

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **WILLIAM LAMB STUDIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held in the William Lamb Studio, Market Street, Montrose on Friday 17 November 2017 at 3.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors BILL DUFF, TOMMY STEWART and RON STURROCK; NORMAN ATKINSON OBE (Chairman, Friends of the William Lamb Studio); and HILARY WHITE (Secretary, Friends of the William Lamb Studio).

**Also Present:** RORY TOSH (Senior Accountant, Finance Services, Place Directorate, Angus Council); and ANDREW WILSON, (Committee Officer, Place Directorate, Angus Council).

Councillor BILL DUFF, in the Chair.

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Mark Salmond; Iain Lamb; and Fiona Dakers, (Senior Manager – Libraries, Customer & Culture, AngusAlive).

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Duff declared a non-financial interest in the business of the meeting in that he was a serving Director of AngusAlive. He indicated that he would participate in all discussion and any voting.

## 3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 March 2017 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTE

### (i) Commemorative Plaque (Article 7 refers)

Norman Atkinson advised that he having not heard any further from Historic Environment Scotland following his submission of an application for the installation of a blue plaque at the studio to commemorate William Lamb, he had therefore contacted HES prior to this meeting but had been advised that they had no record of the application. Norman will re-submit it and monitor progress.

### (ii) Fortieth Anniversary of the Friends of the William Lamb Studio, 1997 – 2017 (Article 3(iii) refers)

Norman Atkinson advised that Arthur Watson, President, The Royal Scottish Academy of Art and Architecture, had indeed attended the exhibition held to mark the anniversary. Over 2000 people had attended the event which had run from 26 August to 4 November 2017. Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, had been amongst the visitors and had also visited the studio. Arrangements for the royal visit had been organised by the Lord Lieutenant's office and it was unfortunate that there appeared to have been some confusion in terms of communications. The Committee acknowledged the significant work done by AngusAlive staff, particularly Gillian Ross, Visual Arts Officer, in making both the exhibition and royal visit a success, and placed thanks on record. The event had also generated significant publicity for both the studio and the works of William Lamb.

### (iii) WILLIAM LAMB ART PRIZE (Article 5 refers)

The bronze figure of the *Aberdeenshire Carrier* now formed the William Lamb Trophy for Art Senior Expressive and had been presented as one of the national five awards at the Montrose Academy senior prize giving on 27 June 2017, with former councillor and School Active Friend David May doing the honours.

## **5. WILLIAM LAMB STUDIO: 2018 SEASON**

Kirsty Hunter presented a Report from AngusAlive reviewing the 2017 season.

The Committee was delighted to note that the total number of summer season visitors between April and September 2017 was 407, a 19% increase on summer 2016. In addition, there had been 264 pre-booked out of season visitors and groups attending the Studio, giving a grand total of 671 people to the period ending 30 September 2017.

For the second successive year, the seasonal assistant had been Eileen Taylor, who had provided an excellent visitor experience thanks to her welcoming attitude, and her comprehensive knowledge of the Studio and of the artist's work.

The Studio had retained its three star Museum Visit Scotland status following a Visit Scotland Quality and Tourism Adviser's visit in July. The Studio also had a maximum five star rating on Trip Advisor based on twelve reviews and had been added to Google Maps showing up-to-date opening hours and photographs.

During his visit to the Studio, (Article 4(ii) above refers) the Earl of Wessex had unveiled the newly bronzed *Aberdeenshire Carrier*.

AngusAlive had hosted the season opening of the Studio on 30 June. The Friends had hosted several successful events over the summer including a series of talks, and special openings for Mofest on 27 May and for Doors Open Day on 2 September. The exhibition (Article 4(ii) above refers) had been supplemented with openings of the Studio by the Friends one afternoon per week throughout September and October. Museum staff were actively encouraging school visits to the Studio and pupils from Lochside Primary and Barrowfield Primary had visited the Studio in May and September respectively.

The bronze *Aberdeenshire Carrier* had been added to the collection and catalogued prior to the unveiling in June. With reference to Article 4 of the minute of previous meeting, the collection of books and ephemera formerly belonging to William Lamb, and presented by the Lamb family via the Friends to the Museum had now been added to the collection and catalogue.

The exterior of the building had been painted along with the window grills during June 2017 and the faulty gate lock had been replaced.

Work on the installation of the telephone landline and online connection for the Studio, while costed, had been postponed pending further discussions.

The Committee noted the terms of the 2017 season Report.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS – DONATIONS BOX**

The Friends has proposed that a Donation Box be re-introduced to the Studio.

Kirsty Hunter explained the current position in that, following the assumption by AngusAlive of responsibilities for Angus Council museums, all museums specific donations boxes had been removed from premises. This was because AngusAlive administered a range of activities on behalf of the Council and it had been envisaged that donation boxes would in the future be for the support of this range of activities and no longer specific to a particular establishment or activity. Angus Alive was responsible for the administration of the Studio as a museum, and the management/curating of the collection. The Studio however was in a special position, being intimately connected with William Lamb himself, and being supported by the Friends with whom AngusAlive had a good working relationship. AngusAlive therefore was not averse to the Friends placing a collections box within the Studio for the purpose of receiving donations to the Friends to support their activities in promoting the Studio to the public and general related fundraising.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS - WILLIAM LAMB STUDIO – FUTURE FINANCE**

The Committee was aware that both Angus Council and AngusAlive were carrying out significant reviews of their activities against an increasingly uncertain financial background, and that it would be necessary to consider both interim and long term means of ensuring the future financial wellbeing of the William Lamb Studio.

It was agreed that in the first instance, Council Officers, with input from AngusAlive, prepare a Report for the Montrose Common Good in the first instance; and thereafter to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee, as necessary, on an interim position to address the immediate funding issue; and thereafter considered options for a longer term position.

**8. 2018 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

The Committee agreed to meet on Friday 23 March and Friday 16 November 2018, at 3.00pm in the Studio.