

ANGUS COUNCIL**RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - 19 NOVEMBER 1998****GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE OF POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE - 24 NOVEMBER 1998****WILLIAM LAMB STUDIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT 1998****REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL SERVICES****ABSTRACT**

This report deals with the programme for bronze casting of the plaster sculptures and the planned maintenance of the Studio.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to

1. approve the making of moulds of the two sculptures "*Minesweeper*" and "*Bill the Smith*" by Powderhall Bronze at the Studio at an additional cost of £2,000, from Montrose Common Good.
2. agree that "*Minesweeper*" be cast 1999/2000. "*Bill the Smith*" be cast either later in 1999/2000 or in 2000/01 once a site in Montrose has been identified, as previously agreed costs be met from Montrose Common Good.
3. approve the additional £987 for the studio maintenance in 1998/99.
4. homologate the Director of Cultural Service's decision to carpet rather than tile the Studio at an additional cost of £190.

2. MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A copy of the minute of the meeting of the William Lamb Studio Advisory Committee of 23rd October 1998 is attached.

3. BRONZE CASTING PROGRAMME

Powderhall Bronze had completed the smaller works - *Fisherwoman*, *Baiting the Lines*, *Landing the Catch* and *Male Torso* and these works will be delivered to the Studio in November.

Powderhall Bronze had raised concerns about the transportation of the two larger figures, *Minesweeper* and *Bill the Smith* to Edinburgh, and strongly advised that we make moulds on site. This would cost us £2,000 but would mean that no harm could come to the plaster sculptures prior to the moulds being made.

A site by the seafront in Montrose has been identified for *Minesweeper* once cast in bronze, and both the Planning and Transport and Recreation Services departments have been consulted and have no objections.

While it was proposed to site the bronze of *Bill the Smith* in Montrose High Street, an appropriate location has not yet been identified, and consultations with both the Planning and Transport and Roads departments will continue to identify a site.

It was previously the intention to cast *Bill the Smith* prior to the *Minesweeper*, but in the light of these discussions it is now recommended that these priorities be reversed. Once a site for *Bill the Smith* has been agreed, this matter can be reported back to Committee together with revised costs and a new time table.

The remaining small plaster works, amounting to some 3 bas-reliefs and 18 maquettes would also be costed for bronze casting, and prices brought to the next meeting of the William Lamb Advisory Committee.

4. STUDIO MAINTENANCE

The Director of Cultural Services had been advised by Property Services that, in the light of closer examination of the floor, carpeting be put down instead of vinyl as previously agreed. The original estimate had been £800 but the revised cost would be £990, and the additional £190 would have to be met from the Montrose Common Good.

The wall in the close required rebuilding and the estimate approved was £2,000. Subsequent quotations received indicated that the cost would be £2987 and the additional £987 would have to be met from the Montrose Common Good.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Although the additional costs for the bronze casting and the building maintenance are over budget, the costs can be met from the Montrose Common Good. However it will reduce the Revenue balance on Montrose Common Good Fund for 1998/99 and 1999.00.

6. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Law & Administration, Director of Finance, Director of Planning & Transport, Director of Roads, and Director of Recreation have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 [other than any containing confidential or exempt information], were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

Gavin Drummond
Director of Cultural Services
GND/NKA/LD
04.11.98
wlsac

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **WILLIAM LAMB STUDIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held in the William Lamb Studio, Montrose on Friday 23 October 1998 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs KATHLEEN RITCHIE, GEORGE NORRIE, SANDY WEST and Mr IAIN LAMB.

Also Present: NORMAN ATKINSON (Cultural Services), Dr JAMES MORRISON (Observer) and DONALD MACASKILL (Law and Administration).

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf on Councillor WILLIAM CROWE.

Chairman: Councillor RITCHIE in the Chair.

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting held on 22 May 1998, a copy of which had been circulated, was submitted and approved as a correct record.

Reference was made to the ongoing work of the Friends of William Lamb and that Councillor George Norrie had recently been appointed Chairman of that organisation. The Committee expressed the view that it would be beneficial to all parties, to meet with the Friends of William Lamb, on an annual basis.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) that the next scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee should be preceded by an informal meeting with the Friends of William Lamb;
- (ii) that the Director of Cultural Services submit a Report to the next meeting giving a financial outline of conservation work on the William Lamb collection since 1978; and
- (iii) to note that the cataloguing of Lamb material was ongoing.

2. WILLIAM LAMB STUDIO

(a) Casting

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of previous meeting, there was submitted Report by the Director of Cultural Services updating the Committee on work completed since the last meeting and detailing work still to be completed. The Report indicated that the casting of Fisherwoman, Baiting the Lines, Landing the Catch and Male Torso had been completed by Powderhall Bronze and that the Royal Scottish Academy had agreed to purchase a copy of Landing the Catch.

Norman Atkinson indicated however that there was concern regarding the potential fragile state of, and the effects of transporting Minesweeper and Bill the Smith. Powderhall had quoted a price of £1,000 per piece, to make the moulds on-site. Once the moulds had been made, the casting could be done as required, to fit in with the phasing programme, previously agreed.

The Committee agreed to recommend that:-

- (i) the moulds for Minesweeper and Bill the Smith be done on-site, at a cost of approximately £2,000;
- (ii) the casting be carried out in accordance with the previously agreed timetable; and

- (iii) the Director of Cultural Services seek costings for the remaining small plaster works.

(b) Locations

In addition, the Report indicated that discussions had been held with the Planning and Transport Department about suitable sites for the Minesweeper and Bill the Smith, once they had been bronze cast. Initial indications were that Minesweeper could be located on the seafront on the concrete promenade. However, a site for Bill the Smith had not been identified to date.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) that Norman Atkinson would meet with Councillor Ritchie to agree on a suitable site for Minesweeper; and
- (ii) the siting of both bronzes be done without the use of plinths, with the Committee's preference being for "street level" siting.

(c) Studio Maintenance

Reference was made to the Studio maintenance work and that costs for rebuilding the close wall had originally been estimated at £2,000. However, the actual quotation which had been received was £2,987.

In addition, the floor within the studio had recently been carpeted, rather than the original proposal of a vinyl covering, as the Director of Cultural Services had been advised that carpeting would make for easier maintenance.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to recommend that the additional cost of £987 be met from the Montrose Common Good Fund; and
- (ii) to homologate the Director of Cultural Services' decision to proceed with the flooring of the studio.

(d) Visitor Figures and Renaissance Walk

Norman Atkinson indicated that 2000 leaflets had been reprinted by the Council printer at a cost of £200 with copies circulated to members of the Committee. Norman Atkinson also referred to the highly successful Scottish Artistic Renaissance Walk which had been undertaken as part of the Hairst Festival. The walk had toured the Studio and had ended up at the Museum, where a selection of Lamb's portrait busts illustrated the characters featured in the walk.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Cultural Services provide a breakdown of visitor figures on a geographical basis, for the next meeting; and
- (ii) that the Director of Cultural Services investigate the possibility of repeating the Renaissance Walk in July of next year, in addition to the one scheduled for June 1999, as part of The Hairst Festival.

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Friday, 26 March 1999 in the Montrose Museum at 3.00 pm and that the Committee meet with The Friends of William Lamb Society at 2.00 pm.