

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **WILLIAM LAMB STUDIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held in the Ground Floor Meeting Room, Town and County Hall, The Cross, Forfar on Wednesday 26 August 2015 at 11.00am.

**Present:** Councillors PAUL VALENTINE and DAVID MAY, Mr NORMAN ATKINSON and Ms HILARY WHITE (Friends of the William Lamb Studio).

**Also Present;** ANDREW WILSON (Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Resources Directorate).

Councillor VALENTINE, in the Chair.

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Bill Duff and Mark Salmond; and Willie Milne (Museums and Galleries Manager, Communities Directorate).

## 2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 11 October 2013 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

## 3. MATTERS ARISING

### (i) Sculpture Trail Leaflet – Update

With reference to Article 3(i) of the minute of previous meeting, members noted that many changes had taken place since the last meeting, in the membership of the Friends of the William Lamb Studio. On the retirement of Ann Wyllie, Norman Atkinson had taken over as Chairman of the Friends and Hilary White had succeeded Mae Mckenzie Smith as Secretary.

Clarification was needed as to whether a leaflet had been prepared and printed. Ms White advised that a box of such leaflets had been supplied to the Friends which had been quickly exhausted. A further supply would be useful.

The Friends suggested that it might be possible to design a separate William Lamb Trail as an additional visitor activity.

It was suggested that the Partnership might have some leaflets which could be made available to the Friends.

### (ii) William Lamb Gallery – Museum Garden

With reference to Article 3(iii) of the minute of previous meeting, it was noted the new Angus Alive Leisure and Cultural Charitable Trust would provide culture, sport and leisure facilities on behalf of Angus Council, and would have responsibility for the William Lamb Studio Museum. The new Trust would be better placed than the Council to realise other funding sources. This might lead to opportunities to enhance the Museum facilities, for example, enabling the development of the garden along the lines of the plans dating back to before 2000. It was necessary, however, that it be clarified how the new Trust and the William Lamb Studio Museum would interact.

Norman Atkinson indicated that the Friends were keen to know more about the new Trust and were particularly anxious to have improved communications with the Council and the Trust.

The elected members agreed to take forward the issue of exploring the future relationship between the Leisure and Culture Trust and the William Lamb Studio Advisory Committee.

### (iii) Montrose Close

With reference to Article 5(ii) of the minute of previous meeting, the Committee acknowledged and welcomed the Council's replacement of the gate and signage in the close between Market Street and High Street and at the entrance to the Studio. An update on the options for other signage around the neighbourhood of the Studio was sought.

Norman Atkinson, in response to a question from Councillor May, agreed that the Friends would look at the potential for signage in the Beach area to see if it would fit in with their general objectives, one of which was the achievement in the longer term of a William Lamb Trail. He noted that a mystery shopper from Visit Scotland had turned up at the Studio during the summer. Montrose Station offered another possible outlet for information about the location of the Studio and the Artist.

#### **4. WILLIAM LAMB STUDIO: 2015 SEASON - UPDATE**

The 2015 season had passed successfully, with the season assistant being Dr Fern Insh. Over the season, three groups had visited the Studio and also Morna Lamb, sister of Ian Lamb. Hilary White advised that it had not proved possible to maintain a Friends presence at the Studio every day that it was open. Ms Ann Wyllie, the former Secretary of the Friends, had been a stalwart until her retirement in 2014. The current Chair, Norman Atkinson, had covered 12 days over the season.

#### **5. REPRODUCTIONS FOR SALE**

Norman Atkinson advised that the Friends were considering how to renew stock for sale to the public, which was becoming depleted. Any stock purchased would require to cover its costs, at least, when sold. Replica sculptures could be graded according to the material from which they were made, resin or a bronze limited edition. The Friends of the Studio were prepared to provide funding and there would be no cost incurred by the Local Authority.

It was noted that this initiative would require to be approved by the Communities Committee of the Council, under current arrangements, but by the Angus Alive Board from 1 December 2015.

Other sources potentially included lottery funding, and it was further noted that Shelley Hague, the Council's Business Manager, Policy and Projects, based within the Economic Development Unit of the Chief Executive's Office, would be able to provide advice.

#### **6. STUDIO GUIDE PUBLICATION**

Discussion took place regarding the feasibility of the production of a guide to a limited number of sculptures. It was agreed that there were too many for all to have a brief narrative, and instead, it would be best to focus upon a select group, to be made available to visitors and accommodation providers. This could possibly be linked to a leaflet for a William Lamb Trail around the town.

The Friends of the William Lamb Studio had agreed that this would be an appropriate priority for them; while the Friends would provide funding, any assistance which the Council might be able to make available in terms of design and photography would be most welcome. Visit Scotland could also be consulted and would be a likely source of advice.

It was further noted that the new V & A development in Dundee could offer another outlet for any leaflets produced. These would help promote not just William Lamb but also the town of Montrose and indeed the whole of Angus.

**7. SITING OF LAMB SCULPTURES IN MONTROSE**

The Committee noted that there were several sculptures by William Lamb located around Montrose, as well as one at the Studio itself. *Bill the Smith* was situated in the High Street; the bronze cast entitled *My Model Listens to a Very Tall Story* sat in the library vestibule. Two others, namely *Violet Jacob* and a self portrait sculpture were currently on show at the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh. The Friends were keen that the works deemed appropriate for public display were given as much prominence as possible. An idea which might help achieve this aim would be occasional winter opening days of the Studio, ie outwith the normal summer season opening.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor May had spoken to the Principal Teacher, Art and Design, Montrose Academy, who was very keen on a new William Lamb Award for senior art pupils producing life drawings with perhaps a category for younger age groups as well. The Friends currently had a competition aimed mainly for younger people. Norman Atkinson suggested that the Friends could certainly become involved in the establishment of the new proposed Award. Criteria would need to be prepared in the first instance, and Norman Atkinson undertook to follow this up with the school. 2015 was Montrose Academy's bi-centenary year and it would be appropriate to have a new link with William Lamb launched as part of the school's celebrations.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee agreed that the next meeting be scheduled for Friday 20 May 2016 at 3.00 pm in the William Lamb Studio, Montrose.