Collections to meet rebuilding costs following fire damage

After the fire of May 1594, Stratford Council met to decide which counties were to be visited to plead for financial assistance towards rebuilding costs, and who should be authorised as collectors. They were allowed to charge expenses. Documented results for the first month show:

Collector	Counties	Sum raised	Expenses	Net total
William Wilson	Worcestershire	£21 0^{s} 9½^{d}	6^{s} 1d	+ £20 14^{s} 8½
William Parsons	Gloucestershire			+ £9 11^{s} 2^{d}
William Parsons	Warwickshire Thomas Hunt's division[28] Robert Crisp's division[29]			+ £11 7^{s} 2^{d} + £6 10^{s} 0^{d}
Abraham Sturley	Derbyshire	£4 3^{s} 8^{d}	£8 3^{s} 9^{d}	- £4 0^{s} 1^{d}
Francis Smith	Berkshire	£2 15^{s} 8^{d}	11^{s} 3^{d}	+ £2 4s 5^{d}
Richard Quiney, John Sadler,	Northamptonshire	£22 5^{s} 3^{d}		
Richard Quiney Richard Waterman	Northamptonshire	18s		
Richard Quiney, Peter Addison, John Sadler	Northamptonshire	£3 7s 0d		
Richard Quiney	Oxford Colleges	£7 0^{s} 11^{d}		
Richard Quiney	Oxfordshire, constables	£1 11^{s} 1½^{d}		
Richard Quiney	Gloucestershire (Stanway)	£1 0^{s} 5^{d}		
		Quiney's total £36 2^{s} 8½	£22 5^{s} 5^{d} [30]	+ £13 17 3½^{d}
	Totals	£63 2s 10d	**£31 6s 6d**	**£34 9s 4d]**

What we do not know is whether the collectors were doing this for the public good, or because they had suffered personally as a result of the fires.

Take Abraham Sturley, an Alderman of Stratford: in the first month he claimed expenses which were twice the sum he raised! Not long afterwards, he built for his family a fine house of twelve bays with an ornate plaster ceiling in Wood Street, Stratford. Still standing, it is now Pragnells, the jewellers.