

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **WILLIAM LAMB STUDIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held in the William Lamb Studio, Market Street, Montrose on Friday 20 May 2016 at 3.00 pm.

Present: Councillors BILL DUFF, DAVID MAY, MARK SALMOND and PAUL VALENTINE; NORMAN ATKINSON OBE (Chairman, Friends of the William Lamb Studio); HILARY WHITE (Secretary, Friends of the William Lamb Studio).

Also Present; FIONA DAKERS, (Senior Manager – Libraries, Customer & Culture, AngusAlive); JIM BOON, (Galleries Curator - Libraries, Customer & Culture, AngusAlive); and ANDREW WILSON (Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Resources Directorate, Angus Council).

Councillor BILL DUFF, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr Iain Lamb, who was currently abroad.

2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 August 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTE

(i) Sculpture Trail Leaflet – Update

With reference to Article 3(i) of the minute of previous meeting, it was confirmed that no Sculpture Trail Leaflet had been produced in the past year. The leaflet for the Studio had not been printed or re-printed since 2012.

The Friends were keen that the guide to the Studio Leaflet be refreshed and that another leaflet be added to the portfolio, relating to the Lamb Trail through Montrose.

AngusAlive would look to promote all museums for this summer including the Lamb Studio.

The Friends were prepared to bear the cost of re-printing the Studio Leaflet if AngusAlive could provide technical input/costs. 300 leaflets could be produced for around £100. It was agreed to cost 500 leaflets, and funding would be provided by the Friends.

Jim Boon would progress the production of images in-house, while Norman Atkinson would review the text content. An invitation of membership of the Friends of the William Lamb Studio would be incorporated in the final leaflet.

(ii) William Lamb Gallery – Museum Garden

With reference to Article 3(ii) of the minute of previous meeting, it was noted that there were issues relating to access to the garden. The back garden at the Studio belonged to the Council. While the Council could not apply for external funding, AngusAlive with its charitable status could do so. It was agreed that a file search be carried out into the history of proposals for the garden.

(iii) Signage in the Vicinity of the Studio

With reference to Article 3(iii) of the minute of previous meeting, the Committee noted that improvements to signage could be picked up as a result of the post-charrette work in the town. The Friends have been investigating the possibility of a trail as mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) above; signs could be installed at Montrose railway station.

(iv) Reproductions

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of previous meeting, it was noted that in the past, the Friends of the William Lamb Studio had produced reproductions of various examples of the Artist's works. They now wished to investigate the possibility of reproducing a small selection of etchings and water colours for sale. The originals were currently housed in volumes as high resolution digital copies. An alternative way of displaying them to the public might be through provision of a touch screen facility which could enable pre-order copies to be made.

The Friends were keen to use the images to promote and raise funds for the Studio with potential products including postcards, pad covers and the like. Ownership of the images and pieces continued to rest with Council and the appropriate consents could be requested of the Communities Committee.

(v) William Lamb Award – Montrose Academy

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of previous meeting, the Friends proposed that a bronze cast of the plasticine model known as *Aberdeenshire Carrier* could be offered as an annual art prize for senior pupils at Montrose Academy. It was suggested that one model be provided for the prize and a second be placed on display. The Friends offered to meet all the expenses involved. Besides being a tangible recognition of student's achievements, the annual prize would help cement William Lamb in the consciousness of younger generations.

4. WILLIAM LAMB STUDIO: 2015 SEASON AND PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2016 SEASON

There was submitted a Report which advised that the 2015 season had seen 510 people visit the Studio between April 2015 and March 2016. 332 had been summer season visitors and 178 pre-booked out of season visitors and groups. It was thought that visitor numbers had been increased partly through improved awareness of the Studio out of season due to the Open Evening in September 2015, and an Open Day the following December. A poetry event at the Studio in April 2016, also organised by the Friends, had attracted 46 visitors. The BBC had also filmed in connection with its documentary series "Scotland: The Promised Land", shown in April 2016. The Friends would like to organise further such events at the Studio, to its financial benefit.

Two of the artist's pieces had been on loan to the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh for part of its "Remembering the Great War" exhibition, running from August 2014 to May 2016; the pieces would be returned to the Studio in time for the summer opening.

Roof repairs at the Studio had been carried out following rain ingress during October 2015.

It was intended that the Studio would open in 2016 from 1 July until 31 August, with opening hours being Tuesdays to Saturdays 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm; other times could be arranged by appointment. The Seasonal Assistant would be Aileen Taylor.

The Report set out details of the management arrangements following the assumption of responsibility for the Studio to AngusAlive as part of the Council's transfer of delivery of its culture and leisure services to that charitable trust. All operational, professional and wider strategic issues would be handled through AngusAlive.

AngusAlive intended to host an evening reception to launch the 2016 season on 1 July 2016, with all Studio Advisory Committee members and Friends of the Studio being invited.

Jim Boon would arrange for the watercolours to go back up on the walls over the next couple of weeks. He also expressed concerns on the strain placed on the volumes of drawings caused by their high popularity with visitor. Perhaps an electronic solution, possibly internet-based, could be found, to display the collection and so decrease wear and tear.

It was suggested that the Studio needed some chairs and that the wooden chairs ex Montrose Library be replaced.

The Committee noted the terms of the Report.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed that the next meeting be scheduled for Friday 11 November 2016, at 3.00 pm, in the William Lamb Studio, Montrose.