nots left out. What might be the committee’s solution be to this predicament?

John Thom